

PENSIONS PANEL

14 March 2018

Title: Independent Advisor	
Report of the Chief Operating Officer	
Public Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Strategic Director: Claire Symonds, Chief Operating Officer	
Summary: This report outlines the role of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund's Independent Advisor. The report includes a review of the work the Independent Advisor's work during the past year.	
Recommendations Members are asked to agree to extend agree to extend the Independent Advisors role, currently carried out by John Raisin Financial Services Limited, as the Panel's investment advisors for one year based on the revised job description included as appendix 1 of this report.	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At the December 2014 Pension Panel, Members requested officers to start the procurement of an Independent Advisor ("IA") to support the Panel Members.
- 1.2 On 11 February 2015 a sub-group of six Members interviewed three candidates, with the sub-group Members agreeing to appoint John Raisin, operating as John Raisin Financial Services Limited ("JFRS"), subject to formal agreement by Panel.
- 1.3 Subsequently the Pension Panel have extended JFRS' contract in 2016 and 2017 by one year on each occasion.

2. Review of Independent Advisor during 2017/18

- 2.1 Throughout 2017/18 John Raisin has provided support in several key areas including:
 - i. additional expertise at Panel Meetings;
 - ii. Constructive Challenge in respect of Fund Managers and advice on Strategy;

- iii. Updates on regulation and legislation changes; and
- iv. training to both Pension Panel and Board Members.

3. Contract Renewal and Recommendation

- 3.1 The IA contract is subject to an annual review. It can be terminated by either not renewing the contract, or by providing three months' notice of the contract termination.
- 3.2 It is expected, were the contract with JRFS extended, that it is would continue to include additional support with Member Training and as the Fund transitions to a more collaborative investment approach. JRFS will also be asked to provide Members a brief summary, prior to each Pension Panel, of the main issues covered within the Panel Papers. The summary will also include questions that Member can ask of officer, fund managers and the advisors.
- 3.3 After the May elections, there may be new Members to the Pension Panel and JFRS will provide training for both the current and new Members in June 2018 and over subsequent months where required.
- 3.4 The IA contract has therefore been amended to include these changes and is included as appendix 1 of this report for reference.
- 3.5 Members are recommended to agree to extend the contact with JRFS as the Panel's independent advisor for an additional one-year contract to 31 March 2019.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Independent Advisor Specifications for 2018/19