The Pension Regulator's and Scheme Advisory Board Compliance Checklist

Date of Completion - 10/6/2015

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Introduction

This document outlines how Hackney Council complies with the Pensions Regulator's (TPR) Code of Practice No 14 Governance and administration of public service pension schemes ('the TPR Code') in relation to the management of the London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It will be updated regularly by officers of the Fund and reported annually to the Pensions Committee and Pension Board (generally in June/July each year).

This document highlights all the key elements of the TPR Code and then evidences whether Hackney Council meets these areas of best practice. As part of this evidence it shows when the element was last checked and whether, at that point, it was considered fully, partially or not compliant. Where they are partially or not compliant, it also highlights whether the Council have identified actions to be carried out to improve their current practices. Where an element is not yet active, the commentary will generally still highlight where advanced progress is being made.

Those reading this document should be mindful that the TPR Code applies equally to all public service pension schemes and therefore it is generic in nature. There may be a number of elements that are more specifically stipulated within LGPS legislation and it is not the purpose of this compliance checklist to consider that level of detail.

Further, Hackney Council may also incorporate key elements of national guidance from the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board into this compliance checklist. This version contains the checklists included as part of the Shadow Scheme Advisory Boards "Guidance on the creation and operation of Local Pension Boards in England and Wales".

Key

Frequency of review and last review date: Where a process, policy or practice is officially reviewed at a set interval, the actual interval will be shown as well as the last interval date. However, in many circumstances processes and procedures are ongoing and part of the day – to - day operation of the Fund. In these circumstances, an annual check will be carried out to ensure that the ongoing process meets the TPR Code expectations and therefore the date shown will be the date that annual check was carried out and the frequency will be shown as "ongoing (annual check)".

Completed: Compliant: Where responsibility relates to employers:

Fully completed

Fully compliant

Partially compliant

Partially compliant

Not started

Non-compliant

Not yet relevant

Not yet relevant

Pully compliant

Employers - Partially compliant

Employers - Non-compliant

Not yet relevant

Not yet relevant

Definitions:

PSPA13 Public Service Pensions Act 2013
LGPS Local Government Pension Scheme

TPR The Pensions Regulator

TPR Code The Pensions Regulator's Code of Practice No 14 Governance and administration of

public service pension schemes

Scheme Manager For the London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund, this is Hackney Council.

Administering Authority The LGPS specific term for Scheme Manager. For the London Borough of Hackney

Pension Fund, this is Hackney Council.

IDRP Internal Dispute Resolution ProcedureSAB The national LGPS Scheme Advisory Board

PC Pensions Committee
PB Pension Board

Summary Results Dashboard

No. Completed Completed Reporting Duties A1 A2 A3 A4 Knowledge & Understanding	
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	Maintaining Accurate Member Data						
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	Providing Information to Members and Others						

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No.	Completed	Compliant						
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A- Reporting Duties

Note the requirements in this section are not included in the TPR Code but they are a fundamental to the relationship with TPR.

Legal Requirements

All public service pension schemes have to be registered with TPR. In addition, all schemes must provide a regular scheme return to TPR, containing prescribed information. A return is required when the scheme receives a scheme return notice from the regulator. The scheme manager must also keep the regulator informed of any changes to registrable scheme details.

Note the requirements in this section are not included in the TPR Code but are a requirement for all schemes.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
A1	Is your scheme registered with the Pension Regulator?	Will be reassessed annually to ensure new registration is not required	Annual	1/6/15			New registration will only be required if a new LGPS is created that is deemed to be a separate scheme	
A2	Is the information held on the Pensions Regulator's website about the scheme up-to-date?	Intention will be to update as employers join or leave the scheme and check annually for overall accuracy.	Ongoing (annual check)				Will commence when log in facility is made available to the public sector schemes.	
A3	Have you completed this latest Scheme Return in the required timescale?	Response submitted to TPR on 27/03/13 by JD	As and when received	1/6/15			No return received since March 2013	
A4	Have you responded to the latest TPR public service pension scheme survey /questionnaire?	Intention is to respond to any such survey that is received, including on a voluntary basis.	As and when received	March 2013				

B - Knowledge and Understanding

Legal Requirements

A member of the pension board of a public service pension scheme must be conversant with:

- the rules of the scheme, and
- any document recording policy about the administration of the scheme which is for the time being adopted in relation to the scheme.

A member of a pension board must have knowledge and understanding of:

- the law relating to pensions, and
- any other matters which are prescribed in regulations.

The degree of knowledge and understanding required is that appropriate for the purposes of enabling the individual to properly exercise the functions of a member of the pension board.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach /	Frequency of	Last Review	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
		Evidence	Review	Date				

