

Business Plan 2018/19 to 2020/21 – Q2 Update

Funding and Investments

Key Tasks

Key:

	Complete
	On target or ahead of schedule
	Commenced but behind schedule
	Not commenced
xN	Item added since original business plan
xM	Period moved since original business plan due to change of plan /circumstances
✕	Original item where the period has been moved or task deleted since original business plan

Funding and Investments (including accounting and audit) Tasks

Ref	Key Action –Task	2018/19 Period				Later Years	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019/20	2020/21
F1	Asset Pooling Implementation	x	x	x	x	x	
F3	Interim Funding Review		x	x			
F4	Employer Risk Management Framework		x	x			

Funding and Investments (including accounting and audit) Task Descriptions

F1 –Asset Pooling Implementation

What is it?

To enable the Wales funds to pool assets an operator has been appointed to provide the investment infrastructure and advice for the Wales Pensions Partnership ("WPP"). A plan will be developed in relation to what and when assets will transition. Then we will need to adapt internal processes and methods as assets transition, and ensure reporting received from the Operator and WPP. The timescales shown below are best estimates and subject to change when the WPP business plan and asset transition plan have been developed.

Timescales and Stages

Develop and agree on initial asset transition plan (reserved matter)	2018/19 Q1
Understand and feed into the development of the role, responsibilities and discretions of the Operator	2018/19 Q1/2
Identify impact on and develop internal processes and resources	2018/19 Q1
Approve the WPP's business plan (reserved matter)	2018/19 Q1 (to be confirmed)
Review and feed into suitability of reporting and performance monitoring templates (including meeting the Fund's Responsible Investment Policy and Cost Transparency requirements)	2018/19 Q1/2
Review of how accounts and finances relating to investments - recording, preparation and publishing	2018/19 Q1 - 4, and 2019/20 Q1/2
Understand infrastructure opportunities	2018/19
Develop process to capture WPP cost versus existing costs to identify benefits and savings of asset pooling	2018/19
Develop and agree any supplementary transition plans (reserved matter)	2018/19 (to be confirmed)

Resource and Budget Implications

2018/19 and future budgets will include the cost of the Operator. For 2018/19 a provisional amount of £50k has been included for a proportion of the year. Along with budgeted WPP costs of £24k. The Consultant and Adviser budgets include an additional estimated amount of £192k for expected ongoing advice during the transitional period. The remaining costs will be covered within the internal resource budget.

F3 – Interim Funding Review

What is it?

It is important for the Fund to consider the possible implications that the 2019 valuation will have on employers, especially as employer budgets are often set well in advance of the valuation year. The review will allow for the latest market outlook and investment returns. It will also incorporate:

- Any membership changes / movements for employers including large outsourcings
- the potential impact of any removal of pay restraint for Councils
- appropriate updates to Fund policies
- updated cash flow projections
- outcomes for individual employers (as necessary) to feed into budgets and also the employer risk management framework.

This will enable major employers to plan for any contribution changes and capture any affordability concerns in advance of the 2019 valuation and facilitate further discussions.

Timescales and Stages

Results and discussion with employers

Q2/3 2018/19

Resource and Budget Implications

This exercise will be performed by the Fund Actuary. It is an important exercise for the Fund and will involve input from both the Clwyd Pension Fund Administration and Finance teams. It will also involve discussions with the Fund's employers. The Fund Actuary's costs in relation to this exercise have been included in the budget.

F4 – Employer Risk Management Framework

What is it?

The Fund is subject to funding risks in respect of employers on an ongoing basis and in particular who cease to participate without being able to recover the full exit contributions due under the Regulations. The Fund is in the process of setting up a monitoring framework to capture any employers that pose a significant risk. The framework will categorise employers into different risk profiles based on their covenant and funding positions. This will allow officers to identify any potential risk of unrecoverable debt and affordability restraints on contribution requirements,

The framework will also consider the outcome of the tier 3 review performed by the Scheme Advisory Board which is expected during 2018 (tier 3 employers are those that do not have tax-payer backing; i.e. colleges, universities, housing associations, charities, admission bodies that do not have a guarantee from a Council, etc.). For the Fund, the potential impact is restricted to colleges and universities.

Timescales and Stages

Monitoring will be performed alongside the 2018 interim review

Preliminary Covenant Work

Q1 2018/19

Further development of risk framework

Q2&3 2018/19

Resource and Budget Implications

Managing employer risk will require support from the Fund Actuary. It will involve the officers gathering financial information from all employers regularly to monitor covenant strength and funding positions to inform on which employers pose the greatest risk to the Fund and the remedial actions necessary. The Fund Actuary costs in relation to this exercise have been included in the budget.