

Clwyd Pension Fund responsibilities – proposed changes to FCC Constitution and Pension Board Protocol

Key to changes:

- New text to be added is shown in red and highlighted – *like this*.
- Existing text to be removed is struck through and highlighted – ~~like this~~.

**SECTION 6 -
THE LEADER' S SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

2021 Cabinet Political Responsibilities

Finance, Social Value & Procurement Cabinet Member: Cllr Paul Johnson
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan*;• Budget & Council Tax Policy*;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget Performance & Management*;• Revenue budget monitoring• Corporate Finance; performance and effectiveness• Treasury Management;• Strategic procurement• Procurement services• Clwyd Pension Fund• Capital programme• Capital strategy• Council Tax and Revenue collection• Prudential indicators• To oversee the delivery of the Council's strategy for Social Value.

SECTION 7

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

7.3 Role, Scope and Membership

The role, scope and Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are described in the table below:

O&S Committee	Scope: To fulfil all of the functions of an Overview & Scrutiny committee, including Performance, Improvement and Policy Development as they relate to the following:	Main contributors
<p>Corporate Resources</p> <p>12 Elected Members</p> <p>Designated 'crime & disorder scrutiny' committee</p>	<p>Corporate Management and Governance Council strategic and improvement planning (Council Plan) Council performance and performance systems Customer Services and contact</p> <p>Finance Strategy Revenue and capital strategic planning Revenue and capital budget monitoring</p> <p>Clwyd Pension Fund <i>The Council's role as an employer in the Clwyd Pension Fund</i></p> <p>ICT and Digital Strategies People Strategy Organisational Design & Change Programme</p> <p>Corporate Services Corporate Communications Financial services ICT Services Information and Business Services Procurement HR Business Partnering Occupational Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Leader of the Council; Corporate Management & Assets; Finance. Chief Executive; CO (Governance) Corporate Finance Manager Senior Manager (HR & OD)</p>
	<p>Employment Services Legal Services Democratic Services Revenues</p> <p>Strategic and Partnership Working Partnership and collaborative working frameworks Public Service Board</p>	

SECTION 9

9.7 Clwyd Pension Fund Committee

The Council will establish a Clwyd Pension Fund Committee.

9.7.1 Composition

(a) Membership

The Clwyd Pension Fund Committee will be composed of 9 members. Its membership will include:

- i) 5 Councillors of Flintshire County Council, determined by the Council.

Four co-opted members comprising:-

- ii) One Councillor of Wrexham County Borough Council, determined by that Council.
- iii) One Councillor of Denbighshire County Council, determined by that Council.
- iv) One representative of the other Scheme Employers (not admission bodies) in the Clwyd Pension Fund as defined by Schedule 2 of the Local Government Pension Scheme 2013, as amended from time to time, appointed in accordance with procedures agreed by the ~~Chief Executive~~ **Head of Clwyd Pension Fund** in consultation with the members of the Pension Fund Advisory Panel*.
- v) One representative of the scheme members of the Clwyd Pension Fund, appointed in accordance with procedures agreed by the **Head of Clwyd Pension Fund** ~~Chief Executive~~.
- vi) Named substitutes are permitted for Flintshire County Council members only, providing they satisfy the knowledge and skills policy of the pension fund.

*The Pension Fund Advisory Panel is a group of officers and advisers to the Clwyd Pension Fund, currently consisting of:

- The **Corporate Manager – Human Resources and Organisational Development** ~~Chief Executive~~ of Flintshire County Council
- The Chief Finance Officer for Flintshire County Council
- The Head of the Clwyd Pension Fund
- Investment Consultant
- Fund Actuary
- Independent Adviser

(b) Term of office

- i) The representative members (for other scheme employers and scheme members) are appointed for a period of no more than six years and may be reappointed for further terms.

- ii) Councillors of Flintshire County Council will be appointed annually and may be reappointed for further terms.
- ii) Councillors of other local authorities who are members of the Pension Fund Committee will have a term of office to the next ordinary local government election following their appointment. They may be reappointed for further terms.

(c) *Quorum.*

A meeting of the Pension Fund Committee shall only be quorate when:

- i) At least five members are present, and
- ii) At least three of the members present are Councillors of Flintshire County Council

(d) *Voting*

The Councillors from Wrexham County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council and the representative members will be entitled to vote at meetings as well as Councillors of Flintshire County Council;

(e) *Chairing the Committee.*

- i) Only Councillors of Flintshire County Council may be the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- ii) The Chair will be elected annually by members of Flintshire County Council.
- iii) The Vice-Chair will be elected annually by members of the Pension Fund Committee.

(f) The Council Procedure Rules should apply to this Committee in the same way as they apply to other Committees unless different provision is made in this article.

(g) The Pension Fund Committee may occasionally meet outside of the Flintshire County Council area.

9.7.2 Role and Function

The Pension Fund Committee's principal aim is to carry out the functions of Flintshire County Council as the Scheme Manager and Administering Authority for the Clwyd Pension Fund in accordance with Local Government Pension Scheme legislation.

