

Shadow Advisory Board

Item 7 - Paper 7a - Proposal for Shadow Scheme Advisory Board event on collaboration

1) Background

Following the agreement at the Shadow Scheme Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting of 15th September 2014 that a free event on collaborations would be positive for the LGPS, the Value for Money & Collaboration sub-committee continued its discussions in respect of the event at its meeting of 11th December 2014.

This paper is now submitted to Board members to:

- Consider the proposal outlined in the paper, in particular with respect of the hosting of the event [section 3], and
- Provide comments back to the Secretariat in order that an agreed approach may be adopted.

Upon an agreed approach being reached in respect of the items covered in the paper, it is proposed that the Secretariat working with the sub-committee take this forward to:

- Find and agree a suitable location and date for the event based on the agreed approach,
- Contact and agree the speakers for each session, and
- Commence the advertising and publicising of the event.

2) Additional points for note

Following discussions at the sub-committee, the following points have been agreed in respect of the event:

- To encourage attendance and ensure usefulness, the event should have a strong practical orientation with speakers being sought who have a detailed practical understanding of collaborations in the LGPS.
- As there are a large and growing number of events in the LGPS calendar, efforts should be made to give the event a new or fresh angle to collaborations to encourage attendance. Part of this could be, for instance, inviting speakers not normally on the conference circuit who could offer practical insight into their experience of collaborations.
- That sponsorship should be sought in order that the financial costs of organising the event are limited. The Chair of the sub-committee has already had discussions with two possible sponsors - an active manager and a passive manager.

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3) Draft programme

The Board are asked to consider:

- a) if all of these topics should be included in the event programme and if there are other topics which should be covered,
- b) if the proposed workshop set-up for the shared services, common investment vehicles and procurement frameworks sessions should be adopted, and
- c) the speaker background and experience which should be sought for each session.

No.	Title	Rough idea of content	Possible speakers// background
1	An overview to the Shadow Scheme Advisory Board and to collaborations in the LGPS	a) The SSAB - work undertaken since establishment b) The SSAB - plans for the future c) A background to collaboration in the LGPS	Member of SSAB (eg. Joanne Segars, Cllr Phillips or other SSAB member)
2	Value for money in collaborations	a) What is value for money? b) How you can assess value for money	Strong experience with collaboration projects in the LGPS // From a fund who participates in an established collaboration
3a	Shared services [workshop]	a) Key considerations in choosing to enter in to a shared service arrangement. b) How to set one up	From a pension fund with strong experience of shared services (eg. LGSS, tri-boroughs)
3b	An introduction to common investment vehicles [workshop]	a) An introduction b) Types - pros and cons c) Examples	An LGPS perspective of CIVs (eg. London CIV) // Private sector experience of CIVs (eg. NAPF)
3c	Procurement frameworks [workshop]	a) Available opportunities b) Key considerations c) What further opportunities are ahead?	From an LGPS frameworks perspective (eg. National Frameworks, South West Frameworks)
4	When things don't go as planned	a) Problems that can arise b) What to do when things do go wrong c) Planning to prevent problems arising	Strong experience with collaboration projects in the LGPS // From a fund who has negative experiences of

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			collaboration (if available)
5	The future for collaborations in the LGPS	a) Government consultation and investment reforms b) Opportunities for further collaboration c) The role of the Scheme Advisory Board in collaboration	Leadership role with respect of collaborations, (eg, National Frameworks) // National LGPS figure (eg. SSAB member)

Proposal - subject to any changes recommended to the above, the Secretariat and sub-committee proceed to arrange the event on the basis of the above programme and seek speakers on this basis.

3) Location and timescales

The Board are asked to consider, in light of the restricted funding currently available to the SSAB:

- The preferred option for hosting the event (options A and B as per the below proposal), and
- If option B is preferred, whether a host venue should be sought in London or Manchester/ Birmingham in the first instance.

Location

Previous discussions have highlighted that the event presents an opportunity to the SSAB to engage with the LGPS community and develop its public facing profile. In view of this, it has been suggested that the event could be hosted outside of London in order to encourage attendance from other regions of the UK and to demonstrate the SSAB's keenness to engage with the LGPS across England & Wales. In discussions, the sub-committee agreed that if an event is staged outside London, that Manchester or Birmingham are the most accessible alternative locations.

Timescales

Both the sub-committee and the SSAB have previously expressed a desire that the event be scheduled sooner rather than later. To allow for planning and sufficient notice to be given to attendees, the earliest an event could be staged would be mid- to late- April 2015. Arranging the event for after this would however have the advantage of meaning that the SSAB would have access to statutory funding and so a more flexible approach to organising the event, in terms of location and venue, could be adopted.

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Venue

If sponsorship is sought and received there may be a need to allow for space for sponsors' stands to be made available. A workshop format would also mean that consideration would need to be given as to whether there is available space within the venue for breakout sessions to be arranged. Consideration needs to be given of venue size and likely attendees to ensure that attendance is maximised given the preference that this be a free event.

Proposal - In considering the possible options in respect of location, timescale and venue given limits to funding, the Secretariat believe there are two broad options for hosting the event:

Option A - The event is hosted by the Board secretariat at Local Government House. This would not have a direct cost and so would mean that the event could be hosted prior to the statutory Scheme Advisory Board receiving its statutory funding [probably from Summer 2015]. However, it would lose the opportunity for the SSAB to be seen to be getting out of London and would limit attendance to a maximum of 140. In the event that sponsorship was received, space for sponsors' stalls would be significantly limited.

Option B - The event is held when the statutory Board has access to funding and a central location in London, Birmingham or Manchester is found for the event to be hosted. This would allow for greater flexibility in setting up the event, establishing a workshop style programme and arranging a suitable sized venue, but would have a cost which would need to be met from the statutory Scheme Advisory Board's funding (supplemented by sponsorship).

The Board are asked to consider whether we should proceed to organise the event on the basis of option A or option B. If option B is preferred, the Board are also asked for views as to whether a location in London or in Manchester/ Birmingham is sought in the first instance.

2 February 2015