



Date of Committee Meeting	25 March 2020
Title of Committee Report	Accounting Policies 2020
Relevant Section of the Admin Authority Constitution	Pensions Committee - 6.0 Urgent Decision of Pension Committee
(Taken from Pension Committee Terms of Reference)	<ul> <li>6.1 If, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, a meeting of the Pension committee is not scheduled to take place, the decision can only be taken if agreement has been obtained from the Chair of Pension Committee and one other member in conjunction with the Director of Pensions and the Head of Service (Pensions) responsible for the area to which the decision relates. It must be imperative to the business of the Committee that the decision cannot reasonably wait for the next meeting.</li> <li>6.2 A report must be prepared at the next available meeting confirming the urgent decision was taken and the reasons for its urgency.</li> </ul>
Background to Decision	Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Funds are required by law to produce an annual statement of according
g. c and to Decision	
	The Audit Plan considers the risks to the audit in forming the Audit Opinion and details the approach to addressing the key areas of the Fund's financial statements.
	External audit of the Annual Report and Accounts (including the accounting policies) is a fundamental part of t system of financial controls that governs the Fund's work. It provides independent assurance to stakeholders the financial statements provide a true and foir view of the Fund's

the financial statements provide a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position and transactions for the





	period in question and that those statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.
Reason the decision cannot be determined at Committee	Due to the current global health considerations, Wolverhampton City Council, as Administering Authority for the West Midlands Pension Fund, has taken the decision to cancel forthcoming public meetings to assist in the ongoing protection of public health. It is therefore, deemed necessary to seek urgent decision on the Fund's statutory policies (which require approval prior to 31 March) to allow for continued operation of the Fund until such time as a rescheduled meeting may take place. A report will be presented to committee at it's next scheduled meeting to confirm the decision being taken.
Committee Report	Appended to this notice

Action undertaken to determine decision (including advice taken, meetings held, etc.)	A meeting (by conference call) of the Chair and relevant senior officers was held on 16 March 2020 to provide an outline and overview of the proposed budget together with a draft of the committee report due to be published in line with S101 requirements for the committee meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020.
	<ul> <li>Issues discussed during that meeting included</li> <li>That the Committee have sight of the meeting papers as normal through normal publication and distribution to allow sight of papers and the opportunity to raise queries with relevant officers</li> <li>That the urgent decision process be followed for this paper following opportunity of the committee to review.</li> </ul>
	Following the meeting the Committee papers were issued in line with S101 process on 17 March 2020. A follow up email was issued to all Committee members on the same day to confirm the papers had been published and that the meeting was cancelled asking for any comments to be fed back to officers by Monday 23 March.





Urgent Decision Process Approval	Following discussion, the Chair and Vice Chair concluded that the decision
	*was urgent and determined the recommendations agreed
	*was not urgent and directed the decision to be taken at the next available committee meeting.
8	*delete as appropriate
Recommendations outlined by	The Committee is recommended to approve:
officers	1. The West Midlands Pension Fund accounting policies for the 2019/20 financial year.
Decision taken under urgent	*To approve the recommendations
powers	*To not approve the recommendations
	*delete as appropriate
powers	1.

Date Completed	27/03/2020
Signed by Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Vice Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Director of Pensions	
Signed by relevant Head of Service	





Date of Committee Meeting	25 March 2020	
Title of Committee Report	External Audit Plan 2020 – 2021	

Relevant Section of the Admin Authority Constitution	Pensions Committee - 6.0 Urgent Decision of Pension Committee
(Taken from Pension Committee Terms of Reference)	<ul> <li>6.1 If, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, a meeting of the Pension committee is not scheduled to take place, the decision can only be taken if agreement has been obtained from the Chair of Pension Committee and one other member in conjunction with the Director of Pensions and the Head of Service (Pensions) responsible for the area to which the decision relates. It must be imperative to the business of the Committee that the decision cannot reasonably wait for the next meeting.</li> <li>6.2 A report must be prepared at the next available meeting confirming the urgent decision was taken and the reasons for its urgency.</li> </ul>

Background to Decision	Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Funds are required by law to produce an annual statement of accounts.
	In preparing these accounts, Funds must have regard to proper practice and to any guidance which has the effective standing of 'statutory guidance'. That guidance is 'The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom' ('the Code'), which is prepared by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and updated annually.