The Pension Fund Committee will have the following specific roles and functions, taking account of advice from the **Head of Clwyd Pension Fund** ~~Chief Executive as administrator to the Fund~~ and the Fund's professional advisers:

- a) Ensuring the Clwyd Pension Fund is managed and pension payments are made in compliance with the extant Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs requirements for UK registered pension schemes and all other relevant statutory provisions.
- b) Ensuring robust risk management arrangements are in place.
- c) Ensuring the Council operates with due regard and in the spirit of all relevant statutory and non statutory best practice guidance in relation to its management of the Clwyd Pension Fund.
- d) Determining the Pension Fund's aims and objectives, strategies, statutory compliance statements, policies and procedures for the overall management of the Fund, including in relation to the following areas:
 - i) Governance – approving the Fund's Governance Policy and Compliance Statement for the Fund within the framework as determined by Flintshire County Council and making recommendations to Flintshire County Council about any changes to that framework.
 - ii) Funding Strategy – approving the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement including ongoing monitoring and management of the liabilities, ensuring appropriate funding plans are in place for all employers in the Fund, overseeing the triennial valuation and interim valuations, and working with the actuary in determining the appropriate level of employer contributions for each employer.
 - iii) Investment Strategy - approving the Fund's Investment Strategy **Statement, Statement of Investment Principles and Myners Compliance Statement** including setting **the Responsible Investment Policy and** investment targets and ensuring these are aligned with the Fund's specific liability profile and risk appetite.

- iv) Administration Strategy – approving the Fund's Administration Strategy determining how the Council will the administer the Fund including collecting payments due, calculating and paying benefits, gathering information from and providing information to scheme members and employers.
 - v) Communications Strategy – approving the Fund's Communication Strategy, determining the methods of communications with the various stakeholders including scheme members and employers.
 - vi) Discretions – determining how the various administering authority discretions are operated for the Fund.
- e) Monitoring the implementation of these policies and strategies on an ongoing basis.
- f) In relation to the Wales Pooling Collaboration arrangements
- i) Undertaking the following matters reserved to Flintshire County Council as outlined in the Inter-Authority Agreement
 - Appointment, termination or replacement of the Operator following the making of a recommendation by the Joint Governance Committee
 - Approval of additional expenditure not included within the Business Plan which exceeds 30 % of the approved budget in the Business Plan in any one Financial Year.
 - Formulation, approval or revisions of each respective Constituent Authority's Investment Strategy for the purposes of regulation 7 of the Investment Regulations.
 - Admitting a new administering authority within the LGPS to the Investment Pool as a Constituent Authority.
 - Amendment of the Agreement which is not significant to the operation of the arrangements.
 - Material change to the nature of the Operator Contract.
 - Approval of the initial strategic objectives to allow preparation of the first Business Plan (which objectives shall reflect the objectives set out in the procurement of the Operator).
 - Approval of any evaluation or scoring criteria for any

procurement of a replacement Operator.

- Approval of the Business Plan which shall include approval of the ongoing strategic objectives of the Investment Pool.
- Determination of the timing of the transition of the assets held by Clwyd Pension Fund into the Pooling Collaboration and the funds or sub-funds operated by the Operator.
- Approval of changes to the terms of reference of the Joint Governance Committee as set out in Schedule 4 of the Inter-Authority Agreement.

Note:

- the Council shall retain the power to terminate the Inter-Authority Agreement or make amendments to the Inter-Authority Agreement that may be significant to the operation of the arrangements.
- the Council has determined that the nomination of a Co-opted Member to the Joint Governance Committee is to be carried out by the Pension Board.
 - ii) Delegating powers to Flintshire County Council's own officers and the Host Council where required.
 - ii) Nominating Flintshire County Council's officers to the Officer Working Group.
 - g) Approving the Fund's Annual Report including the Fund's financial statements
 - h) Selection, appointment, dismissal and monitoring of the Fund's advisers, including actuary, benefits consultants, investment consultants, global custodian, fund managers, lawyers, pension funds administrator, and independent professional advisers.
 - i) Making decisions relating to employers joining and leaving the Fund. This includes which employers are entitled to join the Fund, any requirements relating to their entry, ongoing monitoring and the basis for leaving the Fund.
 - j) Agreeing the terms and payment of bulk transfers into and out of the Fund.
 - k) Agreeing Pension Fund Business Plans and monitoring progress against them.
 - l) Agreeing the Fund's Knowledge and Skills Policy for all Pension Fund Committee members and for all officers of the Fund, including determining the Fund's knowledge and skills framework, identifying training

requirements, developing training plans and monitoring compliance with the policy.

- m) Agreeing the Administering Authority responses to consultations on LGPS matters and other matters where they may impact on the Fund or its stakeholders.
- n) Receiving ongoing reports from the ~~Chief Executive~~ **Head of Clwyd Pension Fund** ~~as administrator to the fund~~ and Pensions Advisory Panel in relation to delegated functions.

No matters relating to Flintshire County Council's responsibilities as an employer participating within the Clwyd Pension Fund are delegated to the Pension Fund Committee.

9.7.3 Officers

The Committee may delegate a limited range of its functions to one or more officers of the Authority. The Pension Fund Committee will be responsible for outlining expectations in relation to reporting progress of delegated functions back to the Pension Fund Committee.

9.7.8 Wales Pooling Collaboration Joint Governance Committee

9.7.8.1 The Council will establish the Joint Governance Committee.

9.7.8.2 The Chair~~man~~ and Vice Chair~~man~~ of Flintshire County Council's Pension Fund Committee shall be the Member and Deputy Member on the Joint Governance Committee.

9.7.8.3 The Joint Governance Committee Matters, Terms of Reference and Procedures are as included within the Inter-Authority Agreement as shown below.

(a) Joint Governance Committee Matters

Subject to the terms of the Agreement, the Joint Governance Committee shall undertake those matters which are not Matters Reserved to the Constituent Authorities which shall include (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

- i) Making a recommendation on the appointment, replacement or termination of the Operator to the Constituent Authorities.
- ii) Appointing and replacing service providers, advisers to the Joint Governance Committee (other than the Operator).
- iii) Approving the creation of new pooled vehicles for the Operator.
- iv) Approving the creation of new sub-funds provided by the Operator.