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
B1	Are there policies and arrangements in place to support pension board members in acquiring and retaining knowledge and understanding?	Pension Fund Training Policy with appropriate objectives and measurements in place.	Annual	14/1/2015			To be adopted by Pension Board at its first meeting in July 2015.	
B2	Has a person been designated to take responsibility for ensuring the framework is developed and implemented?	In training policy. Responsibility delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources.	Ongoing (annual check)	14/1/2015				
B3	Is the Fund providing assistance to pension board members to determine the degree of knowledge and understanding required?	Dedicated induction training will be provided based on CIPFA requirements and TPR Toolkit also incorporated – final details to be determined. Also all new members will be provided with key documents as per Training Policy Ongoing PB members will be required to go to the training for Pension Committee in addition to carrying out additional ad - hoc training as other needs arise. Annual self -assessment will be completed through the effectiveness survey.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made	
B4	Are the roles and responsibilities of pension boards and members of pension board clearly set out in scheme documentation?	Including in the PB Terms of Reference.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
B5	Are pension board members aware of their legal responsibility in terms of Knowledge and Understanding?	Articulated in Training Policy and part of Induction Training. All members to be provided with copy of Training Policy as part of induction pack and reminded of Policy on an annual basis.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made	
B6	Have all pension board members got access to copies of the scheme rules and relevant Fund documentation?	Will be part of induction training including welcome pack with key documents included. Ongoing training part of normal Committee business (which PB members will be given access to).	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made	
В7	Is there an up-to-date list of the Fund specific documents with which pension board members need to be conversant in?	Induction list in Training Policy	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes Action
B8	Are all pension board members investing sufficient time in their learning and development?	Training plans are agreed each June as part of the PC business plan. Monitoring of attendance at training is undertaken in accordance with Training Policy and recorded annually in governance update in annual report and accounts.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made. However, a model is being developed to capture individual training needs against CIPFA requirements/TPR toolkits and to monitor against those specific requirements. Each June, PC will highlight any individuals (PB, PC & officers) with outstanding requirements.
B9	Does the Fund offer pre- appointment training for new pension board members or mentoring by existing members?	Induction process in Training Policy including providing all with copies of key documents.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made.
B10	Is there a process in place for regularly assessing the pension board members' level of knowledge and understanding is sufficient for their role, responsibilities and duties?	There is a Training Plan (annual) which it is focussed at whole PC/PB level. Annual self-assessment already carried out for PC members and will be extended to PB going forward.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made. However, a model is being developed to capture individual training needs against CIPFA requirements/TPR toolkits and to monitor against those specific requirements, including providing individual certificates. Each June PC will highlight any individuals with outstanding requirements (PC, PB and officers). In addition it is proposed that the annual effectiveness questionnaire will be expanded (in March 2016) to ask if any individuals have further training requirements (March 2016).
B11	Are records of learning activities being maintained?	This is included in the annual report and accounts at whole PC/PB level.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made. However, a model is being developed to capture this information at individual level (for at least last three years) and each individual will be provided with an annual certificate as well as it being reported to each June PC.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
B12	Have the pension board members completed the Pension Regulator's toolkit for training on the Code of Practice number 14?	It is the intention that all PB and PC members will carry this out. Initially it will be incorporated into training as part of meetings. Meeting 1 of the Pension Board will include the conflicts of interest and breach module questions.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made.	

C - Conflicts of interest

Legal Requirements

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 sets out the legal requirements for scheme managers and pension boards for conflicts of interest.

In relation to the pension board, scheme regulations must include provision requiring the scheme manager to be satisfied:

- that a person to be appointed as a member of the pension board does not have a conflict of interest and
- from time to time, that none of the members of the pension board has a conflict of interest.

Scheme regulations must require each member or proposed member of a pension board to provide the scheme manager with such information as the scheme manager reasonably requires for the purposes of meeting the requirements referred to above.

Scheme regulations must include provision requiring the pension board to include employer representatives and member representatives in equal numbers.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
C1	Does the Fund have a conflict of interest policy and procedure, which include identifying, monitoring and managing potential conflicts of interest?	Pension Fund Conflict Policy with appropriate objectives and measurements in place which includes procedures to identify, monitor and manage potential conflicts of interest.	Annual	31/3/2015			Will be adopted by Pension Board at its first meeting	
C2	Do pension board members have a clear understanding of their role, the circumstances in which they may have a conflict of interest and how to manage potential conflicts?	PB members must complete a declaration which requires them to sign that they understand the requirements. Declarations must be completed by all PB members and reaffirmed annually. In addition, opportunity for new declarations is provided at the start of each meeting. Training on conflicts planned for first PB meeting and they will adopt the conflicts policy at first PB meeting.	Annual	Due summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made.	

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes Action
C3	Have all Pension Board members provided appropriate information for the Administering Authority to determine whether a conflict exists (on appointment and from time to time)?	Policy requires each PB member to complete a declaration on appointment and annually. The Head of Financial Services will ensure that all are received and collated within six weeks of the first meeting. The register is reviewed annually to ensure conflicts are being registered at the earliest opportunity.	Annual	Due summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board commences.
C4	Does the appointment process for pension board members require disclosure of interests and responsibilities which could become conflicts of interest?	The Policy and procedures and the declarations require PB members to highlight potential, as well as actual, conflicts. The procedure requires declaration at interview, annually and at each meeting (if not already declared). The Head of Financial Services has responsibility for ensuring the procedure is followed.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board commences.
C5	Is the conflicts policy regularly reviewed?	Every three years or earlier if considered appropriate	Triennially	31/3/2015			
C6	Does the Fund have a conflicts register and it is circulated for ongoing review and published?	There is a register of interests which is updated on an ongoing basis based on information in individual declarations and provided to the Chair prior to each meeting. The information is incorporated in annual report and accounts and available on request. All declarations made at meetings will be recorded in the minutes which are public. Refer to policy – regularly reviewed (annual basis etc).	Ongoing and annual	Commencing Summer 2015 (but existing one before then for PC)			Deferred until Pension Board commences.
C7	Is appropriate information included in the register?	Register of interests updated on an ongoing basis but this will be reviewed annually to ensure it is being used correctly. Register includes all this information and is included as an appendix to the Conflicts policy.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board commences.
C8	Is there a standing item on the agenda for declaring conflicts of interest?	Part of standard PC meeting agenda and intention to be part of PB meeting agenda too.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
C9	Do those involved know how to report a conflict of interest?	Members trained on appointment and provided with copy of Conflicts Policy annually. Also Policy referred to at start of each meeting.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board appointments made	
C10	Is the number of employer and member representatives on the board in line with legal requirements?	Outlined in the terms of reference.	Ongoing (annual check)	18/3/2015				
C11	Is the board made up of the appropriate mix of representatives in order to minimise potential conflicts?	To be completed as part of appointment process and then reviewed annually to ensure this continues. Appointment Process completed including appointments panel interview to assess capacity of individuals to fulfil role as Pension Board Member Only 6 applications received for 4 posts despite contacting all scheme members by post, advertising on website and notice on Council intranet.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing Summer 2015			Cannot be determined until Pension Board appointments made and potential conflicts finally confirmed (mid-June 2015).	

