



LOCAL PENSION BOARD – 3 SEPTEMBER 2025
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024/25

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Local Pension Board's comments on the appended Annual Report and Accounts of the Pension Fund for the financial year 2024/25.

Background

2. There is a statutory requirement for the Annual Report and Accounts to be available on or before 1 December following the end of a scheme year. The Accounts are in the process of being audited and the Board and Local Pension Committee will be updated at the earliest possible opportunity on the opinion given by the Auditor once this process has been completed.
3. The Fund follows revised guidance published in May 2024 by the Scheme Advisory Board, Chartered Institute of Public Finances and Accountancy and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as it was formerly known, on details for the preparation and publication of the pension fund annual report as required in regulation 57 of the LGPS Regulations 2013.
4. Due to the Board's role in assisting the Administering Authority in ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration, it was considered appropriate to seek the Board's views on the report. Any comments from the Board will be considered by the Local Pension Committee at its meeting on 26 September 2025.

Ongoing areas of consideration

5. While the Fund has complied as far as possible with the revised guidance, one area states that Fund's 'must' report "*Investment performance net of fees for the 12 months corresponding to the accounting period for each fund manager or asset class must be reported alongside an appropriate benchmark chosen by the authority and the choice of benchmark must be stated.*" Whilst the Annual Report sets out performance against its benchmarks the Fund is unable to name the benchmarks used under the terms of the current contract with the Fund's performance information provider and the underlying benchmark providers.
6. New guidance also relates to a number of administration key performance indicators having been added. Due to report timing Table B on page 90 for 'casework key performance indicators' has not yet been completed. It is intended this will be available for consideration by the Local Pension Committee. The Fund's own casework key performance indicators are included below the table.

Next Steps

7. The Fund accounts are subject to external audit by Grant Thornton LLP. The External Audit of the Accounts is reported to the Corporate Governance Committee and the Chair of that Committee is required to sign a Letter of Representation assuring the auditors that the financial statements are complete, and that all required information has been disclosed in the accounts and to the external auditors.
8. The Local Pension Committee will consider the Annual Report and Accounts at its meeting on 26 September 2025. This will look to approve the annual accounts of the Fund subject to external audit, noting that the County Council's Corporate Governance Committee will receive the External Audit of the 2024/25 Leicestershire County Council Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and Pension Fund Accounts later in the year.
9. The pension fund Annual report and Accounts will go to the Pension Fund Annual General Meeting on 15 December 2025.

Leicestershire Pension Fund Conflict of Interest Policy

10. Whilst not a conflict of interest, it is worth noting that the County Council also invests funds with four managers with whom the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund invests, namely Partners Group, JP Morgan, DTZ investors and Christofferson Robb and Company (CRC). Decisions on the County Council's investments were made after the Fund had made its own commitments.

Recommendation

The Local Pension Board is asked to note the report.

Environmental Implications

11. The Leicestershire LGPS has developed a Net Zero Climate Strategy (NZCS) for the Fund. This outlines the high-level approach the Fund is taking to its view on Climate Risk. This will align with the Fund's