



West Northamptonshire Council

Pension Committee

30/3/2022

Mark Whitby – Head of Pensions

Report Title	Northamptonshire Pension Fund – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy Review
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Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

MO	John Murphy on behalf of Catherine Whitehead	7/3/2022
S151	James Smith on behalf of Martin Henry	2/3/2022
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To present to the Pension Committee a with a revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy for the Northamptonshire Pension Fund.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The administering authority is responsible for ensuring appropriate policies are in place for the safeguarding of the Fund's assets through appropriate methods of risk management. It is therefore appropriate for the Fund to have in place an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Pension Committee is asked to approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Policy was first created and approved by the Pension Committee in October 2017 and the first review carried out in December 2019. It is now deemed appropriate to carry out a further review to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- 4.2 The purpose of the policy is to –
- Prevent ongoing losses of funds where fraud has occurred and to maximise the potential for recovery.
 - Minimise the occurrence of fraud by taking rapid action at the earliest opportunity.
 - Minimise the chance of destruction of evidence.
 - Maximise the chances of success in future sanction action, including criminal prosecution
 - Minimise adverse publicity.
 - Act as a deterrent for potentially fraudulent activity.
- 4.3 Internal Audit have reviewed the policy and are content that it is comprehensive and meets the needs of the Fund.
- 4.4 The current version of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy can be found – [Key documents - Northamptonshire LGPS](#)

5 Issues and Choices

5.1 Changes to the policy

5.2 The table below highlights the key proposed changes to the policy:

Section	Change	Detail of activity
6	Policy also applies to officers of the Fund	Officers were previously covered by the corporate policy; the intention is for both policies to be used in conjunction with each other.
10	The detection and prevention of fraud and corruption has been split into activities and triggers	The splitting of the table into 2 categories best describes activities that the Northamptonshire Pension Fund undertake to help prevent fraud and triggers that prompt the Fund to take necessary action via processes in place.
10	Wording on the detection and prevention of fraud activities and triggers has been updated.	Updates have been made to ensure the information in the policy is clear and reflective of current processes.
10	Examples have been provided where deemed appropriate	Examples of fraud have been detailed to support where appropriate to help identify the issue – for example the destruction of evidence.
10	Address tracing for members residing in the UK has been removed	This activity is now instigated for pensioners and any members due to retire that the Fund has lost contact via returned post. This was previously a bulk exercise, but a more targeted approach is desired.

6 Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The Pension Committee and Pension Board are expected to ensure the Fund has an appropriate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy in place for the safeguarding of the Fund's assets through appropriate methods of risk management.

6.3.2 The risks associated with not having appropriate policies in place and acting appropriately have been captured in the Fund's risk register as detailed below.

Risk	Residual risk rating
Risk of fraud and error	Green
Failure to provide relevant information to the Pension Fund Committee/Pension Board to enable informed decision making	Green

The Fund's full risk register can be found on the Fund's website at the following link:

[Key documents - Northamptonshire LGPS](#)

6.4 Relevant Pension Fund Objectives

The following objectives have been considered in this report -

- To have robust governance arrangements in place, to facilitate informed decision making, supported by appropriate advice, policies, and strategies, whilst ensuring compliance with appropriate legislation and statutory guidance.
- To manage the Fund in a fair and equitable manner, having regard to what is in the best interest of the Fund's stakeholders, particularly the scheme members and employers.
- To ensure the relevant stakeholders responsible for managing, governing, and administering the Fund, understand their roles and responsibilities and have the appropriate skills and knowledge to ensure those attributes are maintained in a changing environment.
- To continually monitor and measure clearly articulated objectives through business planning.
- Deliver consistent plain English communications to stakeholders.
- Seek and review regular feedback from all stakeholders and use the feedback appropriately to shape the administration of the Fund.
- Ensure cash flows in to and out of the Fund are timely and of the correct amount.

6.5 Consultation

6.5.1 Not applicable.