

Compliance and Reporting Committee

(CRC) Meeting

2 March 2026, 11.00am to 1.00pm

Room 6.5, 18 Smith Square, London and

Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

Item		Paper	Timings
1	Welcome, apologies, introductions and declarations of interest	Verbal	11.00
2	Actions and agreements from meeting of 20 October 2025	Paper A	11.05
3	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Update	Verbal	11.10
4	Fit for the Future - next steps	Paper B	11.25
5	Peer support project	Paper C	11.45
6	Annual report guidance	Verbal	12.00
7	Workplan update	Paper D	12.10
8	Scheme annual report	Verbal	12.20
9	Local pension board support and guidance	Paper E	12.30
10	AOB	Verbal	12.45
11	Date of next meeting	Verbal	12.55

Compliance and Reporting Committee (CRC)

Meeting

2 March 2026, 11.00am - 1.00pm

Room 6.5, 18 Smith Square, London and

Microsoft Teams



Paper A: Actions and Agreements of meeting held on 20 October 2025

Present

Jeffrey Dong	Chair
Gillian Taberner	Practitioner – South Yorkshire Pensions Authority
Karen Gibson	Practitioner – Dorset Pension Fund (gave apologies from item 8 onwards)
Nemashe Sivayogan	Practitioner – Merton Pension Fund (gave apologies from Item 10 onwards)
Christina Thompson	Practitioner – London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA)
Kev Gerard	Practitioner – Dyfed Pension Fund
Richard McIndoe	Practitioner – Strathclyde Pension Fund
Fiona Miller	Asset Pool – Border to Coast
Jack Bower	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
Peter Worth	Advisor – Worth TAS Accounting
Catherine Pearce	Governance Consultant (Aon)
Ian Colvin	Governance Consultant (Hymans Robertson)
John Neal	UNITE
John Boyd	Audit Scotland
Nicholas Harvey	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
Will King	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
Bramman Rajkumar	MHCLG

Secretariat

Clair Alcock	Local Government Association (LGA) – Head of Pensions and Board Secretary
Jeremy Hughes	LGA – Deputy Board Secretary

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Becky Clough
Sophia Chivandire
Ona Ehimuan
Sarah Tingey

LGA – Board Support and Policy Officer
LGA – Pensions Support and Policy Officer
LGA – Pensions Secretary
LGA – Research and Data Analyst

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Jeffrey Dong welcomed attendees to the meeting and advised them of the meeting protocol. Gillian Taberner, Director at South Yorkshire Pension Authority was welcomed to her first meeting as a practitioner representative.

Apologies had been received from Peter Turner (London Borough of Bromley) and John Jones (Local Pension Boards representative). Paul Mayers (National Audit Office), Nicola Todd (Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC)) and George Georgiou (GMB) were absent without apology.

Karen Gibson (Dorset Pension Fund) gave apologies for the latter part of the meeting to attend another meeting at 12.30pm. Nemashe Sivayogan (Merton Pension Fund) gave apologies to attend another meeting at 12.45pm.

There were no declarations of interest raised.

2. ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 23 June 2025 were agreed as a fair and true record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. MHCLG UPDATE

Will King (WK) gave a presentation with an update on key MHCLG workstreams related to the committee's work. This included the Access and Protections consultation which was launched on 13 October 2025 and would be closing on 22 December 2025.

On the decoupling of pension fund accounts from those of the host authority for councils in England, it was still hoped that the English Devolution Bill will be used as the legislative vehicle for this. It was hoped to implement this in time for the

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change to apply from the 2026/27 accounting year.

The Government's response to the Fit for the Future consultation was published on 29 May 2025. WK confirmed that the majority of the Government's proposals on governance would be going ahead. The workplan for the production of accompanying guidance to support the changes was being worked on by MHCLG.

The committee stage for the Pensions Schemes Bill had concluded with some amendments made. It was expected that the report stage for the Bill would commence in the coming weeks. WK and Bramman Rajkumar (BR) gave a presentation to the committee on the incoming governance proposals which covered proposed arrangements for the independent governance review (IGR), the requirement for an independent person to sit on the pension committee and the senior LGPS officer. The committee asked WK and BR questions for clarification and gave them feedback on the proposals made. A summary of the main points raised is below.

Independent governance review (IGR):

- Clarification was requested on who will conduct the review given the limited pool of suitable candidates, especially if many potential suppliers were excluded due to independence criterion
- It was noted that lot 3 of the suggested national procurement framework only includes five organisations
- WK said that draft guidance will be circulated to the working group for comments before final decisions are made
- The committee considered whether this was a service that external auditors could provide
- WK said that the Ministry would not be setting any expectation of costs

Independent person:

- It was felt that more clarification was needed on the role and how it will work in practice
- It was queried whether the independent person has to be an individual appointment or whether a firm could be appointed who would then nominate the independent person from amongst their staff
- The committee considered how this role fitted with the proposal that an administering authority (AA) must take their principal investment advice from the pool, and whether the role of the independent person would be to provide

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assurance to the AA on that advice