	The Audit Plan considers the risks to the audit in forming the Audit Opinion and details the approach to addressing the key areas of the Fund's financial statements.  External audit of the Annual Report and Accounts (including the accounting policies) is a fundamental part of the
	system of financial controls that governs the Fund's work. It provides independent assurance to stakeholders that the financial statements provide a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position and transactions for the period in question and that those statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.
Reason the decision cannot be determined at Committee	Due to the current global health considerations, Wolverhampton City Council, as Administering Authority for the West Midlands Pension Fund, has taken the decision to cancel forthcoming public meetings to assist in the ongoing protection of public health. It is therefore, deemed necessary to seek urgent decision on the Fund's statutory policies (which require approval prior to 31 March) to allow for continued operation of the Fund until such time as a rescheduled meeting may take place. A report will be presented to committee at it's next scheduled meeting to confirm the decision being taken.
Committee Report	Appended to this notice

Action undertaken to determine	A meeting (by conference call) of the Chair and relevant senior officers was held on 16 March 2020 to provide an
decision	outline and overview of the proposed budget together with a draft of the committee report due to be published in
(including advice taken, meetings	line with S101 requirements for the committee meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020.
held, etc.)	
	Issues discussed during that meeting included
	<ul> <li>That the Committee have sight of the meeting papers as normal through normal publication and</li> </ul>
	distribution to allow sight of papers and the opportunity to raise queries with relevant officers





	<ul> <li>That the urgent decision process be followed for this paper following opportunity of the committee to review.</li> </ul>
	Following the meeting the Committee papers were issued in line with S101 process on 17 March 2020. A follow up email was issued to all Committee members on the same day to confirm the papers had been published and that the meeting was cancelled asking for any comments to be fed back to officers by Monday 23 March.
Urgent Decision Process Approval	Following discussion, the Chair and Vice Chair concluded that the decision
	*was urgent and determined the recommendations agreed *was not urgent and directed the decision to be taken at the next available committee meeting.
	*delete as appropriate
Recommendations outlined by Officers	The Committee is recommended to approve:
	<ol> <li>The management responses to questions from the external auditors, Grant Thornton LLP, as part of their audit planning.</li> </ol>
	2. Delegation of authority to the Chair of Pensions Committee to approve the final publication of the 2019/2020 Annual Report and Accounts following audit in July and approval of the draft Report by Committee in June 2020.
Decision taken under urgent	*To approve the recommendations
powers	*To not approve the recommendations
	*delete as appropriate





Date Completed	27/03/2020
Signed by Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Vice Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Director of Pensions	
Signed by relevant Head of Service	





Date of Committee Meeting	25 March 2020
Title of Committee Report	Actuarial Valuation 2019
Relevant Section of the Admin Authority Constitution	Pensions Committee - 6.0 Urgent Decision of Pension Committee
(Taken from Pension Committee Terms of Reference)	<ul> <li>6.1 If, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, a meeting of the Pension committee is not scheduled to take place, the decision can only be taken if agreement has been obtained from the Chair of Pension Committee and one other member in conjunction with the Director of Pensions and the Head of Service (Pensions) responsible for the area to which the decision relates. It must be imperative to the business of the Committee that the decision cannot reasonably wait for the next meeting.</li> <li>6.2 A report must be prepared at the next available meeting confirming the urgent decision was taken and</li> </ul>
	the reasons for its urgency
Background to Decision	The Fund is required to carry out an actuarial valuation every three years and review and set the funding strategy and employer contribution rates for the following three years. As part of the valuation, effective 31 March 2019, the Fund Actuary will certify the employer contribution rates due for the three years 2020/21 – 2022/23. The Actuary's report and certificate must be obtained by the Fund by the statutory deadline of 31 March 2020.
	The Fund actuary prepares the valuation based on the Fund's own Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), which has been updated since it was last reviewed in 2019, to reflect the changing regulations and updated actuarial advice received as part of the 2019 actuarial valuation. The FSS forms an integral part of the valuation, as it sets out the Administering Authorities strategy and policy on funding scheme benefits.





	Following the merger of the West Midlands' LGPS pension funds, the FSS now incorporates funding strategy for employers within the former West Midlands Integrated Transport Pension Fund (WMITA PF).  The draft FSS was issued to employers for consultation in January, following a series of employer presentations during November 2019.  Consultation on the FSS formally closed on 14 February 2020, although discussions with a number of employers have continued into February and early March 2020.
Reason the decision cannot be determined at Committee	Due to the current global health considerations, Wolverhampton City Council, as Administering Authority for the West Midlands Pension Fund, has taken the decision to cancel forthcoming public meetings to assist in the ongoing protection of public health. It is therefore, deemed necessary to seek urgent decision on the Fund's statutory policies (which require approval prior to 31 March) to allow for continued operation of the Fund until such time as a rescheduled meeting may take place. A report will be presented to committee at it's next scheduled meeting to confirm the decision being taken.
Committee Report	Appended to this notice

