

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

13 March 2019

Title: Independent Advisor	
Report of the Chief Operating Officer	
Public Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: David Dickinson, Investment Fund Manager	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2722 E-mail: david.dickinson@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Helen Seechurn, Interim Director of Finance	
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 during the past year.	
Recommendations Members are asked to agree to extend the Independent Advisors contract, currently carried out by John Raisin Financial Services Limited, as the Committee's independent advisors for one year based on the role specification included as appendix 1 of this report.	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At the December 2014 Pension Committee, Members requested officers to start the procurement of an Independent Advisor ("IA") to support the Committee 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 Committee.
- 1.3 Subsequently the Pension Committee have extended JFRS' contract in 2016 to 2018 by one year on each occasion.

2. Review of Independent Advisor during 2018/19

- 2.1 Throughout 2018/19 John Raisin has provided support in several key areas including:

- i. Additional expertise, input and constructive challenge at Committee meetings
- ii. Attendance and input at the Chair's pre-meeting
- iii. Review of draft Committee reports
- iv. Written observations on the review of Diversified Growth and Fixed Income
- v. Provision of a Quarterly Market Background review
- vi. Update paper on major LGPS developments
- vii. Provision of Training to the Pensions Committee (June and December 2018)
- viii. Informal discussion with the Group Manager between Committee meetings

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 would continue to include additional support with Member Training. JRFS will also be asked to provide Members a brief summary, prior to each Pensions Committee, of the main issues covered within the Committee Papers. The summary will also include questions that Member can ask of officer, fund managers and the advisors.
- 3.3 After the May 2018 elections new Members of the Pensions Committee were appointed. JFRS will provide training for both the current and new Members where required.
- 3.4 The IA specification 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 Committee's independent advisor for an additional one-year contract to 31 March 2020.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Independent Advisor Specifications for 2019/20