



**SOUTH YORKSHIRE
PENSIONS AUTHORITY**

**South Yorkshire Local
Pension Board
ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

Foreword

Welcome to the annual report of the South Yorkshire Local Pension Board ('the Board').

The Board seeks to assist the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority to maintain effective and efficient administration and governance. It comprises equal numbers of representatives of scheme members and employers.

We have also continued to engage with other Local Pension Boards on matters of mutual interest through meeting with the Chairs of the other Boards within the Border to Coast Partnership.

On behalf of the Board, I would like thank the staff at the Authority for continuing to deliver the pensions service throughout the pandemic. Your efforts are very much appreciated by the Board.

Thank you to members of the Board for your continued diligence, support and commitment

Garry Warwick, Chair



Role of the Local Pension Board

The role of the Local Pension Board as defined by Sections 5(1) and (2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 is to:

- Secure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS for the South Yorkshire Pension Fund;
- Provide the Scheme Manager with such information as it requires to ensure that any member of the Local Pension Board or person to be appointed to the Local Pension Board does not have a conflict of interest;
- Ensure the South Yorkshire Pension Fund effectively complies with the Code of Practice on the Governance and Administration of Public Service Pensions Schemes issued by the Pensions Regulator and is effectively managed and administered in compliance with the Code.

Membership during the Year

There were no changes to the Board's membership over the year. Membership was as follows:

Name	Date of joining	Nominated by / Representing:
Employee Representatives		
Nicola Doolan-Hamer	July 2015	Unison
Garry Warwick (Chair)	July 2015	GMB
Daniel Gawthorpe	June 2020	Unite
Andrew Gregory	July 2019	Selected from active, deferred and pensioner members
David Webster	October 2019	
Employee Representatives		
Nicola Gregory	January 2018	Academies
Steve Loach	October 2019	Local Authority (Senior Manager)
Rob Fennessy (Vice Chair)	April 2019	Other Large Employers (South Yorkshire Police)
Councillor Mike Chaplin	July 2019	Local Authority
Vacancy		Local Authority
Independent Adviser		
Clare Scott	October 2019	

Meeting Attendance

Member and employer representatives giving their time freely. Attendance at the Board's meetings through the year was as follows:

	15 July 2021	14 Oct 2021	27 Jan 2022	22 Mar 2022 (Informal)	28 Apr 2022	% Att
Employee Representatives						
Nicola Doolan-Hamer	✓	x	✓	✓		
Garry Warwick	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Daniel Gawthorpe	✓	✓	x	✓		
Andrew Gregory	✓	✓	✓	✓		
David Webster	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Employer Representatives						
Nicola Gregory	✓	x	✓	x		
Steve Loach	x	x	x	x		
Rob Fennessy	x	✓	✓	✓		
Mike Chaplin	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Independent Adviser						
Clare Scott	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Work of the Board 2021/22

The Board held four formal meetings during the year. A Work Programme provides the basis for the agendas for meetings and includes a range of issues covering both pensions administration and governance:

Pensions Administration:

- **Pensions Administration Performance** – The Board received quarterly administration performance reports.
- **Breaches Complaints and Appeals** - The Board received quarterly reports on breaches, complaints and appeals.
- **Data Quality Improvement** – The Board monitored progress on the Data Quality Improvement Plan.
- **Actuary** – The Board were updated on the appointment of a new Actuary for the Fund and the impact on service to employers.

Governance:

- **Decisions of the Authority** - Members of the Board receive all agenda papers issued to Members of the Pensions Authority and Board members are able to observe meetings of the Authority.
- **The Constitution** – The Board approved revisions to its Constitution following the annual review.
- **The Pensions Regulator** – The Board was updated on current levels of compliance with TPR Code of Practice 14 and discussed the regulator’s consultation on a single combined code.
- **Risk Management** – Considered the Risk Register and the wider risk management framework.
- **Annual Report and Accounts** – Reviewed the Authority’s Annual Report and Accounts.
- **Governance Compliance Statement** – Reviewed the Authority’s revised Governance Compliance Statement.
- **Governance Review** –The Board considered updates on the actions from the governance review undertaken in 2020 and welcomed the decision to establish a dedicated governance team within the Authority.
- **Investment Pool Governance** - The Board considered a review of the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership.
- **Regulatory Changes** – The Board has been kept informed of the potential impact of regulatory changes such as the McCloud Judgement and the exit cap.

