

Report for: ACTION
Item Number: 4



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO - Part I
Title	Appointment of an Independent Chair to the Berkshire Pensions Board
Responsible Officer(s)	Nick Greenwood
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Nick Greenwood Pension Fund Manager 01628 796701
Member reporting	n/a
For Consideration By	Berkshire Pension Fund and Pension Fund Advisory Panels
Date to be Considered	24 March 2015
Implementation Date if Not Called In	n/a
Affected Wards	None
Keywords/Index	Pension Fund

Report Summary

1. This report deals with the appointment of an Independent Chair to the Berkshire Pensions Board
2. It recommends that Panel consider whether to appoint either of the candidates.
3. These recommendations are being made because it is a statutory requirement to establish a Pensions Board and the appointment of an independent chair is seen as being "good practice"
4. If adopted, the key financial implications for the Council are none as all costs of the Pensions Board are met by the Pension Fund.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents, fund members and other stakeholders benefit?

Benefits to residents, fund members and other stakeholders and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which they can expect to notice a difference
1. Establishment of a Pensions Board is a statutory requirement	1 April 2015
2. Appointment of an independent chair is considered to be "good practice"	1 April 2015

1. Details of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That Panel appoint either Mr Colin Richardson or Mr Howard Pearce as Independent Chair of the Berkshire Pensions Board.

2. Reason for Recommendation(s) and Options Considered

It is a statutory requirement that a Berkshire Pensions Board is established by 1 April 2015 and this requirement has been fulfilled with the Council amending its Constitution to permit the creation of the Berkshire Pensions Board.

Members at their meeting on 19 January 2015 approved the draft terms of reference for the Pensions Board and requested that a meeting of the Pension Fund and Pension Fund Advisory Panels be convened in March 2015 to interview and appoint an Independent Chair.

In February 2015 a contract notice was published on the South East Business Portal and 4 applications were received. The applications were reviewed by Officers and the Chair of the Panel and it was agreed that Messrs Richardson and Pearce be invited to present their credentials to the Panel so that the Panel may appoint a Chair to the Pensions Board.

There does remain the option, if Panel so desires, not to appoint an Independent Chair but to allow the Board to appoint its own Chair from its membership. Guidance, however, from the Shadow Scheme Advisory Board Secretariat is that the appointment of an Independent Chair (who will have no voting rights) will be considered to be “good practice”.

In addition, the terms of reference and board membership structure submitted to and agreed by the Constitution Sub-Committee at its meeting of 20 February 2015 confirmed that the local pension board should consist of one independent chairperson and three scheme member and three scheme representatives.

Option	Comments
Appoint an Independent Chair	Perceived to be good practice
Do not appoint an Independent Chair	A possible option but one that is contrary to the guidance given by the Shadow Scheme Advisory Board Secretariat.