

Paper F: Board and Committee membership

Key points to note

The nominations for new voting members that were sent to the minister have now been approved. The Board Chair has also appointed a new legal advisor and pension policy advisor following the new advertising procedure. The secretariat understands that the recruitment for the new Board Chair will commence ahead of the departure of Cllr Roger Phillips OBE in March 2027.

Recommendation

That the Board notes and approves the changes in membership. That the Board notes the update on the recruitment for a new Board Chair.

Recruitment of new Board Chair

Following on from the extension of Cllr Roger Phillips's tenure to March 2027, the secretariat have resumed discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the recruitment of a new Board Chair. The appointment will be made in accordance with the public appointments [Order in Council](#) and subject to the [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The role will also be subject to the Terms of Appointment which will be issued by the Minister. We have been assured that internal discussions within MHCLG are progressing well to enable MHCLG to be in a position to appoint a new chair from April 2027. The secretariat will continue to hold regular discussions with MHCLG. This process will be led by MHCLG, but we expect that some input may be required from the Board and the secretariat in the coming months.

Membership changes

Board

Cllr Toby Simon (LD) has been approved by the Minister as a scheme employer representative after being nominated by the LGA Liberal Democrats' Group Office. He will be taking over from Lord Fuller (Conservative) once his term officially ends at the end of June.

Ben Thomas has been approved by the Minister as UNISON's scheme member officer representative after Jon Richards stepped down in April 2025,

Debi Potter has been approved by the Minister as UNISON's scheme member lay member representative after Chris Tansley stepped down in April 2025.

Kirsty McLean (Partner, Squire Patton Boggs) was approved as the Board's new legal adviser by the chair after Gary Delderfield stepped down in November 2025. The secretariat invited expressions of interest in the post on 8 January 2026 and received a number of strong applications, following a robust selection process, a recommendation was made to the chair to appoint Kirsty into this role.

Tiffany Tsang (Head of DB, LGPS and Investment, Pensions UK) was approved as the Board's new pensions policy adviser by the chair after Joe Dabrowski stepped down in December 2025. The secretariat invited expressions of interest in the post on 22 January 2026 and received a number of strong applications, following a robust selection process, a recommendation was made to the chair to appoint Tiffany into this role.

Responsible Investment Advisory Group (RIAG)

The secretariat were notified that the nomination for Edwin Whitehead and Sam Gervaise-Jones to serve a second term as investment consultants on the group by the Investment Consultants Sustainability Working Group was approved in February 2026. The Board is asked to approve this nomination and backdate it to March 2025 to cover the period that the Board were awaiting confirmation of their renewed nomination.

Maria Espadinha has been attending the group's meetings as the Pensions UK representative since May 2024 after joining to cover Tiffany Tsang's attendance whilst she was on maternity leave. She has expressed an interest in continuing as a permanent member and the secretariat is recommending that her membership be approved.

Ashley Hamilton Claxton has stepped down from the group after the last meeting on 9 February 2026. The secretariat will seek a nomination for her replacement ahead of the next meeting.