

Subject	Governance, Regulatory and Policy Update	Status	For Publication
Report to	Authority	Date	04 September 2025
Report of	Head of Governance & Corporate Services		
Equality Impact Assessment	Not Required	Attached	No
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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Authority members with an update on current governance related activity and regulatory matters.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Authority Members are recommended to:
a. Note the updates included in this report.

3 Link to Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objective:

Effective and Transparent Governance

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

- 3.2 The contents of this report are part of the arrangements in place to ensure good governance.

4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register

- 4.1 The actions outlined in this report relate to actions that will contribute to addressing risks around regulatory compliance.

5 Background and Options

This report provides updates on current activities and regulatory matters relevant to the Authority's overall governance framework.

Governance and Training Strategy

- 5.1 The 'LGPS – Fit for the Future' consultation and outcomes include the requirement for administering authorities to prepare and publish a governance and training strategy, to replace the current governance compliance statement. This new strategy will set out

the approach to governance, knowledge and training, member representation, and conflicts of interest; and set out objectives and planned actions in these areas, to be reviewed at least once every valuation period.

- 5.2 In responding to consultation feedback, the government clarified their recognition of a concern about the length of this if it is a single document and clarified that the requirement will be for a strategy for governance (including member representation), a training strategy, and a conflicts of interest policy, which may be combined. It was also confirmed that this need not necessarily be updated to coincide with triennial valuation, the government will not prescribe when reviews should happen. The Authority is in a strong position to meet the requirements as we have these policies in place already and now await the detailed guidance to implement. Officers will provide further updates when available.

Authority Membership and L&D Update

- 5.3. Councillor Charity from City of Doncaster Council has stood down from the Authority. The City of Doncaster Council has appointed Councillor John Reed to take his place and to be designated as the Section 41 member for Doncaster.
- 5.4. New members are on track to complete their core training by the end of September to ensure the Authority is fully compliant.
- 5.5. Individual member learning and development plans were introduced from April this year. The governance team are liaising with members to complete a self-assessment form and undertake one-to-one meetings to discuss and plan for individual training requirements for the year ahead. The plans will also start to inform the team of any common trends of training and skills gaps that need to be considered in the wider context of the Member L&D Strategy.

Border to Coast Conference

- 5.6. The Authority has seen the most successful attendance confirmation for the 25 and 26 September Border to Coast Annual Conference. 10 members have confirmed attendance across the LPB and Authority members.

New Website for LGPS administrators and employers

- 5.7. The LGA Pensions team has started a project to develop new websites for LGPS administrators and employers in England and Wales and Scotland. These will replace the existing websites. The LGA would like to work with stakeholders to hear how they use the current websites, any problems they have encountered with the existing websites and receive feedback on proposed changes, improvements and new features. Officers in the teams here at the Authority will feed views into this as relevant.

Gender Pensions Gap roundtable event

- 5.10. In June the Scheme Advisory Board hosted a roundtable event. The event brought together industry figures and a cross-section of the public sector pensions to discuss the 18 proposals in the Access and Fairness consultation covering the Gender Pensions Gap and wider pensions adequacy issues. The group received presentations on how to ensure communication with scheme members could be improved, how scheme design can affect different groups and discussed how to respond to the ongoing MHCLG Access and Fairness consultation. The Assistant Director – Pensions has submitted a response on behalf of the Authority to this consultation.

Remote Attendance

- 5.11. Following a government consultation on a proposal to allow remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings, the government have published their response confirming an intention to legislate to support permanent provision in relation to both policies, when parliamentary time allows.
- 5.12 When legislation and any regulatory guidance have been laid, the Authority will be able to consider its own policy in this respect and update the Constitution as required. The Authority's response to the consultation was considered and approved at the December 2024 meeting of the Authority.

6. Implications

The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Human Resources	None.
ICT	None.
Legal	None.
Procurement	None.

Jo Stone

Head of Governance and Corporate Services & Monitoring Officer

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
N/a	