

Compliance and Reporting Committee

(CRC) Meeting

2 March 2026 11.00am

Room 6.5, 18 Smith Square, London and
Microsoft Teams



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 The secretariat has refined the framework and prepared draft guidance for both peer teams and participating funds.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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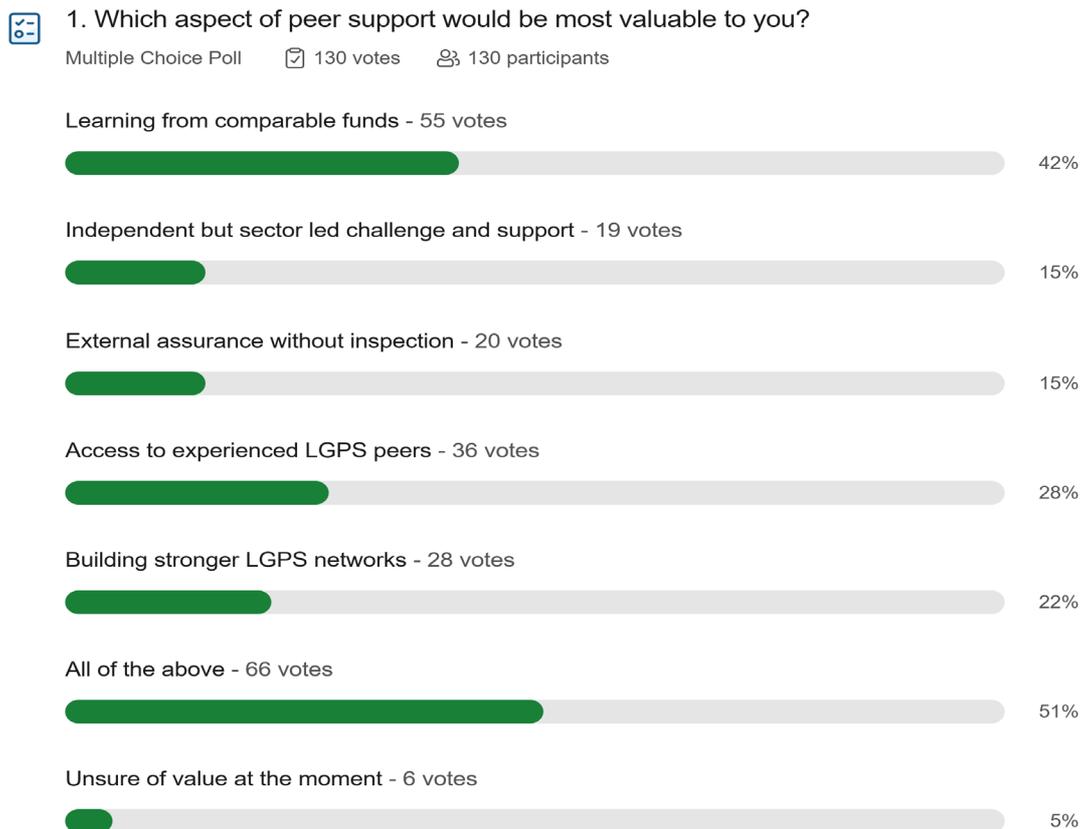
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Annex B: LGPS Governance Conference Poll Results:

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.

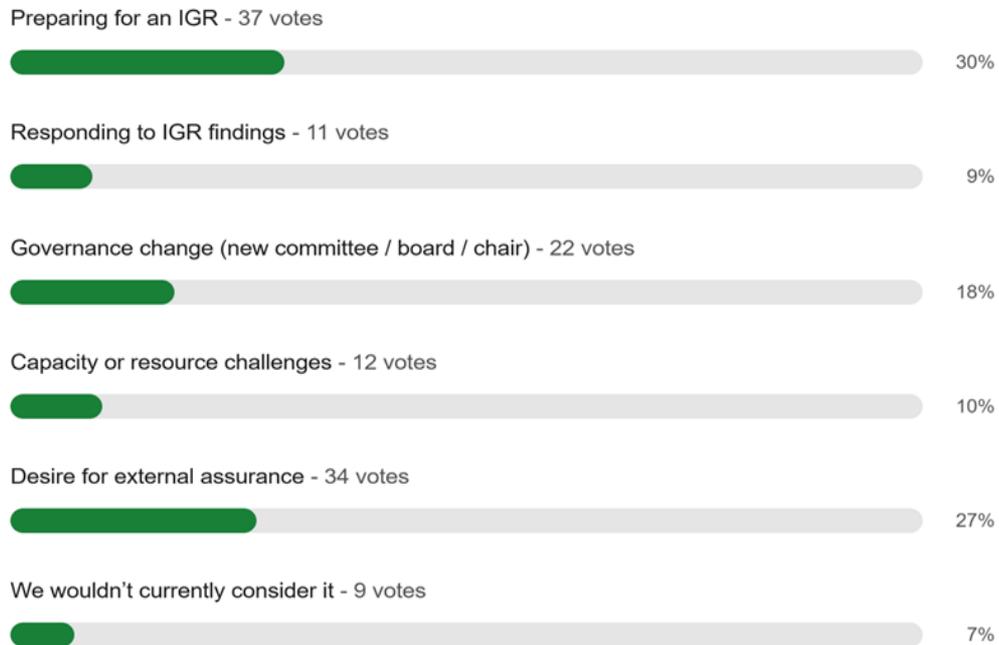


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2. What would most likely prompt your fund to seek peer support?

