

A photograph of a stone tower ruin in a field under a blue sky. The tower is made of light-colored stone and has several dark, irregular openings. It stands in a grassy field with a line of trees in the background. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

# Clwyd Pension Fund Governance Policy and Compliance Statement November 2022

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## Introduction and Legal Requirements

Flintshire County Council is the Administering Authority responsible for maintaining and managing the Clwyd Pension Fund on behalf of its stakeholders; the scheme members and employers participating in the Fund. These responsibilities are primarily set out in Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations.

Flexibility is provided for each Administering Authority to determine their own governance arrangements. However, the LGPS Regulations require each Administering Authority to prepare, publish and maintain a governance policy and compliance statement setting out whether the Administering Authority delegates its functions, or part of its functions to a committee, a sub-committee or an officer of the authority, and if so:

- a) the terms, structure and operational procedures of the delegation,
- b) the frequency of any committee or sub-committee meetings,
- c) whether such a committee or sub-committee includes representatives of Scheme employers or members, and if so, whether those representatives have voting rights
- d) the extent to which a delegation, or the absence of a delegation, complies with guidance given by the Secretary of State and, to the extent that it does not so comply, the reasons for not complying, and
- e) details of the terms, structure and operational procedures relating to the local pension board.

The regulations require Administering Authorities to consult such persons as it considers appropriate when preparing the policy and compliance statement.

This document is the Governance Policy and Compliance Statement for Clwyd Pension Fund that has been prepared to meet the requirement of the LGPS Regulations. The compliance statement required by point (d) is included as Appendix A.

## Aims and Objectives

Flintshire County Council recognises the significance of its role as Administering Authority to the Clwyd Pension Fund on behalf of its stakeholders which include:

- around 50,000 current and former members of the Fund, and their dependants
- around 54 employers within the Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham Council areas
- the local taxpayers within those areas.

Our Fund's Mission Statement is:

- We will be known as forward thinking, responsive, proactive and professional providing excellent customer focused, reputable and credible service to all our customers.
- We will have instilled a corporate culture of risk awareness, financial governance, and will be providing the highest quality, distinctive services within our resources.

- We will work effectively with partners, being solution focused with a can do approach.

In relation to the governance of the Fund we will aim to:

- Act in the best interests of the Fund's members and employers
- Have robust governance arrangements in place, to facilitate informed decision making, supported by appropriate advice, policies and strategies
- Ensure the Pension Fund is managed, and its services delivered, by people who have the appropriate knowledge and expertise
- Act with integrity and be accountable to our stakeholders for our decisions, ensuring they are robust and well based
- Understand and monitor risk
- Strive to ensure compliance with the appropriate legislation and statutory guidance, and to act in the spirit of other relevant guidelines and best practice guidance
- Clearly articulate our objectives and how we intend to achieve those objectives through business planning, and continually measure and monitor success
- Ensure the confidentiality, integrity and accessibility of the Fund's data, systems and services is protected and preserved.

## Background to Governance Arrangements

Flintshire County Council reviewed its Governance arrangements for the Clwyd Pension Fund in 2014. Prior to this date, the responsibility for the Clwyd Pension Fund rested with the Head of Finance who reported to the Clwyd Pension Fund Panel made up of elected members from Flintshire County Council, Denbighshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. In addition the panel had non-voting members including an independent adviser and a scheme member representative.

An independent review by CIPFA in 2010 found the governance of the Fund to be very good but recognised that this governance structure did not meet best practice, in particular they recommended:

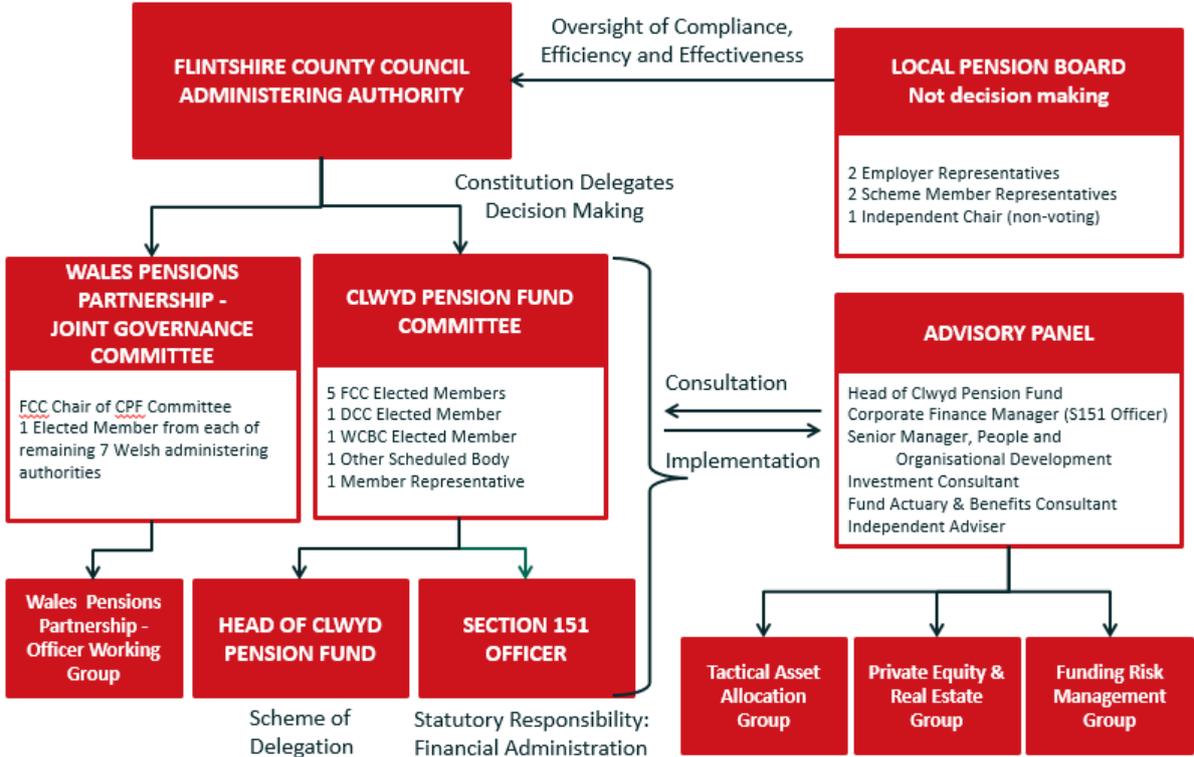
- Responsibility for the management of the Clwyd Pension Fund should be transferred from the Head of Finance to a newly constituted Committee
- There should be wider representation of stakeholders on the newly constituted committee with voting rights extended to all committee members.

As a result, in May 2014, the Fund's governance arrangements were reviewed and the Council established a formal Pension Fund Committee, supported by a Pensions Advisory Panel. The Corporate Finance Manager is the Section 151 Officer and has a statutory responsibility for the proper financial affairs of Flintshire County Council which include Clwyd Pension Fund matters. In addition, the Council has delegated specific responsibilities to the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund.

This governance structure was expanded in early 2015 as a result of the requirement by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 to introduce a local pension board to assist in compliance

of pension fund matters. It was then further expanded in March 2017 to establish the Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee and Officer Working Group and facilitate the move to pooling of pension fund assets across the eight LGPS Pension Funds in Wales.

The Council's governance structure for pension fund matters is as shown below:



### Clwyd Pension Fund Committee

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 LGPS legislation.

The members of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee are not trustees of the Fund, however, they do have a duty of care which is analogous to the responsibilities of trustees in the private sector and they could be more accurately described as 'quasi trustees'. The management of the Clwyd Pension Fund is non-political.

The Committee's specific roles as outlined in the Council's Constitution are shown in Appendix B. The Committee may also delegate a limited range of its functions to one or more officers of Flintshire County Council.

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.

The Pension Fund Committee meets at least quarterly and is composed of nine members as follows:

- Five Councillors of Flintshire County Council, determined by the Council.
- Four co-opted members comprising:
  - One Councillor of Wrexham County Borough Council, determined by that Council.
  - One Councillor of Denbighshire County Council, determined by that Council.
  - 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 Head of Clwyd Pension Fund in consultation with the members of the Pension Fund Advisory Panel.
  - One Representative of the scheme members of the Clwyd Pension Fund, appointed in accordance with procedures agreed by the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund.