- v) Approving the termination of sub-funds provided by the Operator.
- vi) Preparing a plan relating to the overall transition of assets in accordance with each Constituent Authority's asset transition plan.
- vii) Approving changes to the Operator Contract which are not material changes to the nature of the Operator Contract
- viii) Dealing with the necessary general ongoing management of the Pooling Collaboration.
- ix) Delegation of tasks to the Officer Working Group, including the preparation of reports and draft documents and the undertaking of consultations.
- x) Liaison with Pension Boards as appropriate in line with CIPFA guidance, guidance issued by the Pensions Regulator and other applicable legislation or regulatory guidance.
- xi) Determining the best means of alternative investment structures for assets where a sub-fund is not being provided by the Operator.

Notwithstanding the above, for the avoidance of doubt, the Joint Governance Committee may not delegate its responsibilities.

(b) Joint Governance Committee - Terms of Reference

The Joint Governance Committee responsibilities are:

- i) Making recommendations to the Constituent Authorities on the termination of the Operator Contract before the conclusion of the fixed term contract, where the performance of the Operator is considered unacceptable;
- ii) Ensuring that there are an appropriate range of sub-funds available in order to allow the Constituent Authorities to meet their strategic investment aims. Following representation from any, some or all of the Constituent Authorities, the Joint Governance Committee may direct the Operator to set up a sub-fund in a particular asset class. The Joint Governance Committee must be mindful at all times of the need to balance the requirement to provide a particular sub-fund with the benefits of holding aggregated assets;
- iii) Monitoring the performance of the Operator against the agreed set of key performance indicators;
- iv) Reporting on the performance of the Investment Pool, its costs and other activities, but not limited to, the Constituent Authorities, government, the Scheme Advisory Board and the general public;

- v) From time to time, to review the appropriateness of the existing structures, including the number and make-up of sub-funds and to make recommendations to the Constituent Authorities as to the respective merits of procuring Operator services by means of a third party or through ownership by the Constituent Authorities of the Operator;
- vi) Liaising with the Operator, in such areas as the Operator seeks the preferences and views of the Joint Governance Committee, on the appointment of suppliers, for example manager preferences or the appointment of depositories;
- vii) Liaising with the Constituent Authorities on the appropriate range of sub-funds to be provided in the Investment Pool;
- viii) From time to time reviewing policies in respect of ethical, social and governance matters and voting rights and where appropriate make recommendations to the Constituent Authorities as to any changes deemed necessary;
- ix) From time to time reviewing policies in respect of environmental, social and governance matters and where appropriate make recommendations to the Constituent Authorities as to any changes deemed necessary.
- x) Recommend a high level plan for initial transition of assets to the pool and further asset transitions in the event, for example, of new sub-funds being created or manager changes within sub-funds;
- xi) Ensuring that the Officer Working Group acts within its remit as set out in clause 4 and Schedule 8 of the Agreement;
- xii) Providing any analysis or commentary on annual accounts to the Constituent Authorities;
- xiii) Monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the policies described in Schedule 5 of the Agreement and initiating reviews of these where required;
- xiv) Delivery and ongoing monitoring against the Pooling Collaboration objectives, Business Plan and budgets;
- xv) Approving responses from the Pooling Collaboration in relation to consultations or other matters considered appropriate;
- xvi) Seeking advice from professional and authorised and regulated advisers where necessary;
- xvii) Agreeing the Business Plan to be put forward to the Constituent

Authorities for approval;

- xviii) Report to the Constituent Authorities quarterly (and at any other time when the Joint Governance Committee considers it to be necessary) on the matters within their remit including but not limited to the performance of the Operator, the structure of the funds and the ongoing monitoring of the Business Plan;
- xix) Agreeing criteria for the evaluation of bids or tenders for any procurement of the Operator (including for the avoidance of doubt, a replacement Operator) to be put forward for the approval of the Constituent Authorities;
- xx) Any reference in this schedule to the Joint Governance Committee taking any action including agreeing, approving or making recommendations, shall be determined subject to the voting provisions set out in Schedule 6 of the Agreement;
- xxi) Approval of an appointment of an Allocator following a recommendation by the Officer Working Group, reviewing the performance of an Allocator(s), and reporting on the performance of the Allocator(s) to the Constituent Authorities;
- xxii) Approval of the termination of the appointment of an Allocator following a recommendation by the Officer Working Group.

(c) Joint Governance Committee Schedule of Procedure

i) MEMBERSHIP

- i.1 The membership of the Joint Governance Committee shall consist of one Member per Constituent Authority and one Co-opted Member.
- i.2 No substitutes other than deputies shall be allowed.

iA) ROLE OF THE CO-OPTED MEMBER

- iA.1 The primary role of the Co-opted Member is to provide scheme member representation on the Joint Governance Committee.
- iA. 2 The Co-opted Member is entitled to attend all meetings of the Joint Governance Committee, including exempt items, to be provided with copies of all papers, and to speak on any item during meetings of the Joint Governance Committee.
- iA.3 The Co-opted Member may ask the Chair to include any matter on the agenda which they consider should be discussed by the Joint Governance Committee.

