

Wednesday 22 March 2023

The Trustee Board met for their first full meeting of the year on Wednesday 22 March 2023. Before the meeting, they received training from their actuarial adviser, First Actuarial, on actuarial valuations and the Pensions Regulator's second consultation on its new Defined Benefit Funding Code of Practice.

The main matters on the agenda for the meeting were:

- Receiving a financial update from Riverside on its performance against budget for the current year and its budget for 2023/24.
- Considering an analysis to support the mortality assumption to be adopted for the forthcoming actuarial valuation of the Scheme as at 31 March 2023.
- Considering the future investment strategy of the Scheme, and receiving an update from the Investment Subgroup. In particular, the Trustee supported the Subgroup's recommendation to appoint two new investment managers to manage a new diversified credit fund holding and a new buy-and-maintain corporate bond holding.
- Ensuring that the calculation of transfer values remains fair to members in light of changing market conditions and the Scheme's investment strategy.
- A representative from the Scheme's liability-driven investments (LDI) manager, Schroder, attended part of the meeting to explain how leverage is managed in the portfolio, and how this has changed following the 'LDI crisis' of September 2022. The Trustee was satisfied that Schroder's leverage management policy is in line with recent regulatory guidance from The Pensions Regulator.
- The Trustee agreed an updated Statement of Investment Principles, which now reflects recent changes in the Scheme's investment strategy. A copy is available on the RGPS member website.
- Approving the latest administration report, including member activity and feedback.
- Receiving an update from the Communications Subgroup, including a new Communications Plan to improve the quality and availability of pensions information for members.
- Considering the quality of data held by the Scheme and agreeing plans for continued improvement.
- Various governance items, including the Scheme's business plan for the year ahead, and discussing the 2023 training programme for the Trustee Board.

We propose to provide you with a similar brief update following future meetings.

The Trustee Board are next scheduled to meet on Wednesday 19 July 2023.