D - Publishing information about schemes

Legal Requirements

The scheme manager for a public service scheme must publish information about the pension board for the scheme(s) and keep that information up-to-date.

The information must include:

- who the members of the pension board are
- representation on the board of members of the scheme(s), and
- the matters falling within the pension board's responsibility.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of	Last Review	Completed	Compliant	Notes Action
			Review	Date			
D1	Does the Administering Authority	See -	Ongoing	Commencing			Deferred until Pension Board
	publish information about the	http://hackney.xpmemberservices.com/Scheme/Pensions-	(annual check)	Summer			commences.
	pension board?	Board.aspx		2015			
		Currently shows recruitment information. Will be expanded to include names and minutes of PB meetings once PB appointments made.					

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
D2	Does the Administering Authority publish other useful related information about the pension board?	See - http://hackney.xpmemberservices.com/Scheme/Pensions-Board.aspx Already has appointment process, terms of reference and roles and responsibilities. The remaining information will be added after appointment process.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board commences.	
D3	Is all the information about the Pension Board kept up-to-date?	Information regularly checked.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board commences.	
D4	Does the Administering Authority public information about pension board business?	All pension board meetings are public meetings and information will be contained on the Hackney Council website.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board commences.	

E - Managing risk and internal controls

Legal Requirements

The scheme manager must establish and operate internal controls which adequately ensure the scheme is administered and managed in accordance with the scheme rules and the requirements of the law.

Internal controls are defined in the legislation as:

- arrangements and procedures to be followed in the administration and management of the scheme
- systems and arrangements for monitoring that administration and management
- arrangements and procedures to be followed for the safe custody and security of the assets of the scheme

The legal requirements apply equally where a scheme outsources services connected with the running of the scheme.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
E1	Is there an agreed process for identifying and recording scheme risks?	A risk management policy is in place that outlines the procedure for identifying, managing and recording risk. It covers all the key areas identified by the TPR Code.	Annual	Risk manage- ment policy to be agreed at June 2015 PC.				
E2	Does the Fund have an adequate process to evaluate risks and establish internal controls?	The risk management process includes how risks are to be evaluated and internal controls established. It makes use of a RAG status based on impact and likelihood and the associated control is then shown as part of the risk register. The risk management policy also lists the key internal controls.	Annual	Risk manage- ment policy to be agreed at June 2015 PC.				

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
E3	Does the Administering Authority have a risk register to record all risks identified and action taken?	Risk register is in place which includes all internal controls and action taken.	Annually (annual check)	1/6/15				
E4	Does the Administering Authority review the effectiveness of the risk management and internal control systems of the Fund?	 Our risk management and internal controls are continually reviewed for effectiveness as part of a number of processes including: The ongoing updating of the risk register which includes the control of those risks Issues identified through regular monitoring reports such as performance monitoring for PC, IDRP updates, monthly reports from Equiniti and breaches notifications. The triennial (at least) review of the risk management policy which includes a list of the key controls Regular internal and external audit reports. Annual internal control reports from Equiniti, custodian and fund managers. Annual update of TPR Code compliance checklist. Periodic ad-hoc reviews (e.g. LGPS2014 audit). 	Annually (annual check)	1/6/15				
E5	Does the Administering Authority regularly review the risk register?	Risk management is ongoing and therefore the register can be updated as a result of risk identification through a number of means including: • annual review at pensions committee • performance measurement against agreed objectives • monitoring against the Fund's business plan • findings of internal and external audit and other adviser reports • feedback from the local Pension Board, employers and other stakeholders • informal meetings of senior officers or other staff involved in the management of the Fund • liaison with other organisations, regional and national associations, professional groups, etc.	Annually (annual check)	1/6/15				
E6	Is there a standing item on the Pension Board agenda to review scheme risks?	It is a standing item on the Pensions Committee each January and, as a matter of course, is then shared with the Pension Board.	Annually (annual check)	To commence from Summer 2015			Deferred until Pension Board commences	

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
E7	Does the Administering Authority have adequate systems, arrangements and procedures (internal controls) in place for the administration and management of the Fund and are they documented?	It is considered that there are adequate internal controls in place. These are articulated in the risk register and many of the key ones outlined in the appendix to the Risk Management Policy.	Annually (annual check)	1/6/15				
E8	Do these procedures apply equally to outsourced services, are internal controls reflected in contracts with third party providers and is there adequate reporting in relation to those controls?	The key outsourced services for this purpose are Equiniti (third party administration), HSBC (custodian) and Fund managers. These providers are required to provide annual internal control reports and a control sheet is used to ensure they are received and reviewed.	Annually (annual check)	1/6/15				

F - Maintaining accurate member data

Legal Requirements

Scheme managers must keep records of information relating to:

- member information
- transactions, and
- pension board meetings and decisions.

