

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Pensions Committee |
| DATE | 24 March 2023 |
| EXEMPT | No |
| CONFIDENTIAL | No |
| REPORT TITLE | Budget / Forecast 2022/23 |
| REPORT NUMBER | PC/MAR23/BUD |
| DIRECTOR | Steven Whyte |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Jonathan Belford |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Michael Scroggie |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 1.3 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give the Pensions Committee details of the Management Expenses Budget/Forecast and Projected Spend 2022/23 for the North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee note the update on the NESPF Management Expenses Budget/Forecast and Projected Spend 2022/23, shown in the main report.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 BUDGET/FORECAST 2022/23

- 3.1.1 The main report shows the Council's Budget for 2022/23 for the NESPF. The re-alignment of cost headings follows guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) for Pension Funds. Additional NESPF budget is added for costs outwith the Council's Budget and for those costs directly paid for by the Fund.
- 3.1.2 Administrative Expenses – all staff costs of the pension administration team are charged direct to the Fund quarterly. Associated management costs are apportioned to this activity and charged annually as expenses to the Fund.
- 3.1.3 Oversight and Governance Expenses – all staff costs associated with oversight and governance are charged direct to the Fund quarterly. Associated management costs are apportioned to this activity and charged annually as expenses to the Fund.
- 3.1.4 Investment Management Expenses – Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or decrease as the market value of these investments change. Fund Managers charge their fees quarterly

in arrears. In addition, the Fund has negotiated performance related fees with a few of its investment managers. If applicable, performance fees are charged annually at the year end. The unpredictability of market forces for these elements makes forecasting extremely difficult with any degree of accuracy.

3.1.5 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has reviewed and revised their guidance to Pension Funds on Accounting for Scheme Management Costs. As a result, the Fund no longer accounts for indirect limited partnership fees.

3.1.6 Transaction Costs and Direct Property Expenses are included within the section 'Investment Management Expenses'. Other investment related expenses (e.g. investment advice and litigation, etc) are included within the section 'Oversight & Governance Expenses'.

3.2 GOVERNANCE

3.2.1 The Pension Fund projected costs for salaries and direct costs are included in monthly monitoring reports to the Service and Corporate Management Teams. The Chief Officer-Finance reports to the Pensions Committee on a quarterly basis.

3.2.2 Although all the Pension Fund costs are paid for by the Fund, avoiding complacency and ensuring value for money remain key drivers for making savings within the Scheme. Therefore, it is important that the Fund scrutinise and understand the costs of administering the Pension Fund and explore the opportunities for any savings.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All Pension Fund costs are paid for by the Fund.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

| Category | Risks | Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level | *Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions | *Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set? |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Strategic Risk | No significant risks identified | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Compliance | No significant risks identified | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Operational | No significant risks identified | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Financial | Complacency and not ensuring value for money by making savings within the Scheme. | Ongoing scrutiny and understanding of the costs of administering the Pension Fund with the exploration of opportunities for any savings. | L | Yes |
| Reputational | No significant risks identified | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Environment / Climate | No significant risks identified | N/A | N/A | N/A |

8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|--|--------------|
| Integrated Impact Assessment | Not Required |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not Required |
| Other | N/A |

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF) Annual Report & Accounts (2021/22) and Fund Governance Policy Statement.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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