Multiple Choice Poll 125 votes 125 participants

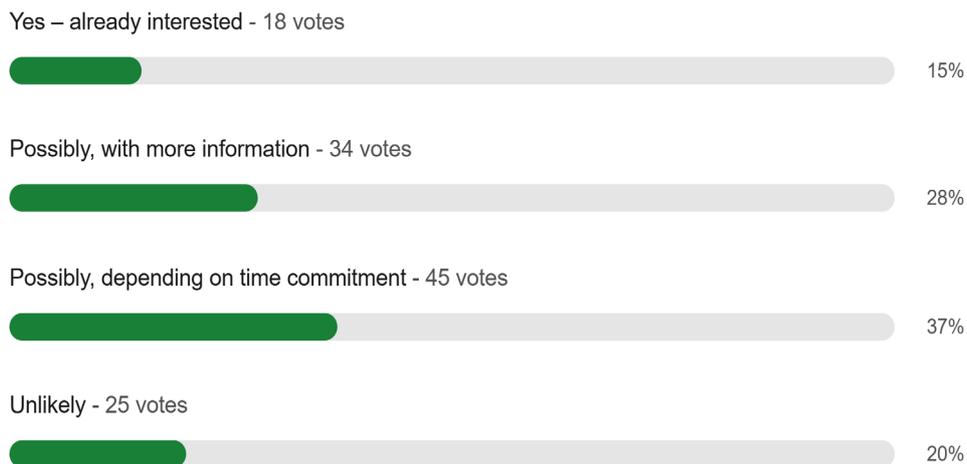


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3. Would you consider becoming a peer?

Multiple Choice Poll 122 votes 122 participants

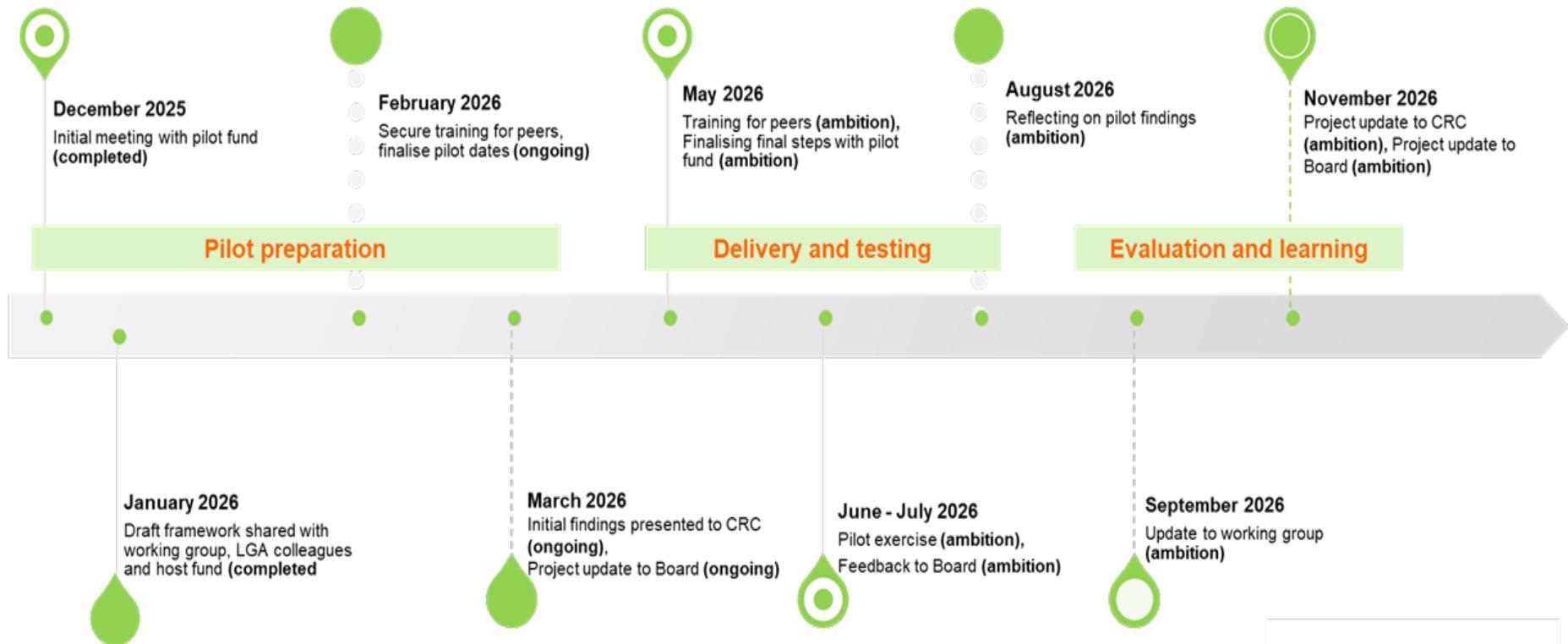


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Key milestones of the delivery of pilot 1



Key milestones of the delivery of pilot 1



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