The legal requirements are set out in the Public Service Pensions (Record Keeping and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2014 ('the Record Keeping Regulations').

The Data Protection Act 1998 and the data protection principles set out additional requirements for using, holding and handling personal information. Other requirements are set out in the:

- Pensions Act 1995 and 2004
- Pensions Act 2008 and the Employers' Duties (Registration and Compliance) Regulations 2010
- Occupational Pension Schemes (Scheme Administration) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/1715)
- Occupational Pension Schemes (Scheme Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (SR 1997 No 94)
- Registered Pension Schemes (Provision of Information) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/567)

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
F1	Do member records record the information required as defined in the Record Keeping Regulations and is it accurate?	Scheme member records are maintained by Equiniti our third party administrators. Therefore much of the information here and in later questions relates to the records they hold on Hackney's behalf. However, as the scheme manager, Hackney is required to be satisfied the regulations are being adhered to. Checks were carried out in relation to each of the requirements in the Record Keeping Regulations and all were considered compliant except for in relation to clause 4(3) which relates to information for members who pay AVCs. This is held and maintained by	Annually (Equiniti) or if change provider. Part of actuarial valuation (triennial)	21/4/15 (ad hoc check) Autumn 2013 (valuation)			Aon Hewitt audit (June/July 2015) will also highlight any issues with basic scheme information being held.	Investigate legal requirements in relation to AVCs. Further information to be provided by Equiniti in future years to verify compliance.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
		Prudential with an annual update provided to Hackney Council. It is considered this is sufficient but legal clarification will be obtained to ensure this is the case.						
		Data accuracy and completeness reports are also received via the triennial valuation, which cover some of these elements.						
		Going forward Equiniti will providing an annual statement confirming they are adhering to this requirement on the accuracy and completeness of the data.						
F2	Does the Fund have the appropriate processes in place so employers can provide timely and accurate information?	The Fund's Pension Administration Strategy includes a list of all employer responsibilities and duties including timescales. In addition they were provided with the LGA payroll and HR guides.	PAS reviewed each January for PC in March	14/1/15				Ongoing development of interfaces.
		They have been provided with a suite of standard forms and a monthly returns/spreadsheet (HK221) with explanatory notes. This includes contributions, changes of address, change of hours, change of salary, date of joining, date of leaving etc. for cross-checking against forms completed.						
		For some employers, interfaces are being developed e.g. to create joiners for Hackney Council, rather than waiting for specific forms.						
F3	Does the Fund keep records of and reconcile transactions as required by the Record Keeping Regulations?	All info on scheme records and also on the client cash manager (Lloyds pension fund bank account with Equiniti) that then flows across to the Hackney PF account and all feeds into annual report and accounts. This includes all write offs. There are also some spreadsheets that are used for further checks (e.g. transfers in, overpayments).	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
		There is reconciliation between actual and expected costs with a quarterly update against budget in PC papers.						
F4	Are records kept of pension board meetings as required by the Record Keeping Regulations?	Full minutes are maintained and published on the Hackney Council website. Annual check to ensure this continues to be the case.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing summer 2015.			Deferred until pension board meetings commence	
F5	Are records kept of decisions made by the pension board, outside of meetings as required by the Record Keeping Regulations?	We do not expect there to be decisions outside of the PB. The secretary will monitor the situation.	Ongoing (annual check)	Commencing summer 2015.			Deferred until pension board meetings commence	

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
F6	Are records retained for as long as they are needed?	Hackney consider it necessary to retain records for long as is possible due to the number of enquiries from employees relating to periods many decades ago. Accordingly personal records are maintained in addition to other data such as contribution lists, spreadsheets of old cases and pensions increases reports.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
F7	Does the Administering Authority have policies and processes to monitor data on an ongoing basis?	 There are a number of separate processes in place to monitor data on an ongoing basis (generally carried out by Equiniti) including: Monthly HK221 spreadsheets to check against changes received from employers Year-end annual returns provide a further opportunity to highlight any data discrepancies All data entry is checked for input accuracy Various tolerance checks such as changes in pay Processes if pensioner payslips are returned (including suspension of pension on second return), using only BACs payments for pensioners and life certificate exercises (overseas and over a certain age annually and then all cases every 2 or 3 years) and national fraud initiative every 2 years. Triennial valuation highlights data issues. Process exists for warning and charging levies to employers if incomplete monthly data is provided or if provided late checks on 'common' data 	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
F8	Does the Administering Authority carry out a data review at least annually?	Annual year end reconciliations as described above plus for annual report and accounts, pension increases and benefit statements. Equiniti carry out a common data and intend to commence a conditional data review.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				Conditional data review to be finalised by Equiniti and ongoing programme of reporting to be developed for it and common data.
F9	Is a data improvement plan in place which is being monitored with a defined end date?	Monthly meeting held between Equiniti and Hackney where improvement plan is discussed and actions/timescales agreed. Employers are charged an administration fee where they fail to meet standards.	Monthly	1/6/15				

