

The Local Pension Committee

The role of the Committee

As a statutory pension scheme the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) does not have assigned trustees. Leicestershire County Council has delegated the responsibility for decisions relating to the investment of the Fund's assets to the Local Pension Committee in accordance with Section 101 of the 1972 Superannuation Act. The Members who sit on the Local Pension Committee act on behalf of the beneficiaries of the LGPS and in this way have a similar role to trustees in primarily protecting the benefits of the LGPS members, overseeing the direction of investments and monitoring liabilities.

The Committee's principal aim is to consider pensions matters with a view to safeguarding the interests of all pension fund members. The specific responsibilities are to:

- a) exercise all functions of the pension fund within the terms of the legislation;
- b) determine the overall policy objectives of the pension fund in accordance with the best interests of fund members and employers and within all applicable legislation;
- c) determine the strategy for the investment of the pension fund;
- d) ensure appropriate investment management arrangements are in place for pension funds monies including pooling of investments;
- e) functions relating to LGPS Central;
- f) establish and maintain arrangements for the effective management and administration of the pension funds including staffing and budgetary arrangements;
- g) approve the allocation of resources to the pension fund for the operation and administration of the pension funds from the assets of the pension funds in accordance with the applicable pension regulations;
- h) approve responses to consultations relevant to the pension fund issued by government and other bodies; and
- i) monitor overall performance of the pension funds in the delivery of services and financial performance, consider all matters in respect of the pension funds including:
 - approving the pension fund annual report and accounts;
 - approving strategies and policies;
 - setting standards for service delivery;

- securing best value in the provision of services ;
- ensuring appraisal of the control environment and framework of internal controls in respect of the Fund to provide reasonable assurance of effective and efficient operations and compliance with laws and regulations;
- ensuring an appropriate risk management strategy and risk management procedures;
- promoting, monitoring and developing continuous improvement

Membership

The Committee comprises of members with voting rights and members without voting rights.

Members with voting rights:

- Five County Council members;
- Two District Council members.
- Two members of Leicester City Council.
- One University representative (this appointment is made by De Montfort and Loughborough Universities)

Members without voting rights:

- Three employee representatives are elected to attend meetings of the Committee. Employee representatives do not have a vote.

Employee representatives appointed by a vote at the Fund's Annual General Meeting and will normally serve a term of three years, provided that they remain members of the Scheme, but shall be free to stand for re-election at the end of that period providing they are still members of the Fund.

What does an employee representative do?

Employee representatives play an important part in the governance and administration of the Fund in ensuring that it is well managed by asking questions, making comments and suggestions.

Employee representatives are not responsible for communicating with pension scheme members but are able to represent the views of scheme members in respect of the management of the Fund.

Workload

The Local Pension Committee has 5 meetings a year, which generally start at 9.30am and finish at around 12 noon.

The Pension Fund has no ability to compel an employer to release an employee so that they can fulfil the responsibilities of a staff representative but will use its influence to recommend that facility time is granted to staff representatives. It is, however, for individuals to come to an arrangement with their employer if they are interested in fulfilling the role.

Skills required

There are no specific qualifications or skills that would be deemed necessary for an employee representative. An interest in the role of the Committee is obviously an advantage, but training will be given to assist in carrying out the responsibilities successfully.

The Pension Fund may meet reasonable expenses of the Committee, such as the cost of any training events and travelling expenses that are associated with the training. Such expenses will be met by the Fund and have regard to the Administering Authorities Members' Allowance Scheme.