ii) MEETINGS

- ii.1 Meetings shall be held a minimum of four times per municipal year (being May to May). The anticipated schedule of meetings and the locations in which they will be held will be agreed in advance of the commencement of the next Financial Year no later than the final meeting of the current Financial Year.
- ii.2 A meeting may be held at such time and place as the Chair of the Joint Governance Committee thinks fit provided that at least two meetings per annum shall be held in rotating locations between the Constituent Authorities to facilitate public access. The Constituent Authorities shall make available suitable accommodation for the holding of such meetings in public including the provision of Welsh Language translation, video-conferencing and webcasting services as appropriate.
- ii.3 All agendas, executive summaries of reports and minutes in relation to the Joint Governance Committee shall be in both Welsh and English, and simultaneous translation of proceedings will be available throughout all meetings of the Joint Governance Committee.
- ii.4 The Joint Governance Committee may decide to allow remote participation in meetings via video-conference or any similar medium having regard to any applicable guidance issued from time to time by the Welsh Government. Any Member or Co-opted Member attending by video-conference shall be held to be in attendance at the meeting for the purposes of this Schedule.
- ii. 5 A meeting of the Joint Governance Committee may be called by a proper officer of the Host Authority on the request of the Chair. Members and the Co-opted Member must declare any conflict of interest in respect of any business being conducted at the meeting which would likely to be regarded to prejudice the exercise of a person's function as a participant in the meeting.
- ii.6 The Chair is responsible for the running of meetings. The Chair shall invite Members and the Co-opted Member expressing a desire to speak in turn. All discussion and debate shall be held through the Chair and the Chair may draw a discussion to a vote at any time where they consider that every Member and the Co-opted Member has been given a fair opportunity to speak.
- ii.7 Minutes will be kept of all meetings. The Chair will sign the minutes of the proceedings at the next suitable meeting.
- ii.8 Notice of meetings
 - (a) A notice of meeting specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and containing a statement of the matters to be discussed

at the meeting, shall be served on all of the Members of the Joint Governance Committee by the appropriate governance officer of the Host Council;

- (b) Subject to the next clause ((c)), notice of each meeting, copies of the agenda and any reports to be presented at the meeting, shall be given to all Constituent Authorities by the Host Council no later than seven clear days before the date of the meeting. The Constituent Authorities shall ensure that a minimum of five clear days' notice of all meetings is given in accordance with their normal procedures for notification of Council meetings and all papers made available at all of the Constituent Authorities head offices for inspection for those five days unless certified as confidential in which case agendas and any non-certified items are made available only.
- (c) If a meeting is required to be held with less than five days' notice, the Chair must agree it is required urgently, approve the shortened notice period and allow as much notice as possible to be given. Notice should be given in the same manner, and the documents should be made available to all of the Constituent Authorities for as many days as practicable before the meeting.

ii.9 Exclusion of the public and press

- (a) Where any item to be discussed forms exempt information, the Chair shall move that the public and press are excluded from the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting on that item. The Co-opted Member is entitled to remain in the meeting and shall not be excluded. Motions to exclude the press and public do not require to be seconded and shall be determined by simple majority vote of the Members present.
- (b) Where the press and public are excluded under (a) above the Chair may invite any person to remain in the meeting where they consider it to be necessary or appropriate to do so and any members of the Officer Working Group present shall be presumed to be invited to remain unless the Chair specifies otherwise.
- (c) Any person may be excluded from a meeting or required to leave a meeting where in the opinion of the Chair they are causing a disturbance to the running of the meeting and have not desisted from doing so following a request; or where any person is so disruptive that their conduct if allowed to remain would prevent the meeting from proceeding in a fair and acceptable manner.

ii.10 The Joint Governance Committee may, through the Chair, invite any person to speak at a meeting.

- ii.11 Officers of the Officer Working Group presenting reports to the Joint Governance Committee may be asked questions following such presentation.
- ii.12 Section 151 Officers and Monitoring Officers (and in their absence their deputies) of any Constituent Authority are entitled to attend all meetings including any part of any meeting which is closed to the public and press.

iii) **QUORUM**

- iii.1 The quorum shall be five Members.
- iii.2 Where a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the start of the meeting and the Chair has not been notified that one or more Members have been delayed but will be attending, the meeting shall not be held and the Host Council will be asked to schedule and give notice of a replacement meeting.
- iii.3 Where, during any meeting there is no quorum present, then the meeting will adjourn immediately. If the Chair has been unable to ascertain within 15 minutes that the quorum can be restored the remaining business will be considered at another time and date fixed by the Chair.

iv) **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.**

- iv.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be Members and shall be appointed by vote for a term of 12 calendar months.
- iv.2 In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-chair shall be entitled to exercise all of the functions of the Chair.
- iv.3 The decision of the Chair of the meeting on all points of procedure and order and the Chair's interpretation of any rule in this Schedule of Procedure shall be final and no debate may ensue thereon. The Chair shall be entitled to take the advice of a governance officer in interpreting any rule or objection on procedure.
- iv.4 The Chair may be assisted during meetings by a governance officer on procedural matters and such administrative officers as the Chair considers appropriate. Such governance and secretarial officers shall be entitled to remain in the meeting where the public and press are excluded.

v) **AGENDA**

- v.1 An agenda shall be produced in advance for each meeting by the Host Council following consultation with the Chair.

- v.2 The agenda for each meeting shall contain as the first substantive item the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. The Chair will move that the minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a correct record. The only part of the previous minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy and any matters arising from those previous minutes shall be regarded as new items on the agenda of the current meeting.
- v.3 The Officer Working Group and the Constituent Authorities may ask the Chair to include any matter on the agenda which they consider should be discussed by the Joint Governance Committee.
- v.4 The decision on whether to allow discussion on any other matter not on the agenda of a meeting at that meeting shall be made by the Chair.

vi) MOTIONS

- vi.1 Any Member may propose a motion. All motions must be seconded. Motions which are opposed shall be put to a vote in accordance with the voting provisions of this Schedule of Procedure.
- vi.2 A Member or the Co-opted Member may raise a point of order at any time. The Chair will hear them immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of the provisions of this Schedule, or the law or other competent authority. The Member or Co-opted Member must indicate the provision or law or regulation and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken. The ruling of the Chair on the matter will be final. The Chair may take advice on the point of order from the appropriate officer.