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
F10	Are processes and policies in place to reconcile scheme data with employer data?	Monthly and year end spreadsheets assist with reconciling data. Interfaces being developed for main employers to provide final checks.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				Ongoing work on interfaces
F11	Do the Administering Authority's member data processes meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the data protection principles?	 Ensure all those involved with data understand the DPA: Equiniti get annual training Hackney staff periodic training DPA officer at both Equiniti and Hackney Council data protection policy in place and guidance on intranet Evidence of processes includes: Sharefile is used for data transfer with all employers, Equiniti and Hackney Focalpoint used for data transfer with actuary Actuary – use Focalpoint. Otherwise any sensitive e-mails are encrypted unless scheme member insists otherwise. 	Ongoing (annual check)	Equiniti training - Summer 2014 Hackney training - February 2014 Other checks 1/6/15				

G - Maintaining contributions

Legal requirements

Contributions must be paid as detailed below, and where not done, they should be reported to TPR in circumstances where the scheme manager has reasonable cause to believe that the failure is likely to be of material significance to TPR in the exercise of any of its functions. Reporting must be carried out as detailed below.

Contribution Type	Contributions must be paid	When a failure should be reported
Employer	on or before the due date as defined by the scheme regulations	To The Regulator: As soon as reasonably practicable
Employee	Paid within the prescribed period (19 th day of the month, or 22 nd day if paid electronically) or earlier date if required by the scheme regulations	Regulator: Within a reasonable period – 10 working days

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
G1	Does the Fund have procedures and processes in place to identify payment failures?	There is a master spreadsheet where all contributions received are entered and monitored by Equiniti. All payments are made by BACS to reduce risk of payment failure. Hackney Council and Equiniti hold monthly meetings to determine how to deal with any issues arising.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
G2	Do those processes and procedures include a contributions monitoring record to determine whether contributions are paid on time and in full?	The spreadsheet highlights where a payment is not received by 19 th each month. It also highlights if contributions could be incorrect by comparing salary vs contribution rate to give employee and employer rates. The HK221 detailed information (per employee) is used to cross check the amounts that are coming through correctly to the gross totals. It also carries out tolerance checks compared to previous entries and it shows where historical added years or ARCs are due to stopped (to avoid overpayments). Interest is automatically charged for late contributions in accordance with LGPS regulations and discretionary policy. Details of the charges applied and the interest are provided in the administration strategy.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
G3	Do those processes and procedures include monitoring payments against the contributions monitoring record on an ongoing basis?	The process includes reconciliation with the payment received and shown in the financial system. No process is currently in place in relation to reconciling AVC payments with contributions record.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				Process being implemented to monitor date of payment of AVCs.
G4	Are these procedures regularly reviewed to ensure they are effective?	Payments are generally always on time. Monthly meeting between Equiniti and Hackney consider any late cases. Within Equiniti, the finance team meet every Monday to discuss what is expected, what is coming up, timetables, including highlighting any late payments and escalating to service review meetings.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
G5	Do the Administering Authority's processes include managing overdue contributions in line with TPR's suggested approach?	For main scheme contributions, monitoring spreadsheet maintained by Equiniti and separately by Hackney Council. Identification and escalation process, however, needs to be formalised. Prudential automatically notify the scheme manager if any AVC payments are received late from employers (very few – only 4 or 5 in last 10 years).	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				Equiniti spreadsheet being updated to incorporate formula which will more quickly identify noncompliance and an escalation process is to be formalised, which will be incorporated into the same spreadsheet. This escalation process can be included in next version of PAS (2016 review).
G6	Does the Fund maintain a record of any investigations and communications with employers?	Information is collated in individual records relating to each employer. A summary of late payments is included in annual report and accounts (although employers are not specifically named). Information is also available on the historic monitoring spreadsheets. Equiniti system Compendia stores email and letter communications with employers	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
G7	Do employers provide sufficient information to monitor contributions and is this in accordance with the LGPS regulations?	During 2014/15 there were ongoing issues with employers not providing sufficient information with HK221 spreadsheets. This is all captured on the Equiniti spreadsheet including what action has been taken and whether escalated to the Council. Year-end returns have been received from the majority of employers to verify the information, and queries responded to, to enable reconciliation of member contributions with service.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15		Employers	Employers who were not compliant in relation to providing sufficient information (as at the end of the year) were: Hackney Council Hackney Homes Outward Family Mosaic	Ongoing work with employers to ensure data is received in accordance with requirements.
G8	Is there a satisfactory process in place to assess the materiality of any payment failures and ensure that those which are material are reported to the Regulator within a reasonable period?	Existing spreadsheets in place (both Equiniti and Hackney Council) identify late payment. However, current process does not consider significance of failures and whether they should be reported.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				Procedure being designed to formalise escalation process including materiality and whether to report to TPR. This will be detailed in PAS (2016 review) and incorporated into the spreadsheet.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes Ac	ction
G9	If the administration of contributions outsourced to a service provider, is there a process in place to obtain regular information on the payment of contributions to the scheme?	Yes, for main scheme (administered by Equiniti), spreadsheet maintained and shared monthly with Hackney Council and discussed as part of monthly service review meeting. Contribution monitoring is a requirement of service provision by Equiniti. In relation to AVCs (administered by Prudential), all late payments are notified directly to Hackney Council.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				