Senior LGPS officer:

- More clarity was requested on the reporting lines and respective accountabilities between this role and the Section 151 officer. It was noted that under CIPFA guidance the s151 officer would retain overall responsibility for financial matters
- Concern was expressed that the role could disrupt current senior management structures at some funds and add significant extra cost, especially for smaller funds
- Given these challenges the committee suggested that- the guidance should provide some flexibility to apply varying models and build in sufficient delegation to officers

5. WORKPLAN UPDATE

Becky Clough (BC) introduced paper B to the committee. The Audit Working Group met on 22 September 2025 and received a presentation from MHCLG officials on the process and current policy position of the proposal to decouple the pension fund accounts from the local authority accounts. The working group provided them feedback on potential changes to timing and publication of audited accounts and the feasibility of the current timetable to implement change.

The committee reflected on the appropriate regime for the inspection of pension fund accounts in the context of the rights under the Freedom of Information Act and the current regulatory requirements on the publication and inspection of accounts. There were also comments about how the value for money assessment would work post decoupling. The committee felt that in this context the provision of a good quality service to members was paramount and it wasn't just about minimising costs. The committee also discussed who would be the appropriate person to sign off the pension fund accounts; should it be the senior LGPS officer, the s151 officer or both?

The Knowledge and Skills Working Group met last on the 6 October 2025 and received an update from MHCLG on their proposals and work done by the secretariat to pull together the existing separate guidance documents for pension boards and pension committees. It was agreed that there needs to be a degree of prescription in the guidance but that some flexibility for locally adopted approaches should be kept. There was more work to be done to consider the best way to

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deliver training and to identify areas not yet covered by current guidance documents.

The group also discussed what knowledge and skills the senior LGPS officer would need and how they could be made accountable for the training outcomes for the local pension committee and board members.

BC noted that a change in the working group's name to Knowledge and Understanding may be useful to align with government's terminology.

The Good Governance Working Group last met on 3 October 2025 and received a presentation from MHCLG seeking views from the group on priority areas. A key item discussed was the new Peer Support Offer being developed by the Board (discussed in detail under item 6) and the new Administration Strategy Guidance Working Group which is now to be led by the LGPS technical team at the LGA with input from the committee. Ian Colvin (IC) pointed out that there may be information from the previous administration working group that would be useful for this group.

The Annual Report Guidance Working Group is not expected to be revived; however, the secretariat will consider whether any changes needed post Fit for the Future and would be covering this in item 7.

ACTION: that the secretariat adds an agenda item on the priority next steps for the committee working groups post Fit for the Future for the next meeting

ACTION: that the committee workplan for 2026 is submitted to the Board for approval

6. PEER SUPPORT OFFER

BC introduced paper C to the committee which laid the progress made on the peer support offer. The working group had met twice since the last meeting and attached at annex A was the pilot programme proposal for the committee to review and pass on to the Board. The pilot programme would make use of the infrastructure and expertise available at the LGA. Further thinking will be needed to determine the messaging and communications associated with this project and how it will work together with the government's IGR. The Board's inaugural Annual Assembly on 22 October 2025 also included a session on Peer Support.

The committee agreed that it was important to involve local pension boards in this process. The secretariat agreed and confirmed that it had already committed to

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establishing support mechanisms for local pension board chairs in 2026.

It also agreed that a visual aid to understanding the governance arrangements in the LGPS post Fit for The Future would be useful. Fiona Miller (FM) added that she would be willing to help with communication of this project in her capacity as the Chair of Lancashire Pension Board.

ACTION: that the secretariat create a visual aid of governance arrangements post Fit for The Future implementation

ACTION: that the secretariat engages with FM as the Chair of Lancashire Pension Board to identify any areas where the group could feed into the Peer Support pilot programme

7. ANNUAL REPORT GUIDANCE

The committee received Paper D which gave a background to the annual report guidance that was produced by the Board in conjunction with MHCLG and CIPFA in March 2024. Specifically, whether any changes were needed in light of the incoming Fit for the Future arrangements.

It was not considered necessary to reconvene the original working group but there was still uncertainty about how local investment would be reported and further information was needed from MHCLG on that. There is also still an open question about how equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) could be reflected in fund annual reports, considering the emphasis on this in guidance produced by The Pensions Regulator.

ACTION: that the secretariat reviews the annual report guidance to identify any changes needed

8. 2025 SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT

Sarah Tingey (ST) gave an update on plans for the 2025 scheme annual report. Full compliance with the guidance is mandatory from this year, while 'best endeavours' only were needed in the first year after publication of the guidance.

Because of this, the scheme annual report would for the first time collate all key performance indicators (KPIs) from fund annual reports. A new tool to allow comparison of KPI data between funds would be published as a Power BI dashboard on the Board website and this is currently being tested. The chair commended ST for

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her work on this dashboard. ST also said she was considering what other data on governance from fund annual reports would be most appropriate to report on.