vii) VOTING

- vii.1 The Chair shall seek consensus wherever possible however where a vote is required the provisions of this section shall apply.
- vii.2 Each Member present will have one vote and voting will be by means of a show of hands or such other method as the Chair may decide is appropriate in the circumstances, including a roll call. The Co-opted Member may not vote. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- vii.3 All decisions will be determined by simple majority of Members present.
- vii.4 In the event that a vote is taken, the voting positions and any abstentions of Members will be recorded in the minutes.

viii) SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- viii.1 The Joint Governance Committee shall form such sub-committees and working groups as it considers expedient to performing its function. The Joint Governance Committee shall at the time of forming sub-committees or working groups set out the remit of the sub-committees or working groups, what the sub-committees or working groups are required to deliver and the timescale for that delivery. The Co-opted Member may be a member of any sub-committee or working group.
- viii.2 Sub-committees and working groups shall be entitled to request the input and support of the Officer Working Group in the same manner as the Joint Governance Committee.
- viii.3 Each sub-committee and working group shall appoint a chair for that sub-committee or working group, who is to be one of the members of the sub-committee or working group.
- viii.4 Working groups may invite any person who is not a Member or Co-opted Member to join the group in order to assist in carrying out its function.
- viii.5 The Chairs of sub-committees and working groups shall report to Joint Governance Committee at each meeting of that committee on the process of the matters within their remit.
- viii.6 Sub-committees and working groups may be disbanded at any time on the vote of the Joint Governance Committee.
- viii.7 The provisions of the paragraphs in this Schedule of Procedure relating to Agendas, Motions and Voting shall apply to any sub-committee and working group meetings.

9.8. Section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

- 9.8.1 In accordance with Section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, a local Pension Board assists Flintshire County Council in the governance and administration of the Clwyd Pension Fund. The Board's role, members, terms of reference and working arrangements are contained in the following Protocol (following paragraph 9.102).

9.11 Pension Board Protocol

1) Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out the Protocol for the local Pension Board of the Clwyd Pension Fund. Flintshire County Council is a scheme manager as defined under Section 4 of the Public Services Pensions Act 2013. The Pension Board is established by Flintshire County Council under the powers of Section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act and regulation 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. As such, the Constitution of Flintshire County Council does not apply to this Pension Board unless expressly referred to within and permitted by this Protocol.

2) Powers of the Pension Board

The Pension Board will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Protocol.

In addition, Flintshire County Council has determined that, in accordance with the Wales Pooling Collaboration Inter-Authority Agreement, any nomination of a Co-Opted Member to the Joint Governance Committee will be carried out by the Pension Board.

3) Role of the Pension Board

The role of the Pension Board is defined by regulation 106 (1) of the LGPS Regulations as to assist Flintshire County Council as Scheme Manager of the Clwyd Pension Fund:

- to secure compliance with the LGPS Regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme, and requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator
- to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS by the Clwyd Pension Fund

The Council considers this to mean that the Pension Board is providing oversight of these matters and, accordingly, the Pension Board is not a decision making body in relation to the management of the Pension Fund but merely makes recommendations to assist in such management. The Pension Fund's management powers and responsibilities which have been, and may be, delegated by the Council to committees, sub-committees and officers of the Council, remain solely the powers and responsibilities of those committees, sub-committees and officers including but not limited to the setting and delivery of the Fund's strategies, the allocation of the Fund's assets and the appointment of contractors, advisors and fund managers. The Pension Board operates independently of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee.

The Pension Board will ensure that in performing their role it is:

- done effectively and efficiently and

- complies with relevant legislation and
- done by having due regard and in the spirit of the Code of Practice on the governance and administration of public service pension schemes issued by the Pensions Regulator and any other relevant statutory or non-statutory guidance.

4) Composition of the Pension Board

a) Membership.

The Pension Board shall consist of 5 members and be constituted as follows:

- i) 2 Employer Representatives;
- ii) 2 Scheme Member Representatives;
- iii) 1 Independent Member.

Substitutes for the Employer or Scheme Member Representatives are not permitted. The Independent Member will have an Alternate who will carry out Pension Board business if the Independent Member is not available to do so.

b) Eligibility and selection criteria.

The ~~Chief Executive as administrator to the fund (hereafter referred to as the 'Chief Executive')~~ **Head of Clwyd Pension Fund as the Board Secretary (hereafter referred to as "Board Secretary")** will define and keep under review any eligibility and/or selection criteria that will apply to Pension Board members having due regard to the LGPS Regulations and any other relevant Code of Practice and guidance (statutory or otherwise). As a minimum and in accordance with the LGPS Regulations:

- all scheme member and employer representatives must have the capacity to represent their scheme members and employers as appropriate, and
- no officer or elected member of Flintshire County Council who is responsible for the discharge of any function of the Administering Authority under the LGPS Regulations may be a member of the Clwyd Pension Fund Board.

c) Appointment of Members.

The process for selecting members of the Pension Board is set out below.

i) Employer Representative

Step 1 - Each employer within the Clwyd Pension Fund will be invited to nominate one representative to represent employers on the Pension Board. The **Board Secretary** ~~Chief Executive~~ can appoint or reject any nomination made where **it is** ~~she/he~~ **she/he** considered ~~ed~~ the individual does not appropriately meet the eligibility and/or selection criteria.

Step 2 - Where Step 1 fails ~~the Board Secretary~~ Chief Executive will take any other action ~~she/he~~ considered appropriate to appoint suitable Employer Representatives.

ii) Scheme Member Representatives

The joint trade unions will be approached to make one nomination of a person to represent scheme members. The ~~Board Secretary~~ Chief Executive can appoint or reject any nomination made where he/she considers the individual does not appropriately meet the eligibility and/or selection criteria.

The other Scheme Member Representative must be an active, deferred or pensioner member of the Clwyd Pension Fund and will be selected by the ~~Board Secretary~~ Chief Executive following procedures determined by him/her in the spirit of any national guidance or Code of Practice in relation to appointments to the Pension Board.