Action undertaken to determine	A meeting (by conference call) of the Chair and relevant senior officers was held on 16 March 2020 to provide an
decision	outline and overview of the proposed budget together with a draft of the committee report due to be published in
(including advice taken, meetings	line with S101 requirements for the committee meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020.
held, etc.)	
	Issues discussed during that meeting included





	<ul> <li>That the Committee have sight of the meeting papers as normal through normal publication and distribution to allow sight of papers and the opportunity to raise queries with relevant officers</li> <li>That the urgent decision process be followed for this paper following opportunity of the committee to review.</li> </ul>
	Following the meeting the Committee papers were issued in line with S101 process on 17 March 2020. A follow up email was issued to all Committee members on the same day to confirm the papers had been published and that the meeting was cancelled asking for any comments to be fed back to officers by Monday 23 March.
Urgent Decision Process Approval	Following discussion, the Chair and Vice Chair concluded that the decision
	*was urgent and determined the recommendations agreed *was not urgent and directed the decision to be taken at the next available committee meeting.  *delete as appropriate
Recommendations outlined by	The Committee is asked to approve:
officers	<ol> <li>The Funding Strategy Statement (incorporating the former West Midlands Integrated Transport Pension Fund).</li> <li>The Fund Termination Policy.</li> </ol>
	3. The Employer Risk Management Framework.
Decision taken under urgent	*To approve the recommendations
powers	*To not approve the recommendations
	*delete as appropriate





Date Completed	27/03/2020
Signed by Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Vice Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Director of Pensions	
Signed by relevant Head of Service	





Date of Committee Meeting	25 March 2020	
Title of Committee Report	Investment Strategy Statement 2020	

Relevant Section of the Admin Authority Constitution	Pensions Committee - 6.0 Urgent Decision of Pension Committee
(Taken from Pension Committee Terms of Reference)	6.1 If, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, a meeting of the Pension committee is not scheduled to take place, the decision can only be taken if agreement has been obtained from the Chair of Pension Committee and one other member in conjunction with the Director of Pensions and the Head of Service (Pensions) responsible for the area to which the decision relates. It must be imperative to the business of the Committee that the decision cannot reasonably wait for the next meeting.  6.2 A report must be prepared at the next available meeting confirming the urgent decision was taken and the reasons for its urgency.

Background to Decision	The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016, in force from 1 November 2016, require Administering Authorities to publish their first Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) from 1 April 2017 and keep under review.
	To comply with the regulations and guidance, the ISS must include:  a) A requirement to invest money in a wide variety of investments;  b) The authority's assessment of the suitability of particular investments and types of investments;  c) The authority's approach to risk, including the ways in which risks are to be measured and managed;





	d) The authority's approach to pooling investments, including the use of collective investment vehicles and shared services; e) The authority's policy on how social, environmental or corporate governance considerations are taken into account in the selection, non-selection, retention and realisation of investments; and f) The authority's policy on the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments.  The ISS was last reviewed and updated in March 2019 and reflected mainly policy changes in the case of the WMPF ISS and the strategic asset allocation changes agreed for the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority Pension Fund (WMITA PF).  Updates on market volatility, investment risk and funding strategy to meet ongoing liabilities identified in the Valuation have been provided to Committee at regular quarterly meetings. These have fed into the drafting of the ISS and informed the action for the SIAB.
Reason the decision cannot be determined at Committee	Due to the current global health considerations, Wolverhampton City Council, as Administering Authority for the West Midlands Pension Fund, has taken the decision to cancel forthcoming public meetings to assist in the ongoing protection of public health. It is therefore, deemed necessary to seek urgent decision on the Fund's statutory policies (which require approval prior to 31 March) to allow for continued operation of the Fund until such time as a rescheduled meeting may take place. A report will be presented to committee at it's next scheduled meeting to confirm the decision being taken.
Committee Report	Appended to this notice

Action undertaken to determine	A meeting (by conference call) of the Chair and relevant senior officers was held on 16 March 2020 to provide an
decision	outline and overview of the proposed budget together with a draft of the committee report due to be published in
	line with S101 requirements for the committee meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020.