9. CIPFA CODE OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORTING IN THE UK CONSULTATION

The committee noted CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Financial Reporting consultation, which the Board had responded to. Jeremy Hughes (JH) thanked Jack Bower (JB) and Bevis Ingram (BI) for their input into the response. The committee discussed the need to align any changes to the CIPFA's Code of Practice with the National Audit Office's (NAO) Code of Audit Practice, which was next due to be reviewed in 2029.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

There was one item of other business. JH drew the committee's attention to TPR's consultation on updates to its Enforcement Strategy, which the Board plans to respond to. The scheme is regarded as a well administered scheme by TPR but the incoming IGR process may result in funds flagged with an amber or red status in these reviews being referred to TPR. JH noted that it wasn't clear what approach TPR would take in response to this and whether it was line with MHCLG's own approach. The consultation would be closing on 11 November 2025 and committee members were asked to send any comments to the secretariat in good time for inclusion in that.

The chair thanked all members of the secretariat for the work being done to facilitate the various changes and thanked the committee and working groups for their input to the work of the Board.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 2 March 2026 at 11am.

Paper B: Fit for the Future next steps

Key points to note

The secretariat has been considering the immediate focus of work following the introduction of the relevant legislation bringing in the government's Fit for the Future proposals. Whilst implementation remains targeted for 1 April 2026, although there is still no firm date on Royal Assent for the Pensions Bill, this could mean a delay in secondary legislation and relevant guidance being available for administering authorities. We have been working closely with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) officials to understand priorities and some of the contingencies around the passage of the Bill and drafting of the necessary regulatory amendments. The secretariat intends that the working groups in this committee will continue as currently set-up to help support a smooth implementation of Fit for the Future proposals, monitor new arrangements and produce additional guidance, as required.

Recommendation

That the committee notes this update and discusses the further support that AAs might need following the implementation of Fit for the Future and for the committee to recommend to the Board for the 2026 CRC workplan.

Background

On 23 December 2025, [the Board issued its response](#) on the draft regulations entitled [the 'Local Government Pension Scheme \(Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds\) Regulations 2026](#) and [the Local Government Pension Scheme \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#).

Then on the 9 January 2026, [the Board issued its response](#) to the draft guidance consultation covering the Investment Strategy Statement, pooling and governance documents. Although a closed consultation, the Board's response was shared publicly for transparency with LGPS stakeholders.

In its response the Board recognised the government's desire to make progress swiftly after several years of limited policy movement in the scheme.

However, risks were identified that the changes are being introduced simultaneously across almost every aspect of the scheme—including member benefits, fund governance and pooling arrangements.

These factors create risks both for MHCLG—in terms of policy being implemented hastily, inconsistently or in ways that diverge from its underlying intent and for AAs, which may face sub-optimal implementation outcomes or even potential enforcement action by TPR or MHCLG if requirements are misunderstood.

During recent working group meetings, members have provided invaluable contributions in identifying key issues and clarifying the important questions that need to be addressed in the final guidance documents. This collective input has played an essential role in shaping the Board's understanding of the key themes arising from the consultations.

Considerations

Following publication of the draft guidance, the Board has continued to engage with administering authorities (AAs), pools, and MHCLG officials. This has included reviewing consultation responses, identifying areas requiring clarification, and considering the practical implications for funds. What is clear that any amendments, following the consultation, need to be shared with AAs as soon as possible.

Once final guidance is issued, the Board will continue to work collaboratively with AAs, pools and MHCLG to support a smooth implementation period and to monitor the new arrangements, allowing for further refinement where necessary.

Looking ahead, the Board intends to work with MHCLG to develop a detailed and deliverable LGPS roadmap, including drafting supplementary guidance for areas either not covered in the final publications or areas which AAs require more detail.

The secretariat has identified several areas within the governance guidance where further work from the Board may be required. The Board will also need to monitor the implementation of the new arrangements and determine whether administering authorities require additional support. The secretariat believes the following areas may need further support for AAs particularly in relation to:

- Guidance on creating the Governance Strategy, Training Strategy and

Conflicts of Interest policy (similar to the Board's previously issued Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) guidance)

- Knowledge and understanding supplementary guidance on key areas of knowledge
- How funds deal with reporting of breaches specific to the scheme to the Pensions Regulator (TPR), including specifically breach recording, materiality assessing and reporting
- Guidance for Local Pension Boards (cover in item 9, paper F)
- How the Independent Governance Review fits with the Board's peer support offer
- Monitor the implementation of the independent person role, including understanding challenges and best practice examples of introducing this role to be shared across LGPS.
- Monitor the implementation of Senior LGPS officer role and the changing role of the pools, including understanding challenges and best practice. And whether existing communication channels support communication between the board, Senior LGPS Officer and the pools (including the Board's new pooling steering group) or whether any new communication channels are needed.

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Paper C: Peer support project

Key points to note

The Peer Support pilot, approved in November 2025 with levy funding for 2026/27 and 2027/28, has moved into the development and engagement phase. The secretariat has refined the framework and prepared draft guidance for both peer teams and participating funds.

