

Paper G: SAB communications update

Key points to note

This paper provides an update on Board communication activities. It outlines planned engagement events, developments in the Board's digital presence and a short update on the website project.

Recommendation

That the Board notes this update and provides feedback on the events planned.

Background

The Board has previously approved its [Communications Strategy](#), which means the secretariat is now delivering a significantly expanded programme of events to engage with stakeholders. This report sets out the activities planned or underway in line with the approved strategy.

Communications update

The secretariat has held or is planning the following events and a summary of each event is provided below.

- 17 March 2026 – Discussion with Pension Committee chairs
- 12 May 2026 – Local Pension Board chairs meeting
- 7 September 2026 - Local Pension Board Forum
- 15 September 2026 - Welcome event for new Pension Committee Chairs
- 1 October 2026 - SAB Independence Governance Review Workshop
- 22 October 2026 - SAB Annual Assembly

On 17 March 2026, the Board Chair held a meeting with pension committee chairs to discuss topical issues in the LGPS, particularly the changes coming in from the Fit for the Future legislation. 44 attendees representing 39 funds and five pools attended, where they received an update from Michelle Warbis (Deputy Director, Local Tax and Pensions at MHCLG). The secretariat led sessions on valuation outcomes and a topical update from the Board. Feedback from attendees indicated

SAB meeting – 20 July 2026

Agenda Item 9 – SAB communications update

Page - 1

Email: SABSecretariat@local.gov.uk Website: [LGPS Board](#)

that the update from MHCLG was particularly well received, highlighting the value of direct engagement with the Department and the opportunity to hear first-hand about current developments

In May 2026, the Board Chair hosted the first virtual event for Local Pension Board chairs and 51 attendees from LGPS funds in England and Wales joined to discuss the priorities of Local Pension Boards and how they would like to engage with Board. Attendees heard from the co-Heads of Pensions, Will King and Rosanna Thomson, at MHCLG on delivering Fit for the Future: implications across the LGPS landscape; a panel session with other Local Pension Board chairs and a representative from The Pension Regulator (TPR) on the Local Pension Board role and current issues they are facing; and a presentation on the Board project to establish LGPS Peer Support.

In line with feedback that LPB chairs would like more interactive and networking opportunities, the secretariat is organising a Local Pension Board Chairs Forum. The first event will be virtual and held on 7 September 2026 from 11.00am – 12.00pm and if well received will become a regular event. We hope that the forum will provide support for peer learning and networking and offer a space for open discussion on current issues affecting Local Pension Boards and the wider LGPS governance landscape. While the event is planned to be run informally, to allow ample discussion between chairs, it will also include an update from the secretariat on topical matters.

Following the recent local elections, the Chair has asked the secretariat to arrange a welcome event for newly appointed councillors with responsibilities for the LGPS. The event will also be virtual and will be held 15 September 2026 5.00pm – 6.00pm. The session will provide an introduction to the LGPS, the role of the SAB and the wider governance framework within which funds operate. It will also offer an opportunity for councillors to gain an understanding of key issues currently affecting the Scheme and hear from those working across the LGPS. The secretariat will also invite the heads of LGA political group offices to join, so that they also get a better appreciation of the work we do and the support offered to elected members with LGPS responsibilities.

The [statutory guidance](#) supporting 'Fit for the Future' has now been published and while that has provided much needed clarity on some issues, the secretariat is planning an event around Independent Governance Reviews (IGRs) on 1 October 2026 for senior officers. The agenda is currently being developed however colleagues from the National LGPS Frameworks team and TPR have expressed

SAB meeting – 20 July 2026

Agenda Item 9 – SAB communications update

Page - 2

Email: SABSecretariat@local.gov.uk Website: [LGPS Board](#)

interested in attending. As IGRs are an entirely new initiative, the purpose of this event will be to provide a forum for funds to compare notes on what specifically they need to procure and what are the most efficient ways of doing so. Further details of this event, including proposed format and delivery arrangements, will be developed over the summer.

The Board Annual Assembly is scheduled for 22 October 2026 and will be held at a similar time as last year (10:30am - 16:00pm) at Bevin Hall, Local Government Association, Smith Square. A “save the date” is due to be sent to Pension Committee and Local Pension Board Chairs and registration opened on 8 July 2026. The event is free to attend and as last year will be held in person only. This year’s theme is: ‘Leading Together: Shaping the Future of the LGPS’. The detailed agenda is currently being developed but is expected to include updates from the Board Chair, Secretary and the Minister for Local Government who has been invited to attend. A panel session is also planned for chairs to share their perspectives.

The secretariat would welcome support from the Board to develop future engagement opportunities specifically for Independent Persons and Senior LGPS Officers. The purpose of these events would be to facilitate networking, support consistency and effectiveness for those undertaking these new roles. Further details, including proposed format and delivery arrangements, are under consideration and will be brought to the next Board meeting. It is initially anticipated that the Independent Person event would be organised for early 2027, to allow for this new role to be embedded. Feedback from the Board is also welcome on future engagement with Senior LGPS Officers and whether a regular (virtual) event to bring these officers together would add value.

The secretariat has also been reflecting on the SAB's contribution to [LGPS Live](#) and how the webinar series might evolve over time. Attendance figures for the 2025 webinars demonstrate continued strong engagement and, as our own communications channels continue to grow, we see opportunities to use this channel to increase our direct reach while continuing to benefit from its established audience and reputation within the sector.

The secretariat's view is that we would like to continue the longstanding partnership with DG Publishing and maintain SAB's contribution to LGPS Live through providing regular SAB updates and suggesting topics for the main discussion. The arrangement has worked well over many years and we remain grateful for the important role DG plays in hosting, marketing and promoting the webinars,

SAB meeting – 20 July 2026

Agenda Item 9 – SAB communications update

Page - 3

Email: SABSecretariat@local.gov.uk Website: [LGPS Board](#)

particularly in helping us reach audiences that we may not otherwise engage with directly, including investment stakeholders.

At the same time, we are exploring the potential for a separate, occasional SAB webinar programme to complement, rather than replace, our involvement in LGPS Live. We are keen to understand whether there would be an appetite for additional SAB-led content and, if so, what format would be most valuable to stakeholders. This could include shorter webinars focused on specific topics, training and knowledge-sharing sessions, or discussions of current issues affecting the LGPS. We welcome the Board's thoughts on how such an offer might sit alongside LGPS Live and any opportunities to ensure that both programmes add value to the sector.

To support this increased activity, we are developing a database for speakers to register their interest to participate in future Board events. This will allow us to identify a broader range of individuals to speak at our events and invite both experienced and those who may be considering speaking at a Board event for the first time. It is hoped this form will encourage more individuals to register their interest in sharing practical experience, lessons learned and different perspectives to help make our events more valuable and engaging for attendees.

Social media update

The Board's presence on [LinkedIn](#) continues to grow. Since its launch in February 2026, it has attracted 500 followers, with regular content helping to increase the page's visibility and attract new followers. Posts shared on our speaking events has seen the most engagement however we continue to use the page to highlight the Board's work, including sharing Board statements and scheme-level updates.

SAB website update

The accessibility report for the Board website was received on 11 June 2026. The secretariat is working with Landscape to finalise needed updates and arrange the receipt of the final certification from the Shaw Trust.