

Agenda Item 12

Scottish Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board 6th September 2023 Scheme Advisory Board Workplan – Review of Activities

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the current status of the LGPSAB Workplan (Appendix I) and highlights progress in certain areas.

Recommendations

2. The Board are asked to:
 - i. Note the updated position for all Workplan items; and,
 - ii. Provide direction and steer as appropriate; and,
 - iii. Provide a view on each of the completed items as to whether they should be retained or removed.

APPENDIX I

Current Workplan areas

No	Title	Description	Output Required	Completion Date	Update
1	SAB Training Plan	The SAB has an agreement to ensure appropriate training for all SAB Members an ongoing basis.	An action plan covering training and communications actions for the Board was previously agreed. Training plan to be developed annually.	Ongoing	3 Workshops being planned for 2023. 1 st Workshop held 26 th July. 2 nd Workshop taking place on 12 th October
2	Structure Review	Following from the data collection exercise, to complete a review of the structure of the Scottish LGPS.	A report from the Scheme Advisory Board outlining the results of the review exercise.	On pause	The SAB wrote to the Minister following its meeting on 8 th February, setting out the position of the review and seeking further direction. The Minister's reply was noted at 10 th May SAB
5	Transparency of Investments	To consider how to improve transparency across the Funds in relation to investment decisions.	The SAB agreed to provide funding annually for the ongoing maintenance and development of a web portal for boards to share and analyse transparency data.	Ongoing	The SAB agreed at its 8 th Feb meeting to follow up on an offer from the E&W SAB to provide training/ awareness sessions on the transparency system. Session to taking place on 21 st September
6	Publication of an	To publish an Annual	Annual Report to be	May/ June 2023	

	Annual Report	Report which sets out the work of the SAB and the financial position regarding the LGPS Funds in Scotland	prepared for the 2021/22 Financial Year.		2021/22 Annual Report work to be undertaken in spring/ summer 2023. On agenda for 6 th Sept Meeting
7	Valuation Outcomes and Impact on Cost Cap	A triennial agenda item whereby GAD report will inform the Scheme Advisory Board on the outputs of the most recent valuation exercise and provide advice on any impact on the cost cap.	To allow the Board to consider the information provided by Funds from the recent valuation exercise. As advised by SPPA the cost cap which had been placed on hold as a result of the McCloud discrimination ruling is now re-commencing. The triennial Valuation is to take place this year.	SPPA to clarify timescales	GAD provided a presentation on s13 Valuation and cost cap at 30 th November 2022 SAB. GAD provided a presentation on its 2020 Valuation work at the 10 th May SAB. Follow up presentation at 6 th Sept Meeting
7	Cost Control Pre-Breach Mechanism	To develop a cost cap pre-breach mechanism similar to one being developed by the English & Welsh SAB	To have a mechanism which the SAB can utilise in early anticipation of potential future breaches of the cost cap, with the option to consider mitigations prior to the cost cap valuations.	The SAB agreed to establish a technical Working Group to look at pre-breach mechanism.	Working Group to be established, pending the outcome of the E&W cost control mechanism being finalised.
8	Cessation Valuation: Guidance and Regulation Review	To consider a range of matters raised as a result of recent activity on cessation valuations	Two areas previously considered by SAB and Scottish Government on 1) regulation review and 2) good practice guidance for Funds. The SAB at its Sept	Report from Working Group now submitted to SPPA	Joint Secs have written to Funds with guidance as agreed by SAB. The SAB agreed a working group should develop further guidance.

			meeting requested further work to understand points raised on draft guidance and for these to be picked up by the working group which is looking at this issue.		<p>SAB agreed to share English & Welsh guidance adapted for Scottish legal system at its 10th May meeting.</p> <p>A draft is currently being considered by SAB advisers</p>
9	Climate Reporting	To consider potential reporting on climate related disclosure by Pension Funds in Scotland	The Scottish Government is considering introducing Regulations in Scotland similar to likely Regs in England & Wales on climate reporting. The SAB will be asked for its advice on this.	Ongoing	<p>E&W SAB's response to DLHUC consultation considered at 30th November SAB.</p> <p>SAB agreed Working group to be reformed.</p> <p>The Working Group to convene once the position regarding climate reporting is confirmed for E&W.</p>

Original Workplan Items now Standing Items on Board Meeting Agendas

No	Title	Description	Output Required	Anticipated Timescale	Update
1	Communications Strategy	To consider an appropriate strategy on communications for members and on guidance for funds where required	This item will be a standing meeting item and will ensure that the Board are communicating effectively with all stakeholders.		No further update.
2	Review of Regulations	A standing item to ensure that regulations reflect legislation and are fit for purpose.	This item will be a standing meeting item and will inform/reflect the Board's response to existing regulations or those in draft form.		To be considered under the SPPA's Agenda item.
3	Funding Levy mechanism	To agree a mechanism to allow the Scheme Advisory Board to fund the development work required to carry out its role.	That an agreed levy approach is agreed to support the work of the Board.	Ongoing	<p>Action agreed at the SAB's August 2022 meeting that the joint secretaries work with SAB advisers to develop a proportionate robust and transparent levy for future years, from 2023/24.</p> <p>Paper considered at the SAB's 10th May meeting agreed to bring forward a paper on SAB budget to the 29th November meeting.</p>