



WALES PENSION PARTNERSHIP JOINT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

10 DECEMBER 2020

SCHEME MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON THE JOINT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

To:

- Approve that there is provision for a co-opted (non-voting) pension board scheme member representative on the Joint Governance Committee (JGC)
- Approve that each Constituent Authority is asked to confirm the inclusion of the co-opted scheme member representative on the JGC and that the necessary amendments be made to the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA)
- Agree that the Officers Working Group prepares a person specification and selection process to be presented at a future JGC for formal approval

REASONS:

Discussions have taken place in relation to co-opting a scheme member representative onto the Joint Governance Committee as a non-voting member, in order to strengthen the governance arrangements of the Wales Pension Partnership.

The IAA would need to be amended and the amendments would need to be taken to all eight constituent authorities for approval.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JOINT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

10 DECEMBER 2020

SCHEME MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON THE JOINT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Joint Governance Committee (JGC) is a joint committee constituted under the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore the voting members of the JGC must be elected members. The membership of the JGC (as stated in the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA)) is comprised of one elected member nominated by each of the Constituent Authorities provided that the elected member is a member of that Constituent Authority and that Constituent Authority's pensions committee (or equivalent body) for the purposes of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

The IAA was published in December 2017 and subsequently there has been engagement with pension board chairs in the form of 6 monthly meetings between officers of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) and the Pension Board Chairs (or representatives) from each constituent authority.

The Scheme Advisory Board has raised the profile of member representation recently and the JGC members have considered the involvement of a scheme member representative to support the transparency of the WPP and hence strengthen the governance arrangements of the WPP. A scheme member representative from one of the eight individual Pension Boards would further enhance the engagement with the Pension Boards and being an existing board member would possess the requisite knowledge and skills as well as being accustomed to Local Government Pension Scheme governance and investment regulations.

The JGC is a joint committee constituted under the Local Government Act 1972. Section 101 of that Act allows the creation of a joint committee by Councils to discharge their functions. It is noted for completeness that Section 102(3) of the 1972 allows appointment of non-members to a committee provided that it is not involved in regulating and controlling the finance of the local authority. It is not considered that this exception applies in this case given that the subject matter of pensions is a financial matter.

Member Representatives can join the JGC but only as co-opted, non-voting members. It is suggested that the co-opted member provisions are changed rather than the core structure of the JGC. These Member Representatives are not 'members' of the JGC as far as voting and exercise of powers, however they would be entitled to see the papers, attend meetings and speak at meetings, including on exempt items.

To allow this to happen, the IAA would need to be amended and the amendments would need to be taken to all eight constituent authorities for approval.

A person specification is to be drafted to ensure that the nominated person has the appropriate knowledge and experience to carry out the role and the term will initially be for one year, with an option to extend for another year.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities YES	Legal NONE	Finance NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE
Legal The Inter Authority Agreement will need to be amended and approved by all eight Welsh constituent Authorities.				

CONSULTATIONS

Details of any consultations undertaken are to be included here

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection/WEBSITE LINK