

INTRODUCTION

This briefing note summarises key points to note in the items presented to the Pension Fund Committee on 5 September 2025 (procedural items have not been included).

PART A

STANDING ITEMS

Compliance Update – breaches report notes a number of non-recurring contribution breaches, and a small number of administration breaches arising from legacy casework being progressed, causing notifications to be triggered which are immediately outside specified time limits.

Business Plan 25-26 Performance – action tracker progress for 2025-26 as a whole summarised as “amber”, with delivery issues reported in relation to casework backlogs, data quality, the McCloud remedy, the Pensions Dashboards programme, and the General Code of Practice self assessment. Digital deferred ABS workstream completed.

Performance against KPIs reported, with no KPIs rated red.

Forecast outturn indicates £96k underspend largely due to staffing vacancies.

Regulatory update – update on the outcome of the Fit for the Future consultation, changes to the LGPS pooling structure, and the launch of the Pension Schemes Bill.

McCLOUD REMEDY – Necessary administration system developments have been subject to issues and severe delays but are expected to progress in the autumn. Fund has now self-reported breach of law to The Pensions Regulator. Aon appointed to assist Fund in developing detailed rectification plan. Planning workshops scheduled and administration software update testing also scheduled.

PENSIONS DASHBOARD PROGRAMME – Integrated Service Provider “volunteer” phase completed, with Civica awaiting commencement of “integration testing” element. Timeframe before connection deadline of 31 October 2025 remains challenging – Civica estimate their connection will be achieved September 2025. Fund connection date to be determined thereafter.

ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024-25 – Draft 24-25 annual report and statement of accounts are presented. This includes the Local Pension Board’s Annual Report. The external audit process has not resulted in any changes to the draft statement of accounts presented to May Committee. The external auditor’s Interim Audit Findings Report is presented. No new audit recommendations have been identified.

GENERAL CODE OF PRACTICE SELF ASSESSMENT – update on progress against areas not complete at the time of the last report. Those relating to transfers / scams are linked to a project to rebuilt relevant processes in the Fund’s administration system. Those relating to member communications and annual benefit statements are linked to the delayed launch of the Fund’s new website. An internal audit review of the Fund’s self-assessment is progressing.

PART B - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**STANDING ITEMS**

Employer Changes and Activity – a summary of recent activity of employers who have either recently joined or exited the Fund and a forecast of potential activity in the coming months.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY REVIEW – a report presenting the Fund's draft Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) for review and feedback, and the new Equity Policy setting out the Fund's equity beliefs.

LGPS CENTRAL UPDATE – a presentation from officers of LGPS Central Ltd.

CYBER RISK UPDATE – a report providing an update on the Fund's activities in relation to management of cyber risk.