Learning and Development:

- During the year, the Board welcomed the Authority's new Learning and Development Strategy including its extension to Board members and the commitment to progress knowledge and training needs assessments for individual members. Early in 2022, all Board members completed a knowledge assessment.
- The Board have requested that training records of both the Authority and Board members should be reported to the Board on a regular basis to demonstrate compliance with the Learning and Development Strategy.
- During the year, Board Members have attended the following training events:

Training Session	Date	Attendees
PLSA Local Government Conference	18-19.05.21	
Barnett Waddingham/CIPFA LPB Members' Annual Event	23.06.21	N Doolan-Hamer, R Fennessy, A Gregory, N Gregory, G Warwick
Border to Coast Seminar – Investment Issues	06 & 13.09.21	R Fennessy
LGPS Seminar (SYPA)	16.09.21	G Warwick, D Webster, R Fennessy, N Doolan-Hamer, D Gawthorpe, M Chaplin
Barnett Waddingham Governance Update	28.09.21	D Webster
CIPFA LPB Members Seminar	Sept/Oct 2021	G Warwick, R Fennessy, D Webster, N Doolan Hamer
Barnett Waddingham – Overview of the LGPS	28.10.21	A Gregory, R Fennessy
Understanding Impact	28.10.21	M Chaplin, R Fennessy, G Warwick
Valuation Training	11.11.21	D Webster
Breaches of the Law & Responsible Investment	22.03.22	M Chaplin, N Doolan-Hamer, R Fennessy, D Gawthorpe, A Gregory, G Warwick, D Webster
Hymans Robertson Online Learning Academy		All members registered

Review of Effectiveness

During March 2022, members of the Board completed a survey and held a workshop to agree potential changes in the way the Board works to improve its effectiveness. This was the second time the Board had undertaken such a review. The survey included questions on the way meetings are conducted and knowledge, skills and capacity.

The results of the survey were positive in a number of areas and were broadly consistent with the results from 2021. All (or a significant majority of) members of the Board agreed that:

- Board papers are timely, relevant and focused on priorities.
- Discussions are facilitated to allow all Board members to contribute in order to seek opinion and develop ideas.
- Board members are not afraid to ask obvious or simple questions to ensure collective understanding.
- Board discussions are not unduly influenced by an individual's views, experience or expertise.
- Meeting minutes are accurate and record decisions made and actions agreed.
- The Board works in an open and transparent manner.
- All Board members act with integrity, declaring and managing any personal conflicts of interest.
- The Board's independent adviser helps to Board to fulfil its responsibilities.

The Board agreed that the ongoing improvements from the Board's review in 2021 continue to be relevant including improving communication between with the Authority and requesting that the tenure of councillor membership be extended from the current 2 years. Further improvements were agreed this year including overseeing the Authority's meetings/governance, training and dealing with vacancies on the Board. The Board will work with the Authority to put these improvements in place.

Future Plans

Over the coming year, the Board will continue to consider issues covering pensions administration and governance included in its Work Programme and specifically will work with the Authority to:

- Assess compliance with, and the potential requirements of the Pensions Regulator's consolidation of its Codes of Practice;
- Develop training plans based on the recent knowledge and training needs assessment, in line with the new Learning and Development Strategy;
- Oversee the 2022 actuarial valuation.

Local Pension Board Spending for 2021/2022

Expenditure	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Forecast Outturn £	2021/22 Outturn Variance £	2021/22 Outturn Variance %
Independent Adviser	6,090	7,300	1,210	19.9%
Room hire and catering	660	370	(290)	-43.9%
Training and Development	6,000	3,540	(2,460)	-41.0%
Member travel expenses	500	110	(390)	-78.0%
Printing and Postage (Agendas etc.)	750	0	(750)	-100.0%
Total	14,000	11,320	(2,680)	-243.1%

The forecast outturn against the budget for 2021/22 is £11,320 which represents an under-spend of (£2,680).

The expenditure in relation to the Independent Adviser includes fees for additional services in relation to the work on member learning and development, and travel and subsistence expenses for the latter half of the year following the return to meetings being held in person.

The remaining under-spends reflect reductions in various running costs arising from things such as holding meetings online in the first half of the year, the continuing move to paperless, and the new office accommodation enabling meetings to be held in our own venue.