



Committee and Date

Pensions Committee

20 June 2011

10 am

Item

**13**

Public

## COMMUNICATIONS POLICY STATEMENT

**Responsible Officer** Justin Bridges

e-mail: [justin.bridges@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:justin.bridges@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: (01743) 252077

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The report provides Members with an update to the Communications Policy Statement that the Fund is required to publish under Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) Regulations. It formally outlines the communication channels that are used by the Fund to communicate with its stakeholders.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve, with or without comment, the revised Communications Policy Statement at Appendix A.

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 Risk management is considered as part of on-going communication activity.
- 3.2 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.3 There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences of this proposal. The Communication Policy Statement sets out the Pension Fund's approach to communicating with its stakeholders.
- 3.4 The Communications Policy Statement is published on the Scheme's website.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5. Background**

5.1 The Shropshire Fund has for many years used innovative communication techniques to communicate with its wide range of stakeholders. The Fund's communication activities are formally outlined in its Communications Policy.

5.2 The Fund published its first Communications Policy in February 2006 in accordance with the Local Government Pension Regulations introduced at that time. The last Communications Policy was approved in 2009 following the creation of Shropshire Council as the Administering Authority for the Fund on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The Fund is required to periodically review its content.

#### **6. Purpose of Communications Policy Statement**

6.1 Regulation 67 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 require the administering authority to prepare, maintain and publish a written statement setting out the policy concerning communications with;-

- Members
- Representatives of members
- Prospective members
- Employing authorities

6.2 The regulations require the statement to be regularly revised and updated.

#### **7. Revised Communications Policy**

7.1 The Communications Policy has been updated to incorporate changes made to the communication techniques used by the Fund. A revised Communications Policy is attached at Appendix A for Members approval.

7.2 The Communications Policy will be published and made available on the website and in hard copy.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Pensions Committee, 30 June 2009, Communications Policy Statement

**Cabinet Member**

N/A

**Local Member**

N/A

**Appendices**

A – Communications Policy Statement (revised June 2011)

