

MEETING	PENSIONS COMMITTEE
DATE	17 MARCH 2014
PURPOSE	TO ASK THE PENSIONS COMMITTEE TO ADOPT THE STRATEGIES
TITLE	TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2014/15
AUTHOR	DAFYDD L EDWARDS – HEAD OF FINANCE

1. THE PENSION FUND'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government's Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, which requires an authority to produce an Annual Investment Strategy, it is considered best practice for the Gwynedd Pension Fund (the "Fund") to adopt Gwynedd Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2014/15, as amended for the purpose of the Pension Fund (which is attached as Appendix A). Gwynedd Council's TMSS for 2014/15 was approved by the Full Council on 6 March 2014.

2. CIPFA GUIDANCE

The Fund will also have regard to the 2009 revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes.

3. THE PENSION FUND'S CASHFLOW

The Fund has net inflows from its dealings with its members, so in any month, the income from contributions and transfers-in significantly exceed the pensions, transfers out and costs paid out. Once there is sufficient surplus cash it is transferred to one or more of the Fund's investment managers. Normally up to around £5 million is held back for cashflow purposes, in particular in respect of pension payments and funding calls from the private equity funds. However in the past, due to known commitments, there have been times when the surplus cash held in the Fund's bank accounts with Gwynedd Council has been over £20 million.

4. POOLING IN ORDER TO MAXIMISE RETURNS

Currently all the Fund's surplus cash is pooled with the cash balances of Gwynedd Council and invested with counterparties in accordance with Gwynedd Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement. At the end of the financial year, Gwynedd Council pays interest over to the Pension Fund based on the Fund's daily balances over the year. This can continue if the Pensions Committee requests that the pension fund's surplus cash balances are pooled with the Council's cash balances. It is apparent that by pooling the fund can take advantage of economies of scale, and as a result can attract better interest rates, reduce bank costs and avoid the duplication of work within the Council. The report approved by the Full Council on 6th March 2014 included

agreement to continue the pooling arrangement with the Pension Fund following any request from Pensions Committee.

5. COUNTERPARTIES

The counterparties currently meeting investment criteria (**Appendix B**) have been updated to reflect the latest recommendations. The maximum length of loans to all institutions has been increased from 1 year to 2 years to reflect these recommendations. The maximum limit and length of investments are listed, although they are currently restricted to 1 year or less, depending on the status of each institution.

6. SCOPE

The proposed strategy will not deal with the cash held by the Fund's investment Managers for settlements.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Pensions Committee is asked to approve the attached Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15, as amended for the Gwynedd Pension Fund (Appendix A), and to note the current list of counterparties shown in Appendix B.
- 7.2 The Pensions Committee is also asked to make a request to the Council (even though it is not a separate body) to allow the Pension Fund's surplus cash balances to be pooled with the Council's general cashflow from 1 April 2014 onwards.