Camden Pension Fund have expressed interest in the pilot and input from the Local Government Association (LGA) team has supported further refinement of the framework, particularly around training and facilitation. The January 2026 Working Group endorsed progress, recommended improved navigation within the framework, and agreed that finalisation should align with forthcoming new regulations.

Communications activity remains strong, including a dedicated website page, a presentation at the LGPS Governance Conference, and growing interest from individual funds. An updated project milestone plan is provided at Annex B.

Background

The proposal for a LGPS specific peer support offer – derived from the proposals in [SAB's original Good Governance Report](#) - was agreed at the [24 June 2024](#) CRC meeting. Initial objectives were also agreed, which were:

- To allow LGPS administering authorities (AA's) to gain external assurance support for its governance activities
- To share, promote and increase good governance practices
- To facilitate access to an expert network of LGPS peer members

Recommendation

That the committee notes the progress of this workstream, notes the timeline of actions as set out above and provides comments on initial findings in the annexes. The secretariat would welcome feedback from the committee on the project and

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specifically the draft framework at Annex A and the planned inclusion of governance proposals in the next Board paper.

Project summary

Pilot planning

Following approval at the November 2025 Board meeting, the secretariat progressed with significant work underway to create the pilot guidance for both peers and the host fund. The Board approved the pilot phase, including budget provision within the levy to support activity in 2026/27 and 2027/28. The approved plan for the pilot is in the November board paper: [Peer Support Project Update](#).

To undertake the pilot the secretariat is creating key documents to support both the pilot fund and participating peers. Work has been undertaken on refining the framework which the event based upon to reflect the 'core themes' but will need to continue on the framework to ensure it reflects the final wording within the regulations and guidance in place following the government's implementation of Fit for the Future.

The draft framework can be found in **Annex A**. It is important to point out that the framework sets out the general themes for a peer support event and aims to provide a consistent structure to use as a foundation to build a peer support around. However, the questions are intentionally broad in scope and there to help peers prompt and structure conversations and offer standard ways of facilitating discussions during a peer support event, but they are illustrative and not a checklist.

A peer team guidance note and fund guidance pack are also being prepared which will be issued to peers and fund during delivery of the pilot and a similar document will be issued to the pilot fund. The fund guidance note will cover how the process, focus and arrangements of the pilot and include typical information requested in preparation for a peer support event.

Although the pilot will run consistent with the framework and the 'core themes', funds will be asked to supply certain documents and a position statement. Most documents should already exist within the fund's governance and reporting framework, and links to public webpages may be provided where appropriate. The only item that generally requires bespoke input is a short position statement from the fund. The secretariat is taking learning from both LGA colleagues in their experience of running Corporate Peer Challenges (CPC) for councils and from the pilot fund to shape the approach.

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Camden Pension Fund have expressed interest in taking part in the pilot, likely in Summer 2026 and a date is currently being finalised. Camden have been provided with the proposed framework, draft timetable and draft peer team guidance note as part of as part of ongoing engagement and preparation for the pilot.

Pilot delivery

The secretariat met with the LGA CPC colleagues in February 2025 to determine what support can be provided to the pilot such as training for the peers and allocating a peer manager for the event.

Various alternative delivery models are being considered by the secretariat for facilitating the peer support pilots. The original plan was to deliver the pilots using CPC's experienced regional advisers; however, the internal team responsible for coordinating this work cannot confirm their availability due to the ongoing LGA restructure consultation, which is expected to run until 19 March 2026. As a result, alternative delivery options such as appointing an external associate to support facilitation are being explored. While this is likely to increase costs, it is considered necessary to maintain momentum and provide certainty for the pilot timetable.

LGA colleagues have inputted into the framework and peer team guidance note to help inform further refinement and ensure it reflects operational experience and practical delivery.

Working group update

At the January 2026 working group meeting, the group discussed the proposed framework and provided some suggestions to improve signposting of key sections and support easier navigation. Support was also given to ensure the framework covers the different working models across the schemes. The secretariat has used this as part of the scoping work from the LGPS peers and pilot event.

The working group agreed that the framework should be aligned to the final publication of regulations and guidance following Fit for the Future, to ensure full alignment with the new pooling and governance requirements.

The relationship between peer support and the Independent Governance Review (IGR) was discussed. The IGR outcome may include referral to a peer support review but it was noted that the IGR is intended to operate similar to a compliance check, with MHCLG developing a results approach, which is a fundamentally different model to peer support.

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Communications

The Board's new website is now live and there is now a [page dedicated to the project](#). The secretariat is considering adding frequently asked questions to the page from some of the most asked questions we have received since scoping work began.

In January 2026, at the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Governance Conference – an event aimed at elected members and others who attend pension committees and local pension boards; the secretariat presented on LGPS peer support. This presentation included an update on project objectives, the benefit of peer support, how it could be delivered across the LGPS and an invitation to become a peer. We also asked some polling questions to understand the wider sector's knowledge of peer support and if they would be interested in becoming a peer. Results from the poll are shown in **Annex B** and they show overall positive support and interest in LGPS peer support.

