

Local Government Pension Scheme
Scheme Advisory Board

Lee Rowley MP
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Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
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Please reply to joanne.donnelly@local.gov.uk

Dear Lee

Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board

On behalf of the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board, I would like to welcome you to your role as Local Government Minister.

The Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales (LGPS) has over 6 million members, including many of the lowest paid employees in the public sector, and some £364 billion in assets. The Advisory Board was established under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 to advise Ministers on the desirability of making changes to the scheme. The Board also advises LGPS administering authorities on improvements to scheme investment, governance and administration. Full details of the Board and its sub-committees can be found at www.lgpsboard.org.

As the Board's Chair, I look forward to working with you and your officials to maintain a successful and sustainable pension scheme. I hope that we can continue to build on the excellent working relationship we enjoyed with your predecessors.

Previous Local Government Ministers have met the Board at one of its quarterly meetings and I very much hope that you will be able to support us in the same way. I believe that Ministers found it a good opportunity to have constructive engagement on current LGPS issues, with all the relevant stakeholders in the room. I very much hope that you will find it possible to do likewise.

The Board is next due to meet on December 5th but if that is not convenient, the first meeting in 2023 is scheduled for February 20th. Board meetings commence at 1.00pm and are held at the LGA's office at 18 Smith Square, Westminster, but there is the facility to attend virtually if that would be more convenient for you.

I would be delighted to meet you when circumstances allow to discuss the many opportunities and challenges facing the scheme. Examples of these include the forthcoming consultation on investments – including levelling up and LGPS investment pooling – and a consultation on governance changes, which we hope will propose the implementation of many of the recommendations from the Board's

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'Good Governance' project. There is also the current climate risk reporting consultation, which the Board will be responding to in due course. I would be happy to discuss any or all of these issues with you.

Other challenges include the removal of any remaining discrimination in the scheme's benefit structure and ensuring the timely completion of pension fund audits that I raised with your predecessor in my letter dated August 3rd 2022.

I look forward to your response and to working with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Phillips', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cllr Roger Phillips
Chair of the Board