H - Providing information to members and others

Legal requirements

The law requires schemes to disclose information about benefits and scheme administration to scheme members and others. This includes requirements relating to benefit statements and certain other information which must be provided under the requirements of the 2013 Act, HM Treasury directions and the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2013 ('the Disclosure Regulations 2013'). In addition to these duties, there are other legal requirements relating to the provision of information to members and others under other legislation.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
H1	Has an annual benefit statement been provided to all active members within the required timescales?	Sent annually. Statements as at 31 st March 2014 were issued in December 2014 All cases were sent out unless there is no address to send to.	Annual	December 2014		Employers		A number of statements came back as incorrect address and internal work is being undertaken to encourage employees to keep address up to date (e.g. via self-service facility). Equiniti are also working with employers to ensure addresses are updated but sometimes the employer does not have a current address
H2	Do these meet the legal requirements in relation to format?	Treasury Direction was issued in March 2014 but is only effective from 1 April 2015.	Annual	Due before 31 August 2015.			Will be checked in relation to statements as at 31 March 2015.	
H3	Has a benefit statement been provided to all active, deferred and pension credit members who have requested one within the required timescales?	Benefit statements are issued automatically to all active and deferred members annually, which is more proactive than this provision (which just relates to issuing them on request). Pension credit statements issued within 10 working days. It is monitored that they meet the 10 working day deadline on Equiniti workflow system Pulse.	Annual	November/ December 2014 for year end 31/3/14 (deferred/ active statements respectively)			Around 1,000 deferred not issued as no last known address. See above re active statements. In 2014/15 there were no requests for PC benefit statements.	Tracing exercise to be carried out to help reduce the number of unknown addresses.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
H4	Does this meet the legal requirements in relation to format?	The information in the standard active and deferred statements does not fully comply with the disclosure requirements for information to be provided on request. However, it is possible information provided on individual requests is more compliant but this needs further investigated.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				Further investigation and discussion required to decide whether to change format of statements to adhere to Disclosure Requirements or just to apply those requirements for individual requests.
H5	Has an annual benefit statement been provided to all members with AVCs within the required timescales?	Provided by Prudential to Equiniti to distribute. The total of the statements is compared with the total AVCs shown on the HK221 employer submissions to ensure statements for all active members are included. No further checks carried out in relation to other members.	Annual	May 2015 relating to 2014/15 statements.				
H6	Do these meet the legal requirements in relation to format?	Statement provided by Prudential checked against requirements and all appropriate information is included.	Annual	1/6/15				
H7	Is basic scheme information provided to all new and prospective members within the required timescales?	New starter information is issued by Equiniti. This is done by issuing a notification of joining with a nomination form, transfer form and a link to the LGPS website. Equiniti aim to provide this information within 10 working days of being notified of joiners by employers (which is the official SLA as part of their contract). However, because the SLA relates to when notified, it does not necessarily mean the legal timescale has been met which is within 2 months of joining the scheme. For 2014/5: Only 55.4% of cases were issued with information within the 2 month legal deadline from date of joining. 96% of cases were issued with information within the 10 working day SLA from date of receipt of information. This highlights that the majority of the 44.6% of cases where the legal deadline was not met relates to no or late notifications from employers. Equiniti often identify cases from contribution spreadsheets and auto-enrolment reports to chase outstanding information from employers with a review to improving this process.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15		Employers		There is ongoing work to improve transfer of information from employers to Equiniti, including developing interfaces and charging administration cost for late notifications.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
H8	Does this meet the legal requirements in relation to format?	A check against the requirements has been carried out. In the main the website is compliant but some areas are excluded or not as explicit as they might be, for example, in relation to the lack of charges for scheme members and the fact the scheme is registered by HMRC.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				The website is being redesigned and the new version will pick up on these requirements.
H9	Is all other information provided in accordance with the legal timescales?	Equiniti are asked to provide an annual statement confirming that they have met these requirements in relation to the main scheme for the previous financial year. Prudential (the AVC provider) are asked to provide an annual statement confirming they have met the requirements in relation to lifestyling. All standard communications to members from Hackney Council and Equiniti provide the postal contact details and the pensions@hackney.gov.uk email address.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15 Information May 2015 by Prudential			Unfortunately it is not possible to carry out a retrospective check for 2014/15 relating to the main scheme in appropriate timescales but Equiniti are confident the requirements have been met.	Compendia automatically highlights the disclosure dates/requirements and they can report on this. Going forward monthly Equiniti reports will have a statement saying they have not breached disclosure requirements, or if they have what.
H10	Is all other information provided in the format and methods required by law?	Equiniti are asked to provide an annual statement confirming that they have met these requirements for the main scheme in relation to the previous financial year. Prudential (the AVC provider) are asked to provide an annual statement confirming they have met the requirements in relation to lifestyling.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15 Confirmed by Prudential 20/5/15.			Unfortunately it is not possible to carry out a retrospective check for 2014/15 relating to the main scheme in appropriate timescales but Equiniti are confident the requirements have been met.	Compendia automatically highlights the disclosure dates/requirements and they can report on this. Going forward monthly Equiniti reports will have a statement saying they have not breached disclosure requirements, or if they have what.
H11	Where any information is only provided electronically (i.e. instead of any hard copy) does it comply with the legal requirements?	Everything is hard copy (including info leaflets such as Freedom changes) except the basic scheme information which must be provided for new starters. In these circumstances a hard copy statutory notice is provided directing them to the information on the website.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
H12	Does the Administering Authority aim to design and deliver communications in a way that ensures scheme members are able to engage with their pension provision?	Objectives are included in the Communications Strategy that focus on these requirements. Currently only feedback is in relation to a survey from induction presentations. Results for 2014/15 covered approximately 226 attendees and found: 97.3% found the presentation informative and engaging 96.9% understand the benefits of being in the scheme 94.8% found the presentation relevant and understandable.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				Equiniti are planning further surveys with scheme members to gather wider feedback.
H13	Does the Administering Authority use a tracing service?	Pensioners – if a pensioner becomes untraceable, Equiniti use the DWP tracing service. Deferred and frozen refunds – no tracing service currently used.						Plans to start using a tracing service for deferred members.