Individual engagement with funds on the project is increasing, with invitations received to present on peer support the Secretariat continuing to highlight peer support at various events where we provide Board updates.

Pilot project update

The overall project milestones were agreed in February 2025 and have evolved as the pilot deliverables have been identified. See **Annex C** for an updated plan of the key milestones within delivery of pilot 1. These are based on our understanding of the project and learning from LGA colleagues on similar projects.

Project governance

As the secretariat continues to develop the proposed approach for delivering the peer support pilots and the intention is to provide the committee with a progress update rather than seeking formal clearance at each stage. As part of this work, the secretariat is considering options for project governance during the pilot phase with a project governance plan to be taken to the Board in March 2026. This reflects the need for a more flexible decision-making process that is not dependent on the full CRC and Board meeting timetable. The aim is to ensure the pilots can progress at pace, with appropriate oversight and clear escalation routes.

Initial proposals for this streamlined governance structure will be set out in the forthcoming Board paper and outline how decisions will be managed during the pilot, the role of the secretariat, Board chair, and the reporting arrangements back to CRC

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and the Board. The committee is asked to note this update and the planned inclusion of governance proposals in the next Board paper.

Annex A: Draft peer support framework (see separate document)

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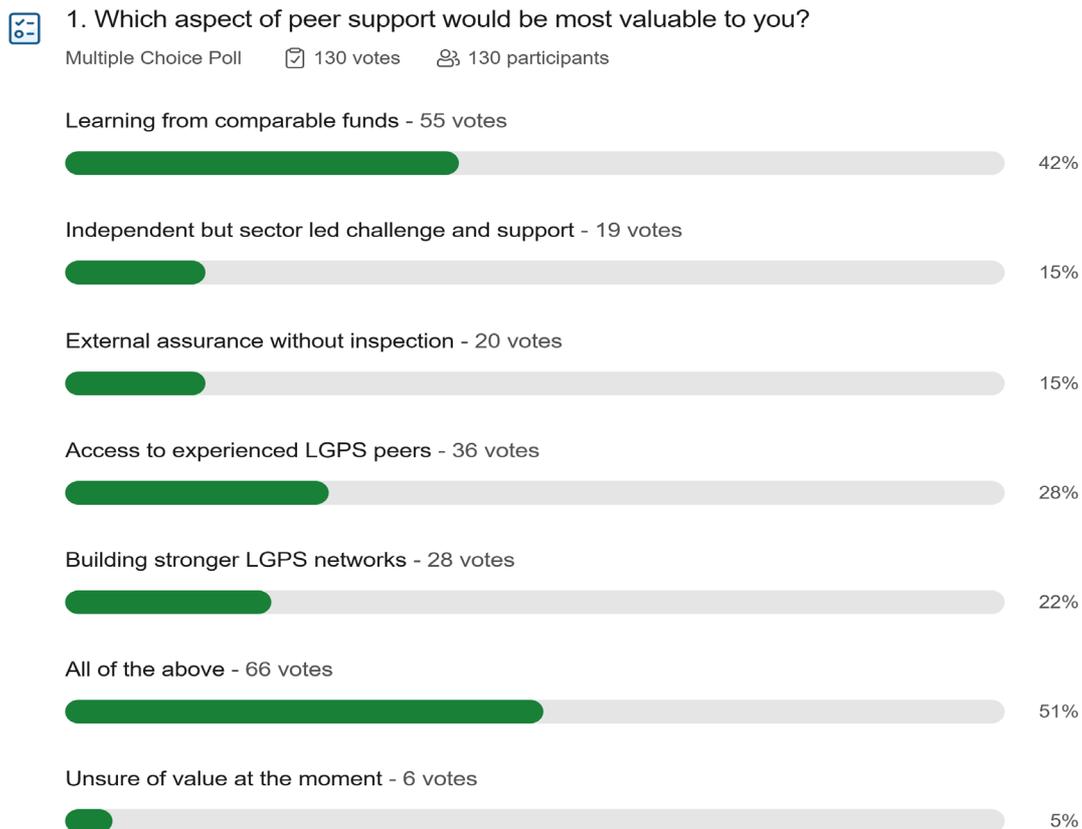
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Annex B: LGPS Governance Conference Poll Results:

Recent from the LGPS governance conference indicates a strong interest in a sector-led peer support offer. Respondents identified learning from comparable funds, access to experienced LGPS peers and strengthening networks as key areas of value, with a majority indicating that a combination of these elements would be most beneficial.

Feedback also suggests that funds are most likely to seek peer support when preparing for an IGR, following governance changes, or where there is a desire for external assurance. While some respondents confirmed immediate interest in becoming peers, others indicated this would depend on time commitment or the availability of further information, highlighting the importance of clarity around expectations and support. This is something the secretariat will consider. These findings demonstrate a clear appetite for a supportive, proportionate peer model focused on improvement, knowledge sharing and collaboration across the LGPS.

