

## Meeting of the CMBDA Committee 8<sup>th</sup> June

### Item 4 Paper B

## COVID-19 Support to administering authorities

### Summary

The Board secretariat are seeking to support the scheme in the light of:

- LGPS authorities delivering the service under significant constraints
- MHCLG adapting to new priorities
- A range of new guidance being issued by TPR

### Background

LGPS administering authorities are having to operate in different ways, concentrate of priority workloads and deal with unusual circumstances in relation to the management and administration of the scheme under the directions from government regarding home working and social distancing.

Similarly MHCLG are having to prioritise with regard to regulations and guidance at this time given reduced resources and refocused government objectives.

The Board secretariat are currently seeking to assist and support authorities in the ways set out in this paper.

### Actions taken and underway

1. A statement on the 2019 LGPS valuation in the light of the current situation was issued on 16<sup>th</sup> March
2. A letter was sent from the Chair to authorities on 19<sup>h</sup> March asking that abatement arrangements be suspended for staff returning to frontline work
3. A further letter was sent to authorities on 24<sup>th</sup> March with regard to scheme priorities
4. The Board website now contains a COVID-19 News and updates page which includes information on matters of interest as well as links to documents and guidance from relevant regulatory bodies such as TPR.
5. The website includes a link to an administrators FAQ page dealing with a wide variety of questions raised by authorities.

# Scheme Advisory Board

6. A COVID-19 Practitioner Group (PRG) has been set up chaired by the Board's practitioner representative to consider
7. Where questions cannot be dealt with immediately they are being escalated to PRG, MHCLG, HMT or TPR as appropriate to seek examples of good practice and/or clarification of policy
8. Surveys have been completed to determine the impact on authorities' resilience, cash flow and governance with a further survey on asset management and excess deaths planned over the next couple of months. So far the responses have been both excellent in number and overwhelmingly positive however given that the situation may change if not be resolved in the near future the surveys may be repeated during July. Results of the surveys can be found on the [COVID-19 page](#).
9. A weekly video call now takes place with MHCLG, The Scottish Public Pensions Agency and the Dept for Communities in Northern Ireland to co-ordinate the response across the UK.
10. Employer webinars have taken place for UK schemes and an [employer FAQ](#) is now available.

**Recommendation – that the Committee notes this report**