I - Internal Dispute Resolution

Legal requirements

The Pensions Act 1995 requires scheme managers to set up and implement an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) to help resolve disputes between the scheme manager and people with an interest in the scheme.

The act states that a person has an interest in the scheme if they:

- are a member or beneficiary
- are a prospective member
- have ceased to be a member, beneficiary or prospective member
- claim to be any of the above and the dispute relates to this claim.

The Act also states that the procedure must include:

- how an application is to be made
- what must be included in an application
- how decisions are to be reached and notified
- a specified period (which is reasonable) within which applications must be made.

The procedure may require people with an interest in the scheme to first refer matters in dispute to a 'specified person' in order for that person to consider and give their decision on those matters. This decision may then be confirmed or replaced by the decision taken by the scheme manager after reconsideration of the matters. However, legislation provides flexibility for scheme managers to decide the details of these.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency	Last Review	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
			of Review	Date				
l1	Has the Administering Authority	Yes – leaflet outlining procedure is available on website.	Ongoing	1/6/15				
	put in place an internal dispute		(annual					
	resolution procedure?		check)					
	The second secon							

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
12	Does the Administering Authority's process highlight or consider whether a dispute is exempt?	Leaflet outlining IDRP procedure includes this information.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
13	Does the information made available to applicants about the procedure clearly state the procedure and process to apply for a dispute to be resolved including:	Leaflet outlining IDRP procedure includes this information.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
	 who it applies to who the specified person (stage 1) is the timescales for making applications 							
	 who to contact with a dispute the information that an applicant must include the process by which decisions are reached? 							
14	Has the Administering Authority ensured that employers who make first stage decisions also have IDRP in place?	 Where the employer has not responded with their own stage 1 person, the Council's stage 1 person is undertaking the role. This is communicated regularly including: mentioned at employer forum in January 2015. email sent to employers June 2015 with a copy of the IDRP leaflet and pointing out that JW to act as appointed person if the employers don't have their own or don't respond. 	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 Employers reminded June 2015				
15	Are the timescales in the procedure adhered to including sending an acknowledgment on receipt of an application?	Acknowledgements issued within 2 days and responses are sent within 2 month deadline (albeit usually within 6 weeks due to SLA). This will be checked annually for both stages 1 and 2.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				
16	Does the Administering Authority notify and advertise the procedure appropriately?	Leaflet included on the website (which is where joining information also is). Not all notification of benefit letters currently includes this (e.g. missing from deferred, refund, retirements, and death benefits). Also missing from new starter notice. Not currently in administration or communications strategy but they will be updated appropriately in 2016 review.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				Administration and communications strategy will be updated in 2016. New starter notice and remaining benefit notification letters to be updated.

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
17	Are the notification requirements in relation to TPAS and the Pensions Ombudsman being adhered to?	Process needs updated to enclose guide when acknowledging receipt of an IDPR. Notifications always include information about TPAS/PO in the decision letter.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15 for 2014/15				All future acknowledgements will include a copy of the IDRP guide.
18	Does the Administering Authority regularly assess the effectiveness of its arrangements?	Information included in Pension Committee quarterly reporting. More formal review of the arrangements on an annual basis as part of the annual administration report.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				
19	Does the Administering Authority regularly assess the effectiveness where employers carry out a stage one process?	We have not been notified that any employers carry out their own process. Accordingly Equiniti act as stage 1 by default.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				

J - Reporting breaches of the law

Legal Requirements

Certain people are required to report breaches of the law to the regulator where they have reasonable cause to believe that:

- a legal duty which is relevant to the administration of the scheme has not been, or is not being, complied with
- the failure to comply is likely to be of material significance to the regulator in the exercise of any of its functions.

People who are subject to the reporting requirement ('reporters') for public service pension schemes are:

- scheme managers
- members of pension boards
- any person who is otherwise involved in the administration of a public service pension scheme
- employers: in the case of a multi-employer scheme, any participating employer who becomes aware of a breach should consider their statutory duty to report, regardless of whether the breach relates to, or affects, members who are its employees or those of other employers
- professional advisers including auditors, actuaries, legal advisers and fund managers: not all public service pension schemes are subject to the same legal requirements to appoint professional advisers, but nonetheless the regulator expects that all schemes will have professional advisers, either resulting from other legal requirements or simply as a matter of practice
- any person who is otherwise involved in advising the managers of the scheme in relation to the scheme.

The report must be made in writing as soon as reasonably practicable.

No	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	of Review	Last Review Date	Completed Complia	ant Notes	Action
J1	Is the Administering Authority satisfied that those responsible for reporting reaches under the legal requirements and TPR guidance understand the requirements?	Training at PC in June 2015 and at July PB initial meeting to include this. Procedure will be shared with all PB, PC and key officers & put on website.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15			Training and Procedure to be completed on 24/6/15 at Pension Committee meeting and then shared with Pension Board at first meeting in July 2015.
J2	Does the Administering Authority have appropriate procedures in place to meet their legal obligations for identifying and	Breaches procedure is in place (developed May 2015).	Annual	1/6/15			

No.	TPR Requirement	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
	assessing breaches?							
J3	Are breaches being recorded in accordance with the agreed procedures?	Procedure launched May/June 2015 so no historical recording. The Head of Financial Services will maintain a record of breaches and this will be included in the quarterly PC governance update report from June 2015 including a comment on whether any breaches are systemic and action taken. Some details may need to be withheld for confidentiality reasons.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15				Record being developed as part of procedure.

K - Scheme Advisory Board - Guidance on the creation and operation of Local Pension Boards in England and Wales

Legal Requirements

Clause 7 of the Public Service Pensions Act provides that the national Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) may provide advice to scheme managers or pension boards in relation to the effective and efficient administration and management of the scheme.

It also provides that a person to whom advice is given by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) must have regard to the advice.

The Scheme Advisory Board has published guidance on the creation and operation of Local Pension Boards in England and Wales which incorporates a number of action point check lists at the end of some of the sections. The following are the items in those checklists.

No.	SAB Requirement	SAB Section	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
K1	Administering Authority to have approved the establishment (including Terms of Reference) of the Local Pension Board by 1 April 2015.	5	Hackney Council approved 27/2/15.	Ongoing (annual check)	27/2/15				
K2	The Local Pension Board must be operational (i.e. had its first meeting no later than 4 months after the 1 April 2015).	5	First meeting planned for 16/7/15.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until after first PB meeting	
K3	Once established a Local Pension Board should adopt a knowledge and understanding policy and framework (possibly in conjunction with the Pensions Committee if appropriate).	6	Training Policy approved by PC 14/1/15. Will be part of agenda of first meeting on 16/7/15 and it is then reviewed annually.	Annual	Due Summer 2015			To be adopted by Pension Board at its first meeting	
K4	A Local Pension Board should designate a person to take responsibility for ensuring that the knowledge and understanding policy and framework is developed and implemented.	6	Designated to Corporate Director of Finance & Resources as part of Training Policy which will be adopted by the Board.	Ongoing (annual check)	14/1/15				

No.	SAB Requirement	SAB Section	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
K5	The Administering Authority should offer access to high quality induction training and provide relevant ongoing training to the appointed members of the Local Pension Board.	6	Training plan being developed including induction training for all board members.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until PB commences	
K6	A Local Pension Board should prepare (and keep updated) a list of the core documents recording policy about the administration of the Fund and make the list and documents (as well as the rules of the LGPS) accessible to its members.	6	Part of Training Policy. Documents part of induction pack and on website.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until PB commences	
К7	Members of a Local Pension Board should undertake a personal training needs analysis and put in place a personalised training plan.	6	There is a Training Plan (annual) but it is focussed at whole PC/P B level. Annual self -assessment will be completed through effectiveness survey.	Ongoing (annual check)	1/6/15			Deferred until PB commences	A model is being developed to capture individual training needs against CIPFA requirements/TPR toolkits and to monitor against those specific requirements. Each June PC/Summer PB will highlight any individuals with outstanding requirements.
K8	An Administering Authority should prepare a code of conduct and a conflicts policy for its Local Pension Board for approval in accordance with the Administering Authority's constitution and at the first meeting of the Local Pension Board. The Local Pension Board should keep these under regular review.	7	Code of conduct is part of PB Terms of Reference. Conflicts of Interest Policy approved by PC on 31/3/15 is going to first meeting for adoption.	Annual	31/3/15			To be adopted by Pension Board at its first meeting	
K9	Training should be arranged for officers and members of a Local Pension Board on conduct and conflicts.	7	Planned for first PB meeting	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until PB commences	
K10	A Local Pension Board should establish and maintain a register of interests for its members.	7	Included as part of Policy requirements.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until PB commences	
K11	An Administering Authority should agree the ongoing reporting arrangements between the Local Pension Board and the Administering Authority.	8	Outlined in PB Terms of Reference	Ongoing (annual check)	1/5/15				

No.	SAB Requirement	SAB Section	London Borough of Hackney Approach / Evidence	Frequency of Review	Last Review Date	Completed	Compliant	Notes	Action
K12	A Local Pension Board should understand the Administering Authority's requirements, controls and policies for FOIA compliance so that the Local Pension Board is aware of them and can comply with them.	8	Copy of Council's FOI policy will be provided to all PB members as part of induction pack.	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until PB commences	
K13	A Local Pension Board should put in place arrangements to meet the duty of its members to report breaches of law.	8	Planned for first PB meeting	Ongoing (annual check)	Due Summer 2015			Deferred until PB commences	A breaches procedure is being prepared for approval at June PC and July PB.
K14	A Local Pension Board should consider (with its Administering Authority) the need to publish an annual report of its activities.	8	A requirement outlined in PB Terms of Reference	Annual	Due Summer 2016			Deferred until one year after PB commences	
K15	An Administering Authority should consult on, revise and publish its governance compliance statement to include details of the terms, structure and operational procedures relating to its Local Pension Board.	8	Completed and updated at March 2015 PC.	Annual	31/3/15				