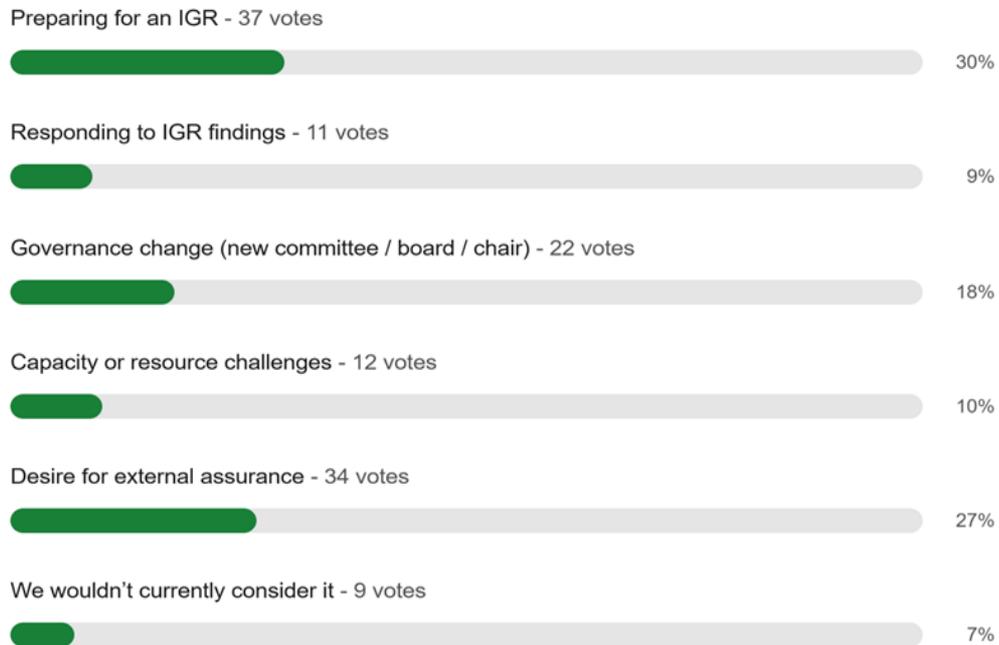


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2. What would most likely prompt your fund to seek peer support?

Multiple Choice Poll 125 votes 125 participants

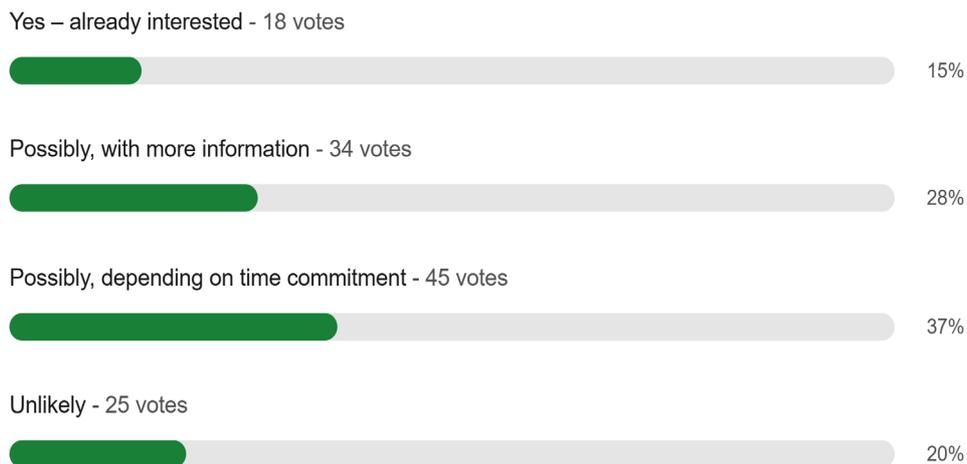


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3. Would you consider becoming a peer?

