

Cllr. M Kemp-Gee
Chair of ACCESS Joint Committee

By email only

14th February 2022

Dear Cllr. Kemp-Gee

**Member representation in ACCESS
View of the East Sussex Pension Fund's Local Pension Board**

I am writing further to the ongoing discussion regarding the incorporation of member representation in the governance of the ACCESS investment pool. At our Local Pension Board meeting of 10 February 2022, we discussed the approach being considered by the Joint Committee regarding improving member representation and input into the governance of the pool following the comments made by the Scheme Advisory Board. It was agreed that I would write to you with our thoughts on the matter.

We understand the proposal as it currently stands is for Pension Board members of the 11 Local Government Pension Funds participating in ACCESS to be allowed to be present at Joint Committee meetings in rotation, with the various Pension Boards being placed into groups. Effectively a single Pension Board member from each group will attend Joint Committee approximately once per year. Whilst we consider the current proposal as a positive starting point, we believe an alternative approach would allow for stronger governance going forward.

Our proposal would be for three or four representatives of the various Pension Boards to be elected from amongst their number for either a three or four year term and sit on the Joint Committee with observer status. The elected representatives could be drawn from either employer or member representatives or independent Pension Board members. This would allow the people involved a greater opportunity to undertake the necessary training to give them sufficient knowledge to help drive up governance standards and provide effective member representation. The three elected representatives would have the responsibility to feedback to the various boards on the activities of the Joint Committee on an annual basis.

We do not believe that working on a rotational basis will allow for individual Board members to gain sufficient understanding of ACCESS matters and be able to pick up from meeting to meeting on the agenda. As a result, this will mean the governance standards of the ACCESS Pool will not improve as they should.

The East Sussex Pension Board thank you for taking the time to consider its view on the matter and looks forward to hearing the outcome of the further discussions of the Joint Committee on the topic.

Yours sincerely



Ray Martin
Chair, East Sussex Pension Board