The Council's Constitution permits named substitutes for Flintshire County Council members only, providing they satisfy the knowledge and skills policy of the pension fund. Councillors of Flintshire County Council are appointed annually. Otherwise, the terms of reference for the members range from four to six years. Members may be reappointed for further terms.

All members have equal voting rights.

## Head of Clwyd Pension Fund

Under the Council's Constitution, the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund is responsible for the following matters:

- The day to day management of Clwyd Pension Fund matters including ensuring arrangements for investment of assets and administration of contributions and benefits, excluding matters delegated to the Pension Fund Committee.
- Establishing and Chairing 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 Pension Fund Committee, and to carry out such matters as delegated to it from time to time by the Pension Fund Committee.

## Section 151 Officer: Corporate Finance Manager

Under the Council's current operating model, the Chief Finance Officer (S151) role is designated to the Corporate Finance Manager. The Corporate Finance Manager therefore has a statutory responsibility for the proper financial administration of the Clwyd Pension Fund, in addition to that of Flintshire County Council.

## Clwyd Pension Fund Advisory Panel

The Clwyd Pension Fund Advisory Panel has been established to provide advice and propose recommendations to the Pension Fund Committee, and to carry out such matters as delegated to it from time to time by the Pension Fund Committee.

Its membership consists of:

- The Corporate Manager: Human resources and Organisational Development of Flintshire County Council
- The Chief Finance Officer of Flintshire County Council
- The Head of Clwyd Pension Fund
- Investment Consultant
- Fund Actuary
- Independent Adviser

## Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee

To satisfy the Government's requirements to reduce investment related costs, the eight LGPS administering authorities in Wales, including Flintshire County Council, have entered into an Inter Authority Agreement to pool pension fund assets, a key part of which will be done by appointment of an Authorised Contractual Scheme Operator to make the investments on behalf of the administering authorities. This was agreed at the Flintshire County Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The report and appendices can be found [here](#).

As part of this pooling arrangement, the authorities have also established a Joint Governance Committee with a number of responsibilities including the following:

- Monitoring the performance of the Operator
- Making decisions on asset class sub-funds to be made available by the Operator to implement the individual investment strategies of the eight Funds
- Providing accountability to the participating Funds on the management of the Pool
- Reporting on the Pool to the UK Government and other stakeholders
- Having oversight of an Officer Working Group

Flintshire County Council has determined that the Clwyd Pension Fund representative on the Joint Governance Committee will be the Chair of the Pension Fund Committee. In their absence, the Vice Chair will act as the Deputy.

The Pension Fund Committee will determine which officers of Clwyd Pension Fund will represent the Fund on the Officer Working Group.

The Joint Governance Committee meets at least four times each year and is composed of one elected member from each Administering Authority responsible for maintaining an LGPS Pension Fund in Wales. These are:

- Carmarthenshire County Council
- City & County of Swansea Council

- City of Cardiff Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Gwynedd Council
- Powys County Council
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council

Each member present at the Joint Governance Committee is entitled to a vote and all members have equal voting rights.

In addition there is a non-voting co-opted scheme member representative on the Joint Governance Committee.

Carmarthenshire County Council acts as Host Council in relation to the Wales Pension Partnership Inter Authority Agreement. This role includes the following in relation to the management of the pooling arrangements:

- Acting as the main point of contact
- Providing administrative resources and facilities, and governance and administrative services
- Entering into contracts for supplies and services
- Liaising with the Operator

## Wales Pension Partnership Officer Working Group

The Wales Pension Partnership Officer Working Group has been established as part of the Wales Pension Partnership Inter Authority Agreement to support and advise the Joint Governance Committee on such matters as the Joint Governance Committee may reasonably request or any matters relating to the pooling agreement which are raised by any of the authorities' Section 151 Officers or Monitoring Officers.

Each authority delegates to officers to the Officer Working Group. In relation to Clwyd Pension Fund, the Pension Fund Committee determines which of its officers sit on the Officer Working Group. Each authority's Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer are entitled to attend the Officer Working Group.

The full list of responsibilities and procedures relating to the Joint Governance Committee, Officer Working Group and Host Council are included in the Inter Authority Agreement.

## Pension Board

Each LGPS Administering Authority is required to establish a local Pension Board to assist them with:

- securing 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

- ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Pension Fund

Such Pension Boards are not local authority committees; as such the Constitution of Flintshire County Council does not apply to the Pension Board unless it is expressly referred to in the Board's Protocol. The Clwyd Pension Board was established by Flintshire County Council in March 2015 and the full Protocol of the Board can be found within the Council's Constitution. The key points are summarised below.

The Pension Board provides oversight of the matters outlined above. The Pension Board, however, is not a decision making body in relation to the management of the Pension Fund and the Pension Fund's management powers and responsibilities which have been delegated by the Council to the Pension Fund Committee or otherwise remain solely the powers and responsibilities of them, 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 Pension Fund Committee.

The Pension Board consists of five members as follows:

- Two Employer Representatives
- Two Scheme Member Representatives, one of whom is nominated by the joint trade unions, and one who is a member of the Clwyd Pension Fund
- One Independent Member who acts as chair of the Pension Board

All Pension Board members, excluding the Independent Member, have individual voting rights but it is expected the Pension Board will as far as possible reach a consensus.

A meeting of the Pension Board is only considered quorate when at least three of the five members are present, including at least one Employer Representative, one Scheme Member Representative and the Independent Member.

Members of the Pension Board are required to declare, on appointment and at each meeting, any interests that may lead to conflicts of interest in relation to Pension Fund matters or agenda items.

The Pension Board meets a minimum of twice and a maximum of four times in each calendar year in the ordinary course of business. Additional meetings may be arranged, subject to approval by the Board Secretary (who is the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund), to facilitate its work.

## Training

Flintshire County Council recognises that effective management, administration and decision making can only be achieved where those involved have the requisite knowledge and skills. Accordingly, in relation to the management of the Clwyd Pension Fund, we adopt the key recommendations of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Public Sector Pensions Finance Knowledge and Skills.

This means we will ensure that we have formal and comprehensive objectives, policies and practices, strategies and reporting arrangements for the effective acquisition and retention of the relevant LGPS and related knowledge and skills for those responsible for management, administration and decision-making relating to the Fund. These policies and practices will be guided by reference to the framework of knowledge and skills defined within the CIPFA Pensions Finance Knowledge and Skills Frameworks.

The Clwyd Pension Fund's Knowledge and Skills Policy can be found on the Fund's website: <https://mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk/>

We will report on an annual basis how well this Policy has been adhered to throughout the financial year as part of the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts.

The Council has delegated the responsibility for the implementation of the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice to the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund, who will act in accordance with the Fund's Policy.

In addition, in accordance with the Wales Pension Partnership Inter Authority Agreement, the Joint Governance Committee is required to prepare, maintain and adhere to a Training Policy. All members are required to undertake the training that is provided.

## Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest have always existed for those with LGPS administering authority responsibilities as well as for advisers to LGPS funds. This simply reflects the fact that many of those managing or advising LGPS funds will have a variety of other roles and responsibilities, for example as a member of the scheme, as an elected member of an employer participating in the LGPS or as an adviser to more than one LGPS administering authority. Further any of those persons may have an individual personal, business or other interest which might conflict, or be perceived to conflict, with their role managing or advising LGPS funds.

It is generally accepted that LGPS administering authorities have both fiduciary and public law duties to act in the best interest of both the scheme beneficiaries and participating employers. This, however, does not preclude those involved in the management of the Fund from having other roles or responsibilities which may result in an actual or potential conflict of interest. Accordingly, it is good practice to document within a policy how any such conflicts or potential conflicts are to be managed.

Clwyd Pension Fund's Conflict of Interest Policy details how actual and potential conflicts of interest are identified and managed by those involved in the management and governance of the Fund whether directly or in an advisory capacity. The Policy is established to guide the Pension Fund Committee members, Pension Board members, officers and advisers. It aims to ensure that those individuals do not act improperly or create a perception that they may have acted improperly. It is an aid to good governance, encouraging transparency and minimising the risk of any matter prejudicing decision making or management of the Fund otherwise.

The Policy can be found on the Fund's website: <https://mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk/>

In addition, in accordance with the Wales Pension Partnership Inter Authority Agreement, the Joint Governance Committee is required to prepare, maintain and adhere to a Conflicts of Interest Policy.

## Risk Management

Flintshire County Council recognises that effective risk management is an essential element of good governance in the LGPS. By identifying and managing risks through an effective policy and risk management strategy, we can:

- demonstrate best practice in governance
- improve financial management
- minimise the risk and effect of adverse conditions
- identify and maximise opportunities that might arise
- minimise threats

Clwyd Pension Fund's Risk Policy details the risk management strategy for the Clwyd Pension Fund, including:

- the risk philosophy for the management of the Fund, and in particular attitudes to, and appetite for, risk
- how risk management is implemented
- risk management responsibilities
- the procedures that are adopted in the risk management process

We recognise that it is not possible or even desirable, to eliminate all risks. Pension Fund risks are often driven by external factors which are totally or partially out of our control. These include national changes to the Scheme and financial market conditions. Accepting and actively managing risk is therefore a key part of our risk management strategy for Clwyd Pension Fund. A key determinant in selecting the action to be taken in relation to any risk will be its potential impact on the Fund's objectives in the light of our risk appetite, particularly in relation to investment matters. Equally important is striking a balance between the cost of risk control actions against the possible effect of the risk occurring.

We also recognise that risk management is not an end in itself. However it is a sound management technique that is an essential part of how we manage the Fund. The benefits of a sound risk management approach include better decision-making, improved performance and delivery of services, more effective use of resources and the protection of reputation.

The Policy can be found on the Fund's website: <https://mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk/>

In addition, in accordance with the Wales Pension Partnership Inter Authority Agreement, the Joint Governance Committee is required to prepare, maintain and adhere to a Risk Policy.

## Welsh Language Standards

Flintshire County Council has adopted the principle that in the conduct of public business it will treat the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality. These standards therefore also apply to the governance arrangements for the Clwyd Pension Fund. More information can be found on the Council’s website or by contacting the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund.

## Monitoring Governance of the Clwyd Pension Fund

The Fund's governance objectives will be monitored as follows:

Objective	Monitoring Arrangements
<p>Have robust governance arrangements in place, to facilitate informed decision making, supported by appropriate advice, policies and strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Independent Adviser undertakes an annual review of the effectiveness of the Clwyd Pension Fund's governance arrangements, the findings of which are reported to the Committee and published.</li> <li>• The Pension Board prepares and publishes an annual report.</li> <li>• In line with the Regulations, this document will be filed with the DLUHC.</li> </ul>
<p>Ensure the Pension Fund is managed and its services delivered by people who have the appropriate knowledge and expertise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Knowledge and Skills Policy is in place together with monitoring and reporting of all training by Pension Committee members, Pension Board members and key officers in accordance with the Knowledge and Skills Policy.</li> <li>• The Joint Governance Committee has a Training Policy in place with monitoring arrangements in accordance with the Inter Authority Agreement.</li> </ul>

Objective	Monitoring Arrangements
<p>Act with integrity and be accountable to our stakeholders for our decisions, ensuring they are robust and well based</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Conflicts of Interest Policy is in place together with ongoing reporting and monitoring of the register of conflicts in accordance with the Conflicts of Interest Policy.</li> <li>• The employers within the Fund, together with union representatives, are invited to an Annual Joint Consultative Meeting. Attendees receive presentations and have the opportunity to ask questions on the governance of the Fund.</li> <li>• The Pension Fund Committee includes representatives from scheme members and most employers in the Fund.</li> <li>• The Pension Board includes representatives from scheme members and employers in the Fund.</li> <li>• The Pension Board prepares and publishes an annual report and this may also include commentary on decision making.</li> <li>• The Joint Governance Committee prepares an annual business plan which is brought to the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee for agreement.in accordance with the Inter Authority Agreement.</li> </ul>
<p>Understand and monitor risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Risk Policy and register in place and monitoring and reporting of risks is carried out in accordance with the Risk Policy.</li> <li>• Ongoing consideration of key risks at Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board meetings.</li> </ul>

Objective	Monitoring Arrangements
<p>Strive to ensure compliance with the appropriate legislation and statutory guidance and to act in the spirit of other relevant guidelines and best practice guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Governance of the Fund is considered by both the External and Internal Auditors. All External and Internal Audit Reports are reported to Committee.</li> <li>• The Fund has an Independent Governance Adviser and their annual report includes reference to compliance with key requirements.</li> <li>• The Fund carries out a compliance check, at least annually, against the relevant The Pension Regulator’s Code of Practice.</li> <li>• The Fund maintains a log of all breaches of the law in accordance with the Fund's breaches procedure which is reported on and monitored as outlined in that procedure.</li> <li>• The Pension Board prepares and publishes an annual report which may include comment on compliance matters.</li> <li>• The Joint Governance Committee has a Breaches and Error Policy in place with monitoring arrangements in accordance with the Inter Authority Agreement.</li> </ul>
<p>Clearly articulate our objectives and how we intend to achieve those objectives through business planning, and continually measure and monitor success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All strategies and policies include reference to how objectives will be monitored.</li> <li>• Ongoing monitoring against key objectives at Pension Fund Committee meetings.</li> <li>• Ongoing monitoring of business plan targets at Pension Fund Committee meetings.</li> <li>• Quarterly and annual updates against the Joint Governance Committee's business plan and objectives are provided in accordance with the Inter Authority Agreement.</li> </ul>

Objective	Monitoring Arrangements
<p>Ensure the confidentiality, integrity and accessibility of the Fund's data, systems and services is protected and preserved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All information security breaches relating to data being issued insecurely by the Fund are recorded and reviewed.</li> <li>• All other incidents affecting confidentiality, integrity and accessibility of data, systems or services are recorded and reviewed.</li> <li>• The Fund has a cyber incident response plan in place.</li> <li>• The Fund has a business continuity plan and a testing schedule (including cyber incident testing) in place which is adhered to.</li> <li>• All Fund staff have undertaken GDPR training in accordance with FCC's training programme.</li> </ul>

## Key Risks

These are the main governance risks that Pension Fund Committee members, with the assistance of the Clwyd Pension Fund Advisory Panel, monitor on an ongoing basis.

- The potential for changes in Pension Fund Committee membership, Pension Board membership, Joint Governance Committee and/or key officers, a poor level of knowledge, poor engagement or poor oversight to impact the quality of decisions that are made.
- If potential or actual conflicts of interest are not appropriately managed, they could influence decision making, meaning decisions are not in the best interests of our fund members and employers, and our fiduciary duties are not met
- If policies are not in place or not regularly monitored, then the Fund's objectives may not be clear or appropriate
- A breakdown in risk management would result in risks not being identified or not appropriately considered, resulting in losses or other detrimental impact to the Fund or its stakeholders
- The potential for externally led influence and changes (such as scheme changes, national reorganisation, cybercrime and asset pooling) to result in the Fund's objectives and legal responsibilities not being met or being compromised
- If, for reasons such as sickness, resignation, retirement or inability to recruit, staff numbers become insufficient, then this could result in services not being delivered to meet legal and policy objectives
- If appropriate training is not provided to those tasked with managing the Fund, or they do not understand their responsibilities, then there is the risk that legal requirements or guidance may not be complied with

## Best Practice Compliance Statement

As required by Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations the statement below compares Clwyd Pension Fund's current governance arrangements with the best practice guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The statement provides an explanation where the Fund is not fully compliant.

## Approval, Review and Consultation

The governance structure of the Clwyd Pension Fund was reviewed in 2014. The employers of the Fund were consulted prior to that review. Employer and scheme member representatives have also been party to proposed changes to the structure including the arrangements for entering into the Wales asset pooling arrangement.

This version of the Governance Policy and Statement was approved at the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee on 23 November 2022. It will be formally reviewed and updated at least every three years or sooner if the governance arrangements or other matters included within it merit reconsideration.

## Further Information

If you require further information about anything in or related to this Governance Policy and Statement, please contact:

Philip Latham, Head of Clwyd Pension Fund, Flintshire County Council

E-mail: [Philip.latham@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.latham@flintshire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01352 702264

Further information about the Fund can be found on its website:

<http://mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk/>

Further information about the Wales Pension Partnership can be found on its website:

<http://www.walespensionpartnership.org/>

## Appendix A: Clwyd Pension Fund Governance Compliance Statement

Best Practice	Compliant or not?	Explanatory Note
<b>A. Structure</b>		
<p>a. The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets clearly rests with the main committee established by the appointing council.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>The majority of elements of administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets are delegated by the Council to Pension Fund Committee.</p> <p>The Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee has responsibility for some elements of management of the Wales Pension Partnership.</p>
<p>b. That representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main or secondary committee established to underpin the work of the main committee.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>Representatives covering most employers and scheme members are Co-opted Members of the Pension Fund Committee.</p> <p>The Pension Board, although not a formal secondary committee, also includes representatives of scheme members and employers.</p> <p>The Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee includes one co-opted scheme member representative and is required to liaise with scheme member and employer representatives.</p>

c. That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.	<b>Not applicable</b>	There is no formal secondary committee or panel. However, it is worth noting that the Pension Board members are entitled to attend all Pension Fund Committee meetings and are invited to participate. All Pension Board minutes are circulated around Pension Fund Committee members as soon as they are available as well as being included in Pension Fund Committee reports.
d. That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.	<b>Not applicable</b>	
<b>B. Representation</b>		
<p>a. That all key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented within the main or secondary committee structure. These include:</p> <p>i) employing authorities (including non-scheme employers, e.g. admitted bodies);</p> <p>ii) scheme members (including deferred and pensioner scheme members),</p> <p>iii) where appropriate, independent professional observers, and</p> <p>iv) expert advisors (on an ad-hoc basis).</p>	<b>Partially compliant</b>	<p>The Pension Fund Committee includes the following Co-opted Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employer representatives covering all employers with the exception of admission bodies (as admission bodies make up just a small proportion of the liabilities of the Fund)</li> <li>• a scheme member representative covering all categories of scheme member.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, an independent governance adviser, Fund's actuary and investment consultant attend all Pension Fund Committee meetings.</p>

		<p>The Pension Board, although not a formal secondary committee, also includes representatives of scheme members and employers.</p> <p>The Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee includes one co-opted scheme member representative and is required to liaise with scheme member and employer representatives.</p>
<p>b. That where lay members sit on a main or secondary committee, they are treated equally in terms of access to papers and meetings, training and are given full opportunity to contribute to the decision making process, with or without voting rights.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>All Pension Fund Committee members, including Co-opted Members, are treated equally with full opportunity to contribute to the decision making process and with unrestricted access to papers and training, and with full voting rights.</p> <p>There is no formal secondary committee or panel. However it is worth noting that the Pension Board members are entitled to attend all Pension Fund Committee meetings and are invited to participate.</p>
<p><b>C. Selection and role of lay members</b></p>		
<p>a. That committee or panel members are made fully aware of the status, role and function they are required to perform on either a main or secondary committee.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>This is highlighted via regular training and also when presenting this Governance Policy and Compliance Statement for approval.</p>

<p>b. That at the start of any meeting committee members are invited to declare any financial or pecuniary interest related to specific matters on the agenda.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>This is no longer a legal requirement but we recognise that potential conflicts of interest can arise between existing roles (e.g. as employer representatives or scheme members) and accordingly we still carry out this practice. The Fund has a Conflicts of Interest Policy outlining the process for identifying and managing actual and potential conflicts of interest.</p>
<p><b>D. Voting</b></p>		
<p>a. The policy of individual administering authorities on voting rights is clear and transparent, including the justification for not extending voting rights to each body or group represented on main LGPS committees.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>The Council's Constitution and the Fund's Governance Policy and Compliance Statement make it clear that all Pension Fund Committee members have equal voting rights.</p> <p>The Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee voting arrangements are outlined in the Inter Authority Agreement with one vote per authority. The co-opted scheme member representative is not entitled to vote at the Joint Governance Committee.</p>
<p><b>E. Training / facility time / expenses</b></p>		
<p>a. That in relation to the way in which statutory and related decisions are taken by the administering authority, there is a clear policy on training, facility time and reimbursement of expenses in respect of members involved in the decision-making process.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>The Fund has a Knowledge and Skills Policy that applies to all Pension Fund Committee members, Pension Board members and officers. Training is delivered through several avenues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An initial induction for new Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board Members</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going training through written reports or presentations at Committee meetings</li> <li>• Conferences and seminars.</li> </ul> <p>The actual costs and expenses relating to approved training are met directly or can be reimbursed from the Clwyd Pension Fund. The co-opted members of the Pension Fund Committee and members of the Pension Board may receive payments for attendance at meetings (including training events) as detailed within the Flintshire County Council Members' Remuneration Scheme and the Pension Board Protocol.</p> <p>The Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee is required to prepare, maintain and adhere to a Training Policy.</p>
b. That where such a policy exists, it applies equally to all members of committees, sub-committees, advisory panels or any other form of secondary forum.	<b>Compliant</b>	
c. That the administering authority considers the adoption of annual training plans for committee members and maintains a log of all such training undertaken.	<b>Compliant</b>	A log of individual Member training is maintained. In addition, the Fund has adopted the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework and has a Fund specific Knowledge and Skills Policy.

<b>F. Meetings (frequency / quorum)</b>		
a. That an administering authority's main committee or committees meet at least quarterly.	<b>Compliant</b>	
b. That an administering authority's secondary committee or panel meet at least twice a year and is synchronised with the dates when the main committee sits.	<b>Not applicable</b>	
c. That an administering authority who do not include lay members in their formal governance arrangements, must provide a forum outside of those arrangements by which the interests of key stakeholders can be represented.	<b>Not applicable</b>	Even though we do have lay members on our Pension Committee, we also have an Annual Joint Consultative Meeting (AJCM) for employing bodies and scheme members. The Pension Board also provides a forum for stakeholders to be represented.
<b>G. Access</b>		
a. That subject to any rules in the council's constitution, all members of main and secondary committees or panels have equal access to committee papers, documents and advice that falls to be considered at meetings of the main committee.	<b>Compliant</b>	All Members of the Pension Fund Committee have equal access to papers. In addition, all Pension Board members have access to the same papers.  The Joint Governance Committee is a public meeting so all papers (except those classified as exempt) are available to Committee and Board members, as well as members of the public.

H. Scope		
<p><i>a.</i> That administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>The remit of the Pension Fund Committee covers all Fund matters, including administration, communications, funding, investments and governance. The Pension Board provides further opportunity for these matters to be considered.</p>
I. Publicity		
<p><i>a.</i> That administering authorities have published details of their governance arrangements in such a way that stakeholders with an interest in the way in which the scheme is governed, can express an interest in wanting to be part of those arrangements.</p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>	<p>The Fund publishes a detailed Annual Report, newsletters for active and pensioner members, road shows, drop in sessions and an Annual Meeting for Employers and representatives of stakeholders (AJCM). In addition all Pension Fund Committee reports are available to view on the Flintshire County Council website (other than exempt items).</p> <p>Arrangements relating to the Joint Governance Committee are available via this policy, with some information included in Pension Fund Committee papers. All Joint Governance Committee reports are available to view on the Carmarthenshire County Council website (other than exempt items).</p> <p>In addition the Joint Governance Committee includes one co-opted scheme member representative and will liaise with scheme member and employer representatives.</p>

## Appendix B: Delegated Roles and Functions of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee

The Pension Fund Committee will have the following specific roles and functions, taking account of advice from the Head of Clwyd Pension 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, His 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 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 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 Pension Partnership 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.

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.

- ii. Delegating powers to Flintshire County Council's own officers and the Host Council where required.
  - iii. Nominating Flintshire County Council's officers to the Officer Working Group.
  - iv. Monitoring of the performance of the Wales Pooling Collaboration and its Operator and recommending actions to the Joint Governance Committee, Officer Working Group or Host Council, as appropriate.
- 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 Head of Clwyd Pension Fund and Pensions Advisory Panel in relation to delegated functions.



[mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk](https://mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk)

**Clwyd Pension Fund, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6NA**

Please note that Flintshire County Council is the administrative authority of the Clwyd Pension Fund and we use your personal data in accordance with Data Protection legislation to provide you with a pension administration service. For more information about how we use your data, who we share it with and what rights you have in relation to your data, please visit the Privacy Notice on our website.