Multiple Choice Poll 122 votes 122 participants

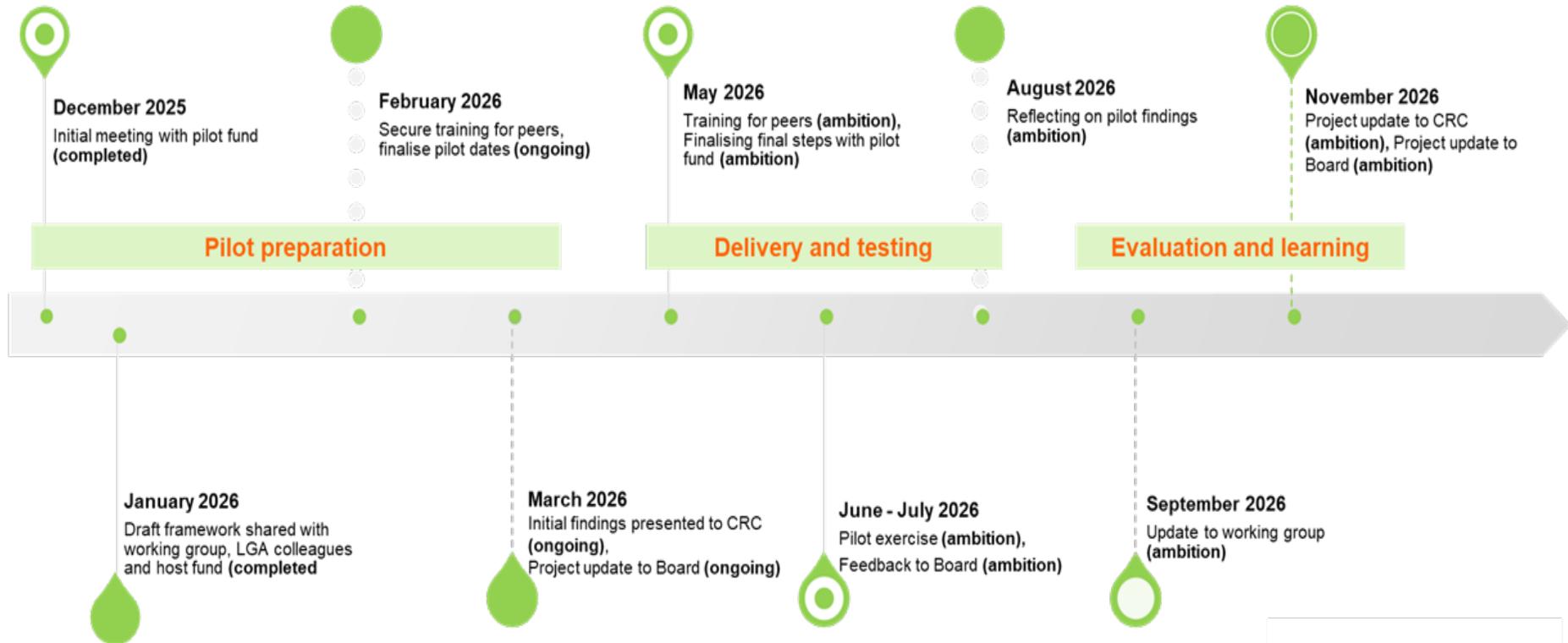


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Key milestones of the delivery of pilot 1



Key milestones of the delivery of pilot 1



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Compliance and Reporting Committee

(CRC) Meeting

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Paper D: Workplan update

Key points to note

The committee workplan is brought as a standing item to committee meetings and will evolve in response to issues arising in the scheme. This paper summarises the meetings and work undertaken by each of the CRC's workstreams since the last meeting in October 2025.

Recommendation

For the committee to note the updated workplan at annex A.

Working groups summary

The committee workplan for 2026 was submitted to the Board and approved on 24 November 2025. It was previously envisaged that all working groups were expected to conclude by March 2026, apart from that on peer support. However, it is expected that further work is required beyond this point to not only discuss the delivery and implementation of the Fit for the Future regulations and guidance but also determine whether administering authorities (AAs) require additional support. The secretariat believes there are areas which AAs may need further support. The workplan at **annex A** provides an overview of expected workstreams and updates since the last meeting but does not consider the areas raised in paper B which the committee have been asked to discuss during this meeting and could change the expected completed date of the current committee working groups.

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 (Tower Hamlets); Jack Bower (The Institute of Chartered

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Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)); Ben Lavelle (MHCLG), Alex Omell (Wiltshire), Sangeeta Surana (Kent) and Grant Patterson (Public Sector Audit Appoints/Grant Thornton)

Start date August 2022

Target completion date March 2026 (will be reviewed once decoupling timetable and exact outputs confirmed)

Meetings since October 2025: None – awaiting English Devolution Bill progress

Current position

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

The working group last met in September 2026 and received an update from Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) officials on the emerging proposal to decouple pension fund accounts from local authority accounts. The Audit Roundtable group met on 7 November 2025.

Knowledge and understanding

Meeting Chair John Jones (Local Pension Board Chair Tower Hamlets Pension Fund)

Supported by Karen Gibson (Dorset); Nick Harvey (CIPFA); Heidi Catherall (Cheshire); Vicky Jenks (Shropshire); Amanda Crawford (Essex); Will King (MHCLG); Ian Colvin (Hymans), Catherine Pearce (AON), Alison Murray (Barnett Waddington), Nick Gannon (The Pensions Regulator), Lisa Clarkson (LGA), Lorraine Bennett (LGA), Toni Durrant (LGA) and Ross Fraser (Scottish Fund representative)

Start Date December 2022

Target completion Date March 2026

Meetings since October 2025 None

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Current position

The group last met just before the previous CRC meeting in October 2025. However, in December 2025, the group were provided with an advance draft of the draft governance regulations and knowledge and understand guidance associated with Fit for the Future. The group were asked to provide comments on the contents of the drafts.