NB: Step 2 for the Employer Representative also applies to the Scheme Member Representative.

iii) Independent Member and Alternate

The ~~Board Secretary~~ Chief Executive will appoint the Independent Member and Alternate. This will be subject to a majority vote by the employer and scheme member representatives on the Board.

d) Term of Office

- i) The Employer Representatives are appointed for a period of three years from ~~the date of establishment of the Pension Board or~~ the date of their appointment if later. This period may be extended to up to five years if agreed by the ~~Chief Executive~~ Board Secretary. It will automatically cease if the individual is no longer in the employment of that employer.
- ii) The Scheme Member Representatives are appointed for a period of three years from ~~the date or establishment of the Pension Board or~~ the date of their individual appointment if later. This period may be extended to up to five years if agreed by the ~~Chief Executive~~ Board Secretary. It will automatically cease if the individual is no longer a trade union representative or representative of scheme members (in accordance with the criteria set by the ~~Board Secretary~~ Chief Officer (People and Resources), as appropriate).
- iii) The Independent Member's and Alternate's term of office will be determined by the ~~Chief Executive~~ Board Secretary subject to a maximum of five years.

Any Pension Board member may be re-appointed for further terms following an

appointment process.

Term dates may not be exact due to the period of the appointment process. The term of office may therefore be extended for this purpose or other exceptional circumstances by up to three months with the agreement of the **Chief Executive Board Secretary**.

Other than ceasing to be eligible (as set out above) a Pension Board member may only be removed from office during the term of appointment by the unanimous agreement of the **Chief Executive Board Secretary**, the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Member. Such reasons may include non-compliance with this Protocol including inappropriate conduct, conflicts of interest, avoidance of training or low meeting attendance, not having the capacity to represent their members **or employers (as relevant)** or for any other reason not meeting the criteria required to be a Pension Board member.

The removal of the Independent Member requires unanimous agreement from the **Chief Executive Board Secretary** and the Monitoring Officer.

e) Quorum

All Members of the Pension Board are expected to regularly attend meetings. Records of attendance of all Members will be maintained and reported to the **Chief Executive Board Secretary** on at least an annual basis.

A meeting of the Pension Board will only be quorate when:

- one Employer Representative and
- one Scheme Member Representative and
- the Independent Member or Alternate

are present. Subject to agreement by the Independent Member this could include remote attendance. A meeting that is (or becomes at any point) not quorate will cease immediately.

f) Chairing

The Chair of the Pension Board will be the Independent Member (or Alternate) subject to a motion to confirm this being agreed by the majority of the Employer and Scheme Member Representatives of the Board. The role of the Chair is to:

- Ensure that all members of the Board show due respect for process, that all views are fully heard and considered and that decisions are democratically made where consensus cannot be reached.
- **To uphold** and promote the purpose of the Board and to interpret its Protocol when necessary

- Ensure that the Pension Board members have the knowledge and skills as determined in the Fund's **Training Knowledge and Skills** Policy and other guidance or legislation and maintain a training record.
- Act as professional adviser for the Board or arrange such advice as required subject to agreement by the **Chief Executive-Board Secretary** on such conditions as that officer determines.
- Agree the agenda for each Pension Board meeting.
- Approve minutes for Pension Board meetings.
- Ensure an attendance record is maintained along with advising Flintshire County Council on remuneration and expenses to be paid.
- Advise Flintshire County Council on an appropriate budget for the Board, which should be formally approved by the Pension Fund Committee along with the Pension Fund Annual Budget.
- Write reports required by Flintshire County Council on the work of the Board.
- Liaise with the **Clwyd Pension Fund Manager-Board Secretary** on the requirements of the Board, including advanced notice for Flintshire County Council officers to attend and arranging dates and times of Board meetings.
- Other tasks which may be deemed appropriate by Flintshire County Council for the Chair of the Pension Board.
- Other tasks that may be requested by the members of the Pension Board, within the remit of this Protocol and subject to agreement with the **Chief Executive-Board Secretary**
- To annually review and report on the performance of the Board

The decision of the Chair on all points of procedure and order and the Chair's interpretation of the Protocol shall be final.

g) Voting

Each Employer and Scheme Member Representative on the Pension Board will have an individual voting right but it is expected the Pension Board will as far as possible reach a consensus. The Chair of the Pension Board will not be entitled to vote.

The results of any voting outcomes will be reported in the Board minutes including where a consensus was not reached in voting.

Any decision being reported to the Monitoring Officer under 9b) below must receive agreement from a majority of voting members.

5) Location and Frequency of Meetings

The Pension Board will normally meet at the offices of the Clwyd Pension Fund, although the offices of any Employer Representatives could be used with prior agreement of the Chair and at no additional accommodation cost to the Clwyd Pension Fund. Meetings can also be held with remote attendance by members or as hybrid (a combination of physically present and remote attendance).

The Board will meet a minimum of twice and a maximum of four times in each calendar year. If the Board does not believe that this is sufficient to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively the Chair can make a request to the ~~Chief Executive~~ **Board Secretary** for approval to hold additional meetings.

Urgent business of the Pension Board between meetings may, in exceptional circumstances, be conducted via communications between members of the Pension Board including remote attendance, telephone conferencing and e-mails.

