



Pension Fund Committee

Date:	6th December 2022
Classification:	General Release
Title:	London Diocesan Board of Schools
Report of:	Sarah Hay, Pensions Officer People Services
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	Service Delivery
Financial Summary:	£ unknown

1. Introduction

1.2 This report provides a brief outline of the request from the London Diocesan Board of Schools (LDBS) to be granted access to the Westminster Pension Fund.

2. London Diocesan Board of Schools

2.1 On the 4th of November 2022, Terri Patterson, Head of People and Culture at the LDBS contacted Hampshire Pension Services asking if they could become an admitted body in the City of Westminster Pension Fund.

2.2 The E-mail was passed to Sarah Hay Strategic Pension Lead and Sarah asked Terri to confirm if the LDBS was a particular type of organisation one that may mean under LGPS regulation schedules access to the fund would be deemed automatic. For example, academies and the proprietors of academies are listed as scheduled bodies and the fund has to allow them access without an admission agreement.

2.3 Terri responded and indicated that LDBS which is a registered charity is not a scheduled body therefore it is entirely up to the fund if we grant access and if we do to set criteria for access to our pension fund.

2.4 Generally I would not suggest to the Pension Committee, we accept a new employer unless one of our existing fund employers is tupe transferring staff to them or they are a scheduled body with entitlements to access the fund. LDBS meets neither requirement but they are working in Westminster and supporting

Westminster schools and so the Committee may want to consider the merits of their application.

- 2.5 The LDBS have a relationship with 26 WCC schools. They work with Church of England Schools and some Roman Catholic Schools, and they appear to be focussed on improving academic standards in the schools they support.
- 2.6 LDBS employ approximately 30 people most of whom are eligible for the Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS). They have not identified to us yet how many roles that they believe would be potentially eligible for the LGPS should we allow access. However, if the majority of staff are in the TPS then I would only expect a few roles to be eligible for the LGPS.
- 2.7 LDBS have advised that they recruit staff from the Local Government Sector and therefore being able to offer the LGPS to non-teaching staff would help them to attract people with the experience they need to deliver their key services.
- 2.8 A credit status report has been requested in relation to the LDBS but is not available at the time of writing this report.
- 2.9 I have not engaged actuarial or legal on any specifics of the request of the LDBS to join the fund as yet as this would generate costs which I would avoid if the Pension Committee were not mindful to accept the application.
- 2.10 The Pension Committee should be aware that there is risk associated with accepting any new employer into the fund. Risk can be mitigated with guarantees and bonds, but you have to check with bonds that they are in date and cover all your potential liability. Reviewing liability on an ongoing basis comes with actuarial costs and although we could ask LDBS to cover the cost of any actuarial fees if we reached a point where they could not pay for this or if they could not renew a bond the fund could be exposed to potential additional liabilities.
- 2.11 LDBS have been asked what guarantees or security they could offer the fund and the answer is pending at the time of writing this report.

3. Summary

- 3.1 I am asking the Pension Committee to give me a steer on the approach they would like me to take with LDBS request to join the City of Westminster Pension Fund.