Good Governance

Meeting Chair	Jeff Dong (Swansea)
Supported by	Kevin Gerard (Carmarthenshire); Nick Harvey (CIPFA); Will King (MHCLG); Nemashe Sivayogan (Merton); Jo Quarterman (Norfolk); Matt Mott (West Yorkshire), Amanda Crawford (Essex), Jo Toomey (Nottinghamshire), Kim Russell (Scottish Fund Representative), Lorraine Bennett (LGA) and Nick Gannon (The Pensions Regulator).
Start Date	November 2022
Target completion date	March 2026
Meetings since October 2025:	16 February 2026

Current position

The group met on 16 February 2026 and officials from MHCLG provided an update on the progress to date reviewing the consultation responses on both the draft regulations and draft guidance.

Peer support

Meeting Chair	Becky Clough (currently)
Supported by	Vicky Jenks, Martin Griffiths (Shropshire), Yvonne Thompson (Hounslow), 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

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Lloyd (Oxfordshire), Gillian Taberner (South Yorkshire Pension Authority), Lisa Garton (East Riding), Gemma Farley, Andrew Boutflower (Hampshire), Yunus Gajra (West Yorkshire), Jayne Brown, Junaird Laly (Lancashire), Mala Visram (London Pension Fund Authority), Jill Murray (Scottish Borders Council) and Nick Orton (Tyne and Wear Pension Fund).

Start Date	November 2024
Target completion date	Ongoing
Meetings since October 2025	27 January 2025

Current position

See separate agenda item 5.

Annex A – Compliance and reporting committee workplan 2026

Workstream	Details	Timescale
Audit issues	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 To recommend agenda items for the Audit Roundtable meetings.	Target completion date is March 2026 - to be reviewed once timetable confirmed with MHCLG
Knowledge and understanding	To feed views and expertise into updated knowledge and understanding statutory guidance and assist the Board when developing guidance for creating a Training Strategy	Draft statutory guidance consulted on in December 2026 Guidance on the creation of supplemental knowledge and understanding guidance and Training Strategy guidance, to be confirmed once governance guidance completed.
Good Governance	To input into the updates required to governance statutory guidance	New guidance to be ready for April 2026 implementation date
Peer Support	To scope out the feasibility of creating a LGPS peer support offer and delivery peer support pilot events.	Ongoing.
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	New guidance to be ready for April 2026 implementation date
Local pension board support and guidance	To strength the support, networking and learning opportunities for local pension	To be confirmed (see paper F)

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Workstream	Details	Timescale
	board (LPB) members	

Paper E: Local pension board support and guidance

Key points to note

The secretariat has been looking into ways in which we can provide support, networking and learning opportunities for local pension board (LPB) chairs. This builds on recent activity where we have been running successful events for pension committee chairs and initiated the Annual Assembly. This paper looks at a range of possible options and invites the committee to provide a steer on the most appropriate way forward.

Recommendation

That we ask the Board to approve a new programme of work which will aim to:

- 1) Provide a forum for support and networking of LPB chairs
- 2) Provide input for a review of the Board's LPB guidance
- 3) Kick this off with an initial meeting of LPB Chairs in May 2026.

Background

LPBs were first required to be established for all locally administering schemes in 2015 under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. Specific provision for LPBs were then made under Regulations 106-109 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013. The purpose of the LPB under those regulations is to assist the administering authority to secure compliance with its legal obligations under the LGPS Regulations, any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme as well as any other legal requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator. In addition, they are charged with helping to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme. In discharging this broad purpose, they have a general power to do anything needed to facilitate that role.

In 2015, the Board set out some initial guidance on the establishment of LPBs and offered a draft term of reference for funds to adopt. Since then, further guidance has

followed from CIPFA on the knowledge and understanding that is expected of LPB members.

The proposals being implemented under Fit for the Future have placed a welcome emphasis on the good governance of the scheme and made some significant changes to the governance architecture at fund level. There has also been a renewed interest in managing the potential conflict of interests that arise from administering authorities also being scheme employers.

We therefore believe that now is the right time to review and the LPB guidance and consider what can be done to support LPBs, which potentially provide the main opportunity for other scheme employers and scheme member representatives to have a voice in scheme governance.

Considerations

The Firefighters' Pensions (England) Scheme Advisory Board already offers a range of services for LPB chairs and members. That includes regular drop-in sessions, where they can ask questions and network with each other, as well as running dedicated training courses. The secretariat recommend that we should aim to replicate this for LGPS LPB chairs. We can also explore whether there are ways in which we can use the additional functionality in the new Board website to allow facilitated dialogue online as well.

We have data on who the current LPB Chairs are via the LGPS database, which is maintained by funds. We can use this information to contact Board chairs in the first instance to inform them of what we are planning and canvass topics that are likely to be of interest to them. Initial topics for training could include the changes being instituted through Fit for the Future and the impact of these on the LPB governance role, such as the new Independent Governance Review, independent person, Senior LGPS officer role and knowledge and understanding requirements. It would also be a good opportunity to speak to LPB Chairs about volunteering to help pilot the peer support offer we are developing.

The secretariat would also recommend that we use the LPB network to support the review of the LPB guidance. This group can help us identify both best practice and where there is friction in the discharge of their role.

Our initial plan would be to write to LPB chairs immediately after the March 2026 Board meeting, and to invite them to an initial event in May.

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