6) Remuneration and Expenses

- a) Subject to b) below, an allowance will be made to both Employer and Scheme Member Representatives for attending meetings relating to Pension Board business (including attending training) at the rates contained in the Schedule of Member Remuneration in Flintshire County Council's Constitution for co-opted members of a Flintshire County Council Committee.
- b) It is hoped that employers of Representatives on the Pension Board will provide appropriate capacity to allow the Representative to perform this role within their normal working day without any reduction in pay. If that is the case, the Representative will not be entitled to any allowance.
- c) All Employer and Scheme Member Representatives will also be entitled to claim travel and subsistence allowances at the rates contained in the Schedule of Member Remuneration in Flintshire County Council's Constitution.
- d) The Independent Member and Alternate shall be paid remuneration and expenses as determined by the ~~Chief Executive~~ **Board Secretary**.

7) Acting in the interests of the entire pension fund

Though members of the Pension Board include representatives of specific categories of stakeholder (i.e. scheme members and employers) each member is required to have due regard to the Role of the Pension Board as outlined in this Protocol. Accordingly all members are expected to work jointly in the best interest of the entire Pension Fund, rather than representing the interest of any individual stakeholders. This should not prevent Members from sharing their knowledge on how matters might impact specific stakeholders of the Fund.

8) Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest is defined in the Public Service Pensions Act as:

“in relation to a person, means a financial or other interest which is likely to prejudice the person’s exercise of functions as a member of the board (but does not include a financial or other interest arising merely by virtue of membership of the scheme or any connected scheme).”

Each member of the Pension Board (as well as any other attendees participating in the meeting) will be expected to declare, on appointment and at each meeting, any interests which may lead to conflicts of interest in the subject area or specific agenda of that Pension Board.

The Chair of the Pension Board must be satisfied that the Board is acting within:

- the conflicts of interest requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act and the LGPS Regulations, and
- in the spirit of any national guidance or code of practice in relation to conflicts of interest at the Pension Board, and
- in accordance with any Clwyd Pension Fund Conflicts of Interest Policy or Procedures that apply to the Board.

Each member of the Pension Board, or a person proposed to be appointed to the Board, (as well as attendees participating in the meeting) must provide the Chair of the Pension Board with such information as he or she reasonably requires for the purposes of demonstrating that there is no conflict of interest.

The ~~Chief Executive~~ **Board Secretary** and the Monitoring Officer will jointly adopt the role of ensuring that the Chair of the Pension Board does not have a conflict of interest in the same way as the Chair does in relation to all other Pension Board members. Further they must be satisfied that the Chair is carrying out his or her responsibilities under this section appropriately.

9) Reporting and escalation

- a) The Board must provide minutes of each meeting to the following Pension Fund Committee meetings and may make reports and recommendations to the Pension Fund Committee insofar as they relate to the role of the Pension Board. Any such reports or recommendations must be provided 10 working days in advance of the next Pension Fund Committee to the ~~Chief Executive~~ **Board Secretary**. In addition, an annual report of the Pension Board (as prepared by the Chair of the Pension Board), must be provided to the ~~Chief Executive~~ **Board Secretary**, the Monitoring Officer, the Pension Fund Committee, and the Governance and Audit Committee and be published in the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts.
- b) Where the Board considers that a matter brought to the attention of the Pension Fund Committee has not been acted upon or resolved to their satisfaction, the Pension Board will provide a report to the Monitoring

Officer.

10) Receipt of advice and information

The Board will be supported in its role and responsibilities by the Independent Member and the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund (“the Board Secretary”). In addition Pension Board members will receive the final reports, minutes and agendas relating to all Pension Fund Committees and may attend Pension Fund Committee meetings (including during exempt items).

Insofar as it relates to the role of the Pension Board, it may also;

- request and receive information and reports from the Pension Fund Committee or any other body or officer responsible for the management of the Fund
- examine decisions made or actions taken by the Pension Fund Committee or any other body or officer responsible for the management of the Fund.

The Board Secretary will provide such information as is requested.

Any further requests for information and advice are subject to the approval of the ~~Chief Executive~~ **Board Secretary** who will be required to consider positively all reasonable requests in relation to the role of the Pension Board whilst being mindful of value for money. The Board Secretary will provide such information as is approved.

11) Knowledge and Skills

Under the requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act, a member of the Pension Board must be conversant with:

- a) the legislation and associated guidance of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), and
- b) any document recording policy about the administration of the LGPS which is adopted by the Clwyd Pension Fund.

In addition, a member of the Local Pension Board must have knowledge and understanding of –

- The law relating to pensions, and
- Any other matters which are prescribed in regulations.

It is for individual Pension Board members to be satisfied that they have the appropriate degree of knowledge and understanding to enable them to properly exercise their functions as a member of the Pension Board.

In line with this requirement Pension Board members are required to be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and to refresh and keep their

knowledge up to date. Pension Board members are therefore required to:

- participate in training events (a written record of relevant training and development will be maintained)
- undertake a personal training needs analysis or other method to identify gaps in skills, competencies and knowledge.
- comply with the Pension Fund's Training Policy insofar as it relates to Pension Board members.

12) Standards of Conduct

The Flintshire Standard and Part 2 of the Flintshire County Council's Members' Code of Conduct shall apply in relation to the standards of conduct of Pension Board members insofar as they can be reasonably considered to apply to the role of members of the Pension Board, including the non-disclosure of confidential information.

13) Administration

The Chair of the Pension Board will agree an agenda with the Board Secretary prior to each Pension Board meeting. The agenda and any papers for the Pension Board will be issued at least 5 working days (where practicable) in advance of the meeting except in the case of matters of urgency. Draft minutes of each meeting including all actions, decisions and matters where the Board was unable to reach a decision will be recorded and circulated to all Board members within 10 working days after the meeting. These draft minutes will be subject to formal agreement by the Chair taking consideration of comments by Board members (which may be done electronically between meetings).

The minutes may, at the discretion of the Chair, be edited to exclude items on the grounds that they would either involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A (2) of that Act and/or they represent data covered by the Data Protection Act 1998/ General Data Protection Regulation.

