

B Roles & Responsibilities

B.1 Administering Authority

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is, by virtue of Regulation 53 and Part 1 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 the “Administering Authority” for the Local Government Pension Scheme within the geographic area of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. In its role as Administering Authority (also known as Scheme Manager) the Council is responsible for “*managing and administering the Scheme.*”

It is normal practice within the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for the role of the Administering Authority to be exercised by a Pensions Committee. In the case of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham the Council has delegated the exercise of its role as Administering Authority to the Pensions Committee.

Under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (As amended), Pensions is not an Executive Function. Therefore, the Cabinet cannot make decisions in respect of a LGPS Pension Fund. The committee responsible for the Pension Fund must report to the Council and cannot be subject to the Cabinet.

B.2 Pensions Committee

Under the Constitution of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (May 2018) the Pensions Committee exercises “*on behalf of the Council all the powers and duties of the Council in relation to its functions as Administering Authority of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund.*”

The voting membership of the Pensions Committee is seven Councillors. The Committee may also appoint representatives of interested parties (Trade Unions, Admitted Bodies, pensioners etc) as non-voting members.

Responsibilities

As already stated the Pensions Committee exercises all the powers and duties of the Council in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). As detailed in the Council’s Constitution this includes:

- (i) To approve all policy statements required or prepared under the LGPS Regulations;
- (ii) To be responsible for the overall investment policy, strategy and operation of the Fund and its overall performance, including taking into account the profile of Fund liabilities;
- (iii) To appoint and terminate the appointments of the Fund Actuary, Custodian, professional advisors to, and external managers of, the Fund and agree the basis of their remuneration;
- (iv) To monitor and review the performance of the Fund’s investments including receiving a quarterly report from the Chief Operating Officer;
- (v) To receive actuarial valuations of the Fund;

(vi) To monitor the LGPS Regulations, Codes of Practice or guidance issued by the Pensions Regulator and the National Scheme Advisory Board as they apply to pension benefits and the payment of pensions and their day to day administration and to be responsible for any policy decisions relating to the administration of the scheme;

(vii) Selection, appointment and termination of external Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) providers and reviewing performance;

(viii) To consider any recommendations made or views expressed by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pension Board.

Individual members of the Pensions Committee have a responsibility to obtain a high level of knowledge and skills in relation to their broad ranging responsibilities in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Therefore, ongoing training is essential.

In 2010/2011 CIPFA produced a Pensions Finance, Knowledge & Skills Framework and a Code of Practice on Public Sector Pensions Finance Knowledge and Skills. The Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund subsequently adopted the recommendations of the CIPFA Code of Practice and accepted the need for competencies by both Members and Officers in the six technical areas of knowledge and skills as then set out by CIPFA:

- Pensions legislative and governance context
- Pensions accounting and auditing standards
- Financial services procurement and relationship management
- Investment performance and risk management
- Financial markets and product knowledge (including Investment Strategy)
- Actuarial methods, standards and practices

As a result of changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme and CIPFA guidance since 2014 it is also necessary for members of the Pensions Committee to have clear knowledge and understanding of:

- Pensions Administration (including the role of The Pensions Regulator)

B.3 Fund Administrator

The Chief Operating Officer is responsible as the Fund Administrator for:

- Acting as principal advisor to the Fund
- Ensuring compliance with Legislation, Regulation and Statutory Guidance including advising in respect of the various policy documents and statements required under the LGPS Regulations
- Ensuring effective governance and audit arrangements

On a day to day basis the management and co-ordination of all Pension Fund activity is led by the Investment Fund Manager.

B.4 Fund Actuary

The appointment of a Fund Actuary required in order to comply with Regulations 62 and 64 of the LGPS Regulations 2013.

The Fund Actuary is a completely independent and appropriately qualified adviser who carries out statutorily required Fund Actuarial Valuations and other valuations as required and who will also provide general actuarial advice. The work of the Actuary includes (but is not limited to):

- Undertaking an Actuarial Valuation of the Fund every three years. The next Valuation will be as at 31 March 2025 and the Actuary must complete his report by March 2026. The results of this Valuation will result in the setting of the Employer Contribution Rates for the three years 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029
- Undertaking more limited Valuations in respect of New Employers, Exiting Employers, Bulk Transfers and for Accounting purposes

B.5 Investment Advisor

The Investment Advisor (otherwise known as the Investment Consultant) is completely independent of the Fund and provides advice in respect of investment matters. This includes:

- The Fund's Investment Strategy Statement including its asset allocation
- The selection of investment managers
- Monitoring and reviewing Investment Managers' performance

B.6 The Independent Advisor

The Independent Advisor who is also completely independent of the Fund provides governance and investment challenge and input together with training across the activities and responsibilities of the Fund.

B.7 Investment Managers

External Investment Managers manage the Funds investments on behalf of the Pensions Committee.

The Investment Managers' responsibilities include

- Investment of Pension Fund assets in compliance with legislation, the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement and the Investment Management Agreement between the Pension Fund and the Investment manager
- The selection of investments
- Providing regular reports on performance to the Fund Officers
- Attending the Pensions Committee if requested

As a result of the Government's Investment Pooling initiative the relationship between Investment Managers and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund will, over an extended period of time, become an indirect relationship due to the increasing involvement of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (London CIV) in the selection and monitoring of Investment Managers.

B.8 Employers

The Employers within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund are listed at Appendix 2.

Employers have a wide range of responsibilities which include

- Automatically enrolling eligible Employees in the LGPS
- Providing timely and accurate data to the Administering Authority in respect of individual members including joiners, leavers, pay details etc
- Deducting contributions from Employees pay correctly
- Paying to the Administering Authority both Employers and Employees contributions by the due date
- Determining their Discretions policy in accordance with the LGPS Regulations
- Operating Stage 1 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure
- Communicating, as appropriate, with both Scheme Members and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pensions Team

In undertaking their responsibilities Employers should have regard to any documentation issued by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham in its role as Administering Authority including any Pension Administration Strategy issued in accordance with the LGPS Regulations.

Employers should also be aware of the requirements placed upon them as detailed in the Pension Regulator's Code of Practice No 14 "*Governance and Administration of Public Service Pension Schemes.*"