

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) Review

The review will examine the overall SAA of the investment portfolio and provide recommendations as to where any portfolio optimisation may be implemented to meet the Fund's objectives and requirements.

As part of the review the following data would be examined:

- Latest Investment Strategy Statement.
- Actuarial Valuation Report as at 31 March 2022.
- Latest SAA and current asset allocations as at 31 December 2022.
- Latest investment returns.
- Projections of cashflow requirements (including projected liabilities and contributions).

There are several investment consultants who could undertake this review. They all have significant experience in this area of work. One such consultant, MJ Hudson (APEX Group), has recently completed a similar exercise for a number of other Local Authority Pension Funds. They are therefore well placed to undertake this piece of work and have an understanding of the Fund through other services they provide.

They have significant resources in terms of actuarial expertise and available technology to assist with the review, using a proprietary model to suggest a range of alternative portfolios, which might offer the best risk-adjusted return available to the Fund.

Appointing MJ Hudson, with their existing knowledge of the Fund, will ensure the work is conducted in an efficient manner with officer time spent on the review minimised. Their understanding of the Fund and resources available to them will also increase the likelihood that the review is conducted to a high standard and any recommendations are relevant to the Fund's risk appetite.

The proposed fee at £19,750 is competitive compared with the other investment consultants. The review will take a few months to complete.