(including advice taken, meetings	
held, etc.)	<ul> <li>Issues discussed during that meeting included</li> <li>That the Committee have sight of the meeting papers as normal through normal publication and distribution to allow sight of papers and the opportunity to raise queries with relevant officers</li> <li>That the urgent decision process be followed for this paper following opportunity of the committee to review.</li> <li>Following the meeting the Committee papers were issued in line with S101 process on 17 March 2020. A follow up email was issued to all Committee members on the same day to confirm the papers had been published and that the meeting was cancelled asking for any comments to be fed back to officers by Monday 23 March.</li> </ul>
Urgent Decision Process Approval	*was urgent and determined the recommendations agreed *was not urgent and directed the decision to be taken at the next available committee meeting.  *delete as appropriate
Recommendations outlined by officers	<ul> <li>*delete as appropriate</li> <li>The Committee is recommended to approve the revised Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) drafted for the West Midlands Pension Fund (WMPF) noting that:         <ol> <li>The ISS has been prepared in line with the statutory requirements under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.</li> </ol> </li> <li>The WMPF ISS has been updated to reflect changes to wider Fund policies referenced within the Statement as well as changes in strategy following the Fund's Strategic Asset Allocation review.</li> </ul>





	3. Following the merger of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority Pension Fund (WMITA PF), there is
	no longer a separate Investment Strategy Statement for this Fund, instead there are separate Admission Body
	Pension Fund strategies for the two former employers in the WMITA PF are incorporated within the WMPF ISS.
Decision taken under urgent	*To approve the recommendations
powers	*To not approve the recommendations
	*delete as appropriate

Date Completed	27/93/2020
Signed by Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Vice Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Director of Pensions	
Signed by relevant Head of Service	





Date of Committee Meeting	25 March 2020
Title of Committee Report	Business Performance and Service Plan 2020 – 2025

Relevant Section of the Admin Authority Constitution	Pensions Committee - 6.0 Urgent Decision of Pension Committee
(Taken from Pension Committee	6.1 If, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, a meeting of the
Terms of Reference)	Pension committee is not scheduled to take place, the decision can only be
	taken if agreement has been obtained from the Chair of Pension Committee
	and one other member in conjunction with the Director of Pensions and the
	Head of Service (Pensions) responsible for the area to which the decision
	relates. It must be imperative to the business of the Committee that the
	decision cannot reasonably wait for the next meeting.
	6.2 A report must be prepared at the next available meeting confirming the urgent
	decision was taken and the reasons for its urgency

Background to Decision  Over the year 2019/20, the Fund has seen a range of Scheme-wide developments and reviews from national bodies such as Scheme Advisory Board and the Pensions Regulator together with a number of key court and Ombudsman cases which has led to LGPS Funds coming under the spotlight within the pensions industry. Upda on these activities have been provided to Committee at each meeting together with an overview of the action and engagement undertaken by the Fund to pre-empt and respond to the changing environment in which we operate.
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	As well as looking back on the performance delivery of the Fund over the last 12 months, responding to the challenges and opportunities highlighted in our 2019 – 2024 Service Plan, the Fund's 2020 – 2025 Service Plan seeks to identify forthcoming challenges from both the external wider LGPS and investment industry in which we operate together with responding to internal factors and stakeholder feedback, which shapes the way we develop and enhance our services for our customers, how we respond to challenges and identify opportunities to develop the Fund
Reason the decision cannot be determined at Committee	Due to the current global health considerations, Wolverhampton City Council, as Administering Authority for the West Midlands Pension Fund, has taken the decision to cancel forthcoming public meetings to assist in the ongoing protection of public health. It is therefore, deemed necessary to seek urgent decision on the Fund's budget (which requires approval prior to 31 March) to allow for continued operation of the Fund until such time as a rescheduled meeting may take place. A report will be presented to committee at it's next scheduled meeting to confirm the decision being taken.
Committee Report	Appended to this notice

A meeting of the Chair and relevant senior officers was held on 16 March 2020 to provide an outline and overview
of the proposed budget together with a draft of the committee report due to be published in line with S101
requirements for the committee meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020.
Issues discussed during that meeting included
<ul> <li>That the Committee have sight of the meeting papers as normal through normal publication and</li> </ul>
distribution to allow sight of papers and the opportunity to raise queries with relevant officers
That the urgent decision process be followed for this paper following opportunity of the committee to
review.





	Following the meeting the Committee papers were issued in line with S101 process on 17 March 2020. A follow up email was issued to all Committee members on the same day to confirm the papers had been published and that the meeting was cancelled asking for any comments to be fed back to officers by Monday 23 March.
Urgent Decision Process Approval	Following discussion, the Chair and Vice Chair concluded that the decision
	*was urgent and determined the recommendations agreed
	*was not urgent and directed the decision to be taken at the next available committee meeting.
	*delete as appropriate
Recommendations outlined by Officers	To approve the Fund's Service Plan 2020 – 2025
Decision taken under urgent	*To approve the recommendations
powers	*To not approve the recommendations
	*delete as appropriate

Date Completed	27/03/2020
Signed by Chair of Pensions Committee	
Signed by Vice Chair of Pensions Committee	





Signed by Director of Pensions	
Signed by relevant Head of Service	

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Date of Committee Meeting	25 March 2020	
Title of Committee Report	Budget 2020/2021 and Financial Plan to 2024/2025	
Relevant Section of the Admin	Danis and the same	
Authority Constitution (Taken from Pension Committee Terms of Reference)	Pensions Committee - 6.0 Urgent Decision of Pension Committee  6.1 If, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, a meeting of the Pension committee is not scheduled to take place, the decision can only be taken if agreement has been obtained from the Chair of Pension Committee and one other member in conjunction with the Director of Pensions and the Head of Service (Pensions) responsible for the area to which the decision relates. It must be imperative to the business of the Committee that the decision cannot reasonably wait for the next meeting.  6.2 A report must be prepared at the next available meeting confirming the urgent decision was taken and the reasons for its urgency	

Background to Decision	The operating budget for 2020/21 has been developed to reflect the objectives and priorities set out in the Fund's Service Plan, the impact of the continuing transfer of investment assets and responsibilities to LGPS Central Limited, agreed restructure proposals and action to mitigate risks highlighted in the risk register. All existing budgets have been subject to thorough review for on-going relevance and adequacy and adjusted where appropriate.
	LGPS regulations allow for the costs of administering the Funds to be charged to the Funds themselves and not directly to employers. The actuary makes provision in the Actuarial Valuation for such costs.





	requires approval prior to 31 March) to allow for continued operation of the Fund until such time as a rescheduled meeting may take place. A report will be presented to committee at it's next scheduled meeting to confirm the decision being taken.
Reason the decision cannot be determined at Committee	Due to the current global health considerations, Wolverhampton City Council, as Administering Authority for the West Midlands Pension Fund, has taken the decision to cancel forthcoming public meetings to assist in the ongoing protection of public health. It is therefore, deemed necessary to seek urgent decision on the Fund's budget (which
	The Fund's Budget has been drafted in consideration of the drivers for change highlighted in the Fund's Service Plan 2020 – 2025, noting the areas of focus, goals and ambitions of the Fund as it looks to develop its service delivery for stakeholders ensuring it is responsive to those needs while continuing to deliver a program of change which is responsive to the environment in which the Fund operates.
	Over the year 2019/20, the Fund has seen a range of Scheme-wide developments and reviews from national bodies such as Scheme Advisory Board and the Pensions Regulator together with a number of key court and Ombudsman cases which has led to LGPS Funds coming under the spotlight within the pensions industry. Updates on these activities have been provided to Committee at each meeting together with an overview of the actions and engagement undertaken by the Fund to pre-empt and respond to the changing environment in which we operate.
	Regular monitoring of the budget, including the preparation of a forecast outturn, will be undertaken throughouthe year and reported to Pensions Committee at quarterly intervals.





Action undertaken to determine	A meeting of the Chair and relevant senior officers was held on 16 March 2020 to provide an outline and overview
decision (including advice taken, meetings	of the proposed budget together with a draft of the committee report due to be published in line with \$101
held, etc.)	requirements for the committee meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020.
	Issues discussed during that meeting included
	That the Committee have sight of the meeting papers as normal through normal publication and
	distribution to allow sight of papers and the opportunity to raise queries with relevant officers
	That the urgent decision process be followed for this paper following opportunity of the committee to review.
	Following the meeting the Committee papers were issued by email to all Committee members. A follow up email was issued to all Committee members on the same day to confirm the papers had been published and that the
	meeting was cancelled asking for any comments to be fed back to officers by Monday 23 March.
Urgent Decision Process Approval	Following discussion, the Chair and Vice Chair concluded that the decision
	*was urgent and determined the recommendations agreed
	*was not urgent and directed the decision to be taken at the next available committee meeting.
	*delete as appropriate
Recommendations outlined by Officers	To approve:
	a. The Operating Budget for 2020/21
	b. The Medium-Term financial plan for the period to 2024/25.





Decision taken under urgent powers	*To approve the recommendations  *To not approve the recommendations	
	*delete as appropriate	
Date Completed	27/03/2020	
Signed by Chair of Pensions Committee		
Signed by Vice Chair of Pensions Committee		
Signed by Director of Pensions		
Signed by relevant Head of Service		