

## **Paper D: Local pension board support and guidance**

### **Key points to note**

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Board's programme of work to strengthen support, networking and learning opportunities for local pension board (LPB) members and chairs. It covers recent engagement activity, plans for future events, and the secretariat's initial proposals for updating the Board's LPB guidance.

### **Background**

At the March 2026 meeting, the committee agreed to recommend to the Board that action be taken to improve the support, networking and learning opportunities for LPB members and chairs. The Board agreed a new programme of work which will aim to:

- Provide a regular forum for support and networking for LPB chairs
- Review and update the Board's LPB guidance
- Kick this off with an initial meeting of LPB Chairs in May 2026.

### **Recommendations**

The committee is asked to note the contents of this report and provide the secretariat with a steer of approach when updating the LPB guidance and LPB data held.

### **Latest position**

#### **LPB events**

On 12 May 2026, Cllr Roger Phillips as Board chair hosted the first event that the Board has put on specifically for LPB chairs (or their deputies). Attendees joined the online event from 58 funds and the agenda focused on capturing LPB members priorities and how they would like to engage with the Board. During the event,

attendees also heard from:

- Clair Alcock as Board Secretary
- the co-heads of pensions at MHCLG on Delivering Fit for the Future
- a panel session with an LPB chair, a member-nominated LPB member, an employer-nominated LPB member and a representative from TPR on the LPB role and current issues they are facing, and
- a presentation from the secretariat on the peer support project

Feedback obtained after the event has been insightful, with all respondents confirming they would attend again and would recommend the event to other LPB chairs. Also, polling question were asked of attendees during the event.

Attendees valued the agenda focus on LGPS reform particularly the Fit for the Future session and gaining a clearer understanding of LPB role in this. The quality of speakers, practical insights, and opportunities to network and share experiences were highlighted as key strengths.

Suggestions for future meetings covered increasing interaction opportunities amongst LPB members, an earlier start time (the meeting ran from 4.00 to 5:30pm), challenges in recruiting LPB members, training plans and continuing discussions on implementation of Fit for the Future requirements.

Following this meeting and the feedback received, the secretariat believes there is strong demand for continued meetings to engage and bring together LPB members.

### **Proposal for regular LPB forums**

Given the success of the above meeting, we are proposing to organise a regular series of LPB forums. The Firefighters' Pensions (England) Scheme Advisory Board already offers a regular drop-in session for their LPB members, where they can ask questions and network with each other. We aim to replicate this for LGPS LPB chairs and the first one has been arranged for Monday 7 September 2026, from 11.00 to 12.30pm.

The objective for the forums will be for LPB members to meet in a less formal way and for the secretariat to facilitate discussion and networking amongst LPB Chairs. A draft agenda is being prepared however this will be less formal than the 12 May meeting, to allow LPB members the opportunity to share experiences.

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We also recognise that we need to strengthen our data on LPB chairs, as well as LPB membership more generally, and would welcome a steer on the type of data we should be aiming to hold going forward.

### **Annual Assembly**

A 'save the date' meeting invitation has been sent to LPB Chairs for the Board's second Annual Assembly event being held on 22 October 2026 which is a joint event for both LPB chairs and Pension Committee Chairs. The secretariat is currently planning the agenda and welcome feedback from the committee on topics to be included.

### **Update to LPB guidance**

[The Board's existing guidance for LPB's](#) was last updated in February 2015 and whilst very comprehensive, is now significantly out of date. While it continues to provide a comprehensive foundation on the statutory purpose, structure, and operation of LPBs, it does not currently reflect the wider substantial regulatory, governance, and operational developments within the LGPS over the past decade.

It was also written at a time when LPBs were due to be operational from 1 April 2015 and therefore has many early considerations which were relevant for creation of a new body within the LGPS governance structure. The secretariat believes that the guidance, now LPBs are over ten years on, should be updated to reflect best practice in how the remit and role has now embedded into LGPS governance.

Whilst much of the guidance is still accurate it is less relevant and we would suggest archiving this version of the guidance so it is still available for reference. New guidance would have more of a focus on how the LPB role will change given recent LGPS reforms arising from Fit for the Future, asset pooling, updated expectations from The Pensions Regulator, evolving best practice in governance, and most significantly the increased complexity of administration of scheme member benefits and increasing number of scheme employers.

The committee are asked to provide a steer on the approach to updating the guidance, the secretariat believes the guidance needs updating in four key areas:

- To add legislative and regulatory changes to LGPS regulations, new roles and policies required by Fit for the Future and updates following the Pensions Regulator updated Code of Practice
- To reflect the best practice of the LPB role ten years on, including clearer articulation of their relationship with pension committees, audit and scrutiny

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functions, and asset pools

- To enhance the practical application and good practice examples through the inclusion of case studies
- Updated reporting, transparency and training assurance expectations should be articulated, including how these align with clearer expectations for annual reporting.

In terms of delivery, a collaborative approach through a creation of a working group is recommended to gain input from key stakeholders. In terms of drafting, identifying the most required sections first and engaging with relevant stakeholders through a small, focused working group including officers and LPB members to test that the revised guidance reflects current practice and addresses known challenges is suggested.

Consideration should also be given to how the guidance will be used, as a document which was drafted for creation of LPBs, the guidance should better focus on ongoing application of the LPB role to reinforce the role of LPBs as an effective part of the LGPS governance and assurance framework.