

PENSIONS COMMITTEE
Monday, 22 September 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 22 September 2025 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Timothy Butcher (Chairman)
David Sales (Deputy Chair)
Deputy Christopher Boden
Clare James
Alderman Simon Pryke

Officers:

Kate Limna	- Chamberlain's Department
Graham Newman	- Chamberlain's Department
Amanda Luk	- Chamberlain's Department
Sarah Port	- Chamberlain's Department
Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department

In attendance:

Steve Turner	- Mercer
Gregory Hall	- Mercer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Tim McNally. Alderman and Sheriff Gregory Jones KC observed the meeting virtually.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman congratulated Peter Lisley and Mark Wheatley on their election as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Local Government Pensions Board.

3.1 To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the Pensions Committee meeting on 7 July 2025

RESOLVED – That,

- the public minutes and non-public summary of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 7 July 2025 were approved as an accurate record.

3.2 To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Local Government Pensions Board meeting on 21 July 2025

RESOLVED – That,

- the public minutes and non-public summary of the Local Government Pensions Board meeting held on 21 July 2025 were received.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning a forward-looking Pensions Committee work programme.

RESOLVED - That Members,

- received the report and noted its content.

5. RISK REGISTER

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning the Risk Register for the Pensions Committee.

The Chairman suggested that the risk score for CHB Pensions 001 (Insufficient Assets – Pension Fund) which had a current risk score of 8, was too high and asked if Officers could review the scoring.

Members agreed that the score should be reviewed and were content to approve the Risk Register, subject to review.

RESOLVED - That Members,

- reviewed the existing risks and actions present on the Pensions Committee's Risk Register,
- agreed that Officers review the risk score for CHB Pensions 001 (Insufficient Assets – Pension Fund).

6. PENSION SCHEME - ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning the standing update on pension administration activities.

Members were informed that the Pensions Regulator is expected to formally request the 2025 scheme return in October, which will include data scores.

A Member noted the lack of response from Aptia regarding the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) update that was requested previously and offered their assistance. Officers provided assurance that contact with Aptia had resumed but welcomed the offer of assistance. They also highlighted the complexity and importance of the dashboard project and requested that the Committee have more visibility on the following:

- The matching criteria used for dashboard data
- The status of the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)
- How final salary and CARE benefits are displayed, whether separately or blended and
- The implications for member benefit statements.

Officers replied to say that the matching criteria were being developed with an initial strict approach, which could potentially be relaxed during testing. A DPIA was being drafted and would be brought to the next meeting, and more detail on the dashboard display would be provided once the system was live.

RESOLVED – That Members,

- received the report and noted its content.

7. PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION - GUIDANCE ON TRANSFERS OUT

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain regarding the City of London Pension Fund Transfers-out guidance document.

The Chamberlain presented the formal document outlining procedures and precautions for transfers out of the scheme. The document was developed in response to Barnett Waddingham's recommendations from the compliance review with the Pensions Regulator's General Code of Practice.

A Member asked who makes the decision to proceed when red or amber flags are raised during a transfer-out process. At the request of a Member, Officers confirmed that the Chamberlain and Corporate Treasurer were responsible for making the initial decision to proceed with a transfer-out if red or amber flags were raised. This decision could be escalated if this was deemed necessary. Officers undertook to return with an expanded section 3.2, clarifying the escalation process, to the next meeting.

RESOLVED - That Members,

- agreed to the recommendation of expanding section 3.2,
- received the report and noted its content.

8. CITY FUND AND PENSION FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS UPDATE 2024/25

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning an update on the publication and audit of the 2024/25 Draft Statement of Accounts for the City Fund and Pension Fund.

A Member queried the increase in net assets on the City Fund balance sheet which appeared to be due to a reduction in the pension liabilities.

The Corporate Treasurer explained that the reduction was due to the standardised Government IAS19 accounting treatment, not the actuarial valuation which was not reflected in the accounts.

RESOLVED – That Members,

- received the report and noted its content.

9. CITY FUND AND PENSION FUND - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, AUDIT FINDINGS AND EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2024/25

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning an update on the publication and audit of the 2024/25 Draft Statement of Accounts for the City Fund and Pension Fund.

Members were advised that the External Auditors had been complimentary about the Pension Fund audit and that only a few recommendations had been made, including for an internal audit to be conducted as there hadn't been one for some time. It was noted that this would be addressed over the next 12 months.

The Chairman commended Officers for producing a complex document under tight timelines.

RESOLVED - That Members,

- considered the Audit Findings Report for the Pension Fund 2024-25 as set out in Appendix 10.

10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

Members considered the non-public minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting on the 7 July 2025 and received the Non-Public Minutes of the Local Government Pensions Board Meeting on 21 July 2025.

13.1 To agree the non-public minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 7 July 2025

RESOLVED – That,

- the non-public minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting on the 7 July 2025 were approved as an accurate record.

13.2 To Note the Non-Public Minutes of the Local Government Pensions Board Meeting on 21 July 2025

RESOLVED – That Members,

- received and noted the Non-Public Minutes of the Local Government Pensions Board Meeting on 21 July 2025.

14. CITY FUND AND CITY'S ESTATE AUDITOR PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain detailing the City Fund and City's Estate auditor procurement process

15. **DRAFT PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT**
The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning the Pension Fund's Draft Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025.
16. **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**
The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and a representative from Mercer.
17. **LONDON COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT VEHICLE (LCIV) UPDATE**
The committee received a report of the Chamberlain who provided several updates regarding the London CIV (LCIV), the asset pool operator for London LGPS Funds and in which the Pension Fund is invested in.
18. **INVESTMENT STRATEGY REVIEW AND TRANSFERRING OF ASSETS TO LCIV**
The committee received a report of the Chamberlain, providing an update on the ongoing investment strategy review and status of asset transfers to the London CIV.
19. **REVIEW OF INFLATION LINKED BENCHMARKS**
The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain detailing Mercer's review of inflation-linked benchmarks.
20. **CASHFLOW FORECAST**
The committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning the cashflow for the Pension Fund for the four-year period 2025/26 to 2028/29.
21. **PENSIONS INVESTMENT LETTER**
The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain regarding a Pension Investment Letter.
22. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**
The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk which informed Members of the decision taken under the delegated authority.
23. **PENSION SCHEME - ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE NON-PUBLIC APPENDICES**
The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning the non-public appendices for Agenda Item 6.
24. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
No questions were raised.
25. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
No other business was raised.

The meeting ended at 3.41 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Molly Carvill
molly.carvill@cityoflondon.gov.uk