

Compliance and Reporting Committee (CRC)

HYBRID MEETING – 23 June 2025

ITEM 7 PAPER D

Workplan update

Current position

1. This paper summarises the meetings and work undertaken by each of the CRC's workstreams since the last CRC meeting in February 2025. All of the working group meetings were held shortly before the June 2025 CRC meeting to allow the Government's response to the Fit for the Future consultation to be the main focus of discussion.

Audit

Meeting Chair	Nemashe Sivayogan (Merton LB)
Supported by	Melanie Stokes (Staffordshire); Sara Maxey (Essex); Nick Harvey (CIPFA); Melissa Kelly (Cornwall); Peter Worth (TAS Accounting); Joana Marfoh (Islington); Bola Tobun (Southwark); Jack Bower (The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)); Ben Lavelle (MHCLG) and Jelena Peet (Wiltshire)
Start date	August 2022
Target completion date	April 2026 (will be reviewed once more information on decoupling timetable and outputs is confirmed)
Meetings since February 2025:	10 June 2026

Current position

In April 2025, the government response to the consultation for the published '[Strategy for Overhauling the Local Audit System](#)' committed the government to the decoupling of pension fund accounts from administering authority main accounts.

Both before and since this announcement the audit working group have been invited by MHCLG to share their views on the proposals, the timetable and process for implementation. A working group meeting was held on the 10 June and MHCLG gave a presentation on the policy proposals. Although the majority of the time in the working group was spent discussing the Local Audit proposals, the recent announcement on the [Virgin Media case](#) was discussed with the view that more information is needed to understand how this would impact the LGPS. At a future meeting, proposals in Fit for the Future specifically affecting audit and accounting issues would be discussed.

The main aim of this working group is to feed into the policy work for the proposed changes to the decoupling of pension fund accounts. The group

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also agreed it would also be beneficial for the Secretariat to organise an meeting of the next Audit Roundtable group, possibly for September 2025.

Knowledge and Skills

Meeting Chair	John Jones (Local Pension Board Chair at Dyfed Pension Fund and Tower Hamlets Pension Fund)
Supported by	Karen Gibson (Dorset); Nick Harvey (CIPFA); Heidi Catherall (Cheshire); Justin Bridges (Shropshire); Amanda Crawford (Essex); Will King (MHCLG); Ian Colvin (Hymans), Catherine Pearce (AON) and Alison Murray (Barnett Waddington)
Start Date	December 2022
Target Completion Date	Ongoing
Meetings since February 2025	9 June 2025

Current position

The group met on 9 June 2025 to discuss the Government response to the Fit for the Future consultation. A presentation was provided by MHCLG and views sought from the group on the priority and content for guidance. More information can be found in Item 5, Paper B.

Good Governance

Meeting Chair	Jeff Dong (Swansea)
Supported by	Kevin Gerard (Carmarthenshire); Nick Harvey (CIPFA); Will King (MHCLG); Nemashe Sivayogan (Merton LB); Jo Quarterman (Norfolk); Matt Mott (West Yorkshire) and Amanda Crawford (Essex)
Start Date	November 2022
Target completion date	Ongoing
Meetings since February 2025:	10 June 2025

Current position

The group met on 9 June 2025 to discuss the Government response to the Fit for the Future consultation. A presentation was provided by MHCLG and views sought from the group on the priority and content for guidance. More information can be found in Item 5, Paper B.

Peer support

Meeting Chair	Becky Clough (currently)
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Supported by

Vicky Jenks, Peter Chadderton (Shropshire), Yvonne Thompson (Houslow), Miriam Adams (Hackney), Sarah Hargraves (Lambeth), Karen Williams (Clwyd), Nick Gannon (The Pensions Regulator), Glen Cossey, Jo Quarterman (Norfolk), Alistair Wickens (Warwickshire), Vickie Hampshire (West Sussex), Mukhtar Master, Anna Lloyd (Oxfordshire), Martin Griffiths (Berkshire), Gillian Taberner (South Yorkshire Pension Authority), Lisa Garton (East Riding), Gemma Farley, Andrew Boutflower (Hampshire), Yunus Gajra (West Yorkshire), Jayne Brown, Junaid Laly (Lancashire), Mala Visram (London Pension Fund Authority) and Nick Orton (Tyne and Wear Pension Fund).

Start Date November 2024

Target completion date December 2025 (initially)

Current position

Update provided at item 6

Recommendation

For the Committee to accept the actions as set out in this report and at annex A.

Annex A - The below workplan outlines the work for each live (and proposed) working group for 2025/26.

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Workstream	Details	Timescales
Audit issues	<p>To share views of administering authorities and scheme employers and input expertise to government to assist in shaping the proposal and implementation for decoupling the pension fund accounts from the main administering authority accounts</p> <p>To recommend agenda items for the Audit Roundtable meetings.</p>	Target completion date is March 2026 - to be reviewed once timetable confirmed with MHCLG
Knowledge and skills	To feed views and expertise into updated knowledge and skills statutory guidance and assist the Board when developing guidance for creating a Training Strategy	Implementation date for new guidance March 2026
Good Governance	To input into the updates required to governance statutory guidance	Implementation date for new guidance March 2026
Peer Support	To scope out the feasibility of creating a LGPS peer support offer	November 2025 for a proposal to be delivered to the Board which has been approved by the CRC and discussed by the working group
Administration Strategy Guidance	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Annual Report guidance	To consider any changes needed to the guidance, considering the outcome of the Fit for the Future consultation and feedback from funds	To be confirmed

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