The Pension Board must comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and Flintshire County Council's data protection policy. It must also adhere to Flintshire County Council's requirement, controls and policies for Freedom of Information Act compliance.

14) Access to the Public and publication of Pension Board information

The Pension Board will not be a meeting of the Council open to the general public. The following will be entitled to attend Pension Board meetings in an observer capacity:

- Members of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee
- the Chief Executive, Corporate Manager – Human Resources and

Organisational Development, the Section 151 Officer, **the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund** and the Monitoring Officer

- other officers or advisers of Flintshire County Council or other employers involved with the management of the Pension Fund subject to approval in advance by the Chair, or on request by the Chair
- any other person requested to attend by the Chair
- any other person subject to approval in advance by the Chair.

Any such attendees will be permitted to speak at the discretion of the Chair.

In accordance with the Public Service Pensions Act, Flintshire County Council is required to publish information about the Pension Board including:

- who the Pension Board members are
- representation on the Board
- the role of the Pension Board.

In accordance with good practice, Flintshire County Council may publish other information relating to the Pension Board as considered appropriate from time to time and which may include:

- the agendas and minutes
- training and attendance logs
- an annual report on the work of the Pension Board.

All or some of this information may be published using the following means or other means as considered appropriate from time to time:

- on the Clwyd Pension Fund website,
- on the Flintshire County Council website,
- within the Clwyd **Pension Fund** Annual Report and Accounts,
- within the Fund's Governance Policy and Compliance Statement.

Information may be excluded on the grounds that it would either involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act and/or they represent data covered by the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation^s.

15) Accountability

The Pension Board will be collectively and individually accountable to Flintshire County Council.

16) Review, Interpretation and Publication of Protocol

This Protocol has been agreed by Flintshire County Council. The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Pension Board and may review this Protocol from time to time.

This Protocol will be incorporated into the Council's Constitution and will be publicly available as part of the Constitution as defined in the Council's Constitution and may be amended by the same means as permitted for the Constitution. It will also form part of the Clwyd Pension Fund's Governance Policy and Compliance Statement which will be made available in accordance with the requirements of the LGPS Regulations.

17) Definitions and Interpretation

Points of interpretation:

- All references to officers are to officers within Flintshire County Council unless otherwise stated.

The undernoted terms shall have the following meaning when used in this document:

<i>"Pension Board" or "Board"</i>	the local Pension Board for Flintshire County Council, administering authority for the Clwyd Pension Fund as required under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013
<i>"Pension Fund Committee"</i>	The Clwyd Pension Fund Committee or any committee or sub-committee that may be established with delegated powers for the management and administration of the Fund on behalf of Flintshire County Council as Administering Authority.
<i>"Fund" or "Pension Fund"</i>	Clwyd Pension Fund
<i>"the LGPS Regulations"</i>	The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended)
<i>the Public Service Pensions Act</i>	The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (as amended)
<i>"Scheme Manager"</i>	Flintshire County Council as administering authority of the Clwyd Pension Fund.
<i>"Chair"</i>	The appointed Chairperson of the Pension Board

“LGPS”

The Local Government Pension Scheme

“Scheme”

The Local Government Pension Scheme

11. Officer Scheme of Delegation

SUB-SECTION E – SPECIFIC DELEGATIONS TO STATUTORY, LEGAL, FINANCIAL, HUMAN RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICERS

Chief Executive Head of Clwyd Pension Fund	
PR11X X01	The day to day management of Clwyd Pension Fund matters including ensuring arrangements for investments of assets and administration of contributions and benefits, excluding matters delegated to the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee.
XX02P R12	Establish and Chair a Clwyd Pension Fund Advisory Panel consisting of officers of the Council and advisors to the Clwyd Pension Fund to provide advice and propose recommendations to the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee and carry out such matters as delegated to it from time to time by the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee.

SECTION 13

13. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS**

13.1 **Table 1 – Responsibility for Council Functions**

Committee (Membership)		Non-Executive Functions	Provision of Act or Statutory Instrument	Delegation of functions
H. Clwyd Pension Fund Committee 5 Councillors of Flintshire County Council, 1 Councillor of Wrexham County Borough Council, 1 Councillor of Denbighshire County Council, 1 Representative of the other Scheme Employers (not	1	To carry out the functions of Flintshire County Council as the Scheme Manager and Administering Authority for the Clwyd Pension Fund.	Regulations under Sections 7, 12 or 24 of the Superannuation Act 1972 and the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.	Chief Executive Head of Clwyd Pension Fund

admission bodies) in the Clwyd Pension Fund and1 Representative of the scheme members of the Clwyd Pension Fund.				
<i>The following provision is not a matter relating to the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee and should be moved from part H of this table to Part I. Miscellaneous Functions.</i>				
	21 6	Functions relating to pensions, allowances and gratuities	Regulations under Section 18 (3A) of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989	Chief Executive

SECTION 30

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMBERS' SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION

9. Co-optees' payments

- 9.1 A daily fee (with a provision for half day payments) shall be paid to Co-optees, provided they are statutory Co-optees with voting rights. *In addition a daily fee (which will be paid from the Clwyd Pension Fund) will be paid to the Co-optees who are representatives of other employers and scheme members on the Pension Fund Committee.*
- 9.2 Co-optees' payments will be capped at a maximum of the equivalent of 15 full days a year for each committee to which an individual may be co-opted.
- 9.3 Payments will take into consideration travelling time to and from the place of the meeting, reasonable time for pre meeting preparation and length of meeting (up to the maximum of the daily rate).
- 9.4 The Head of Democratic Services is designated as the "appropriate officer" and will determine preparation time, travelling time and length of meeting, the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination.
- 9.5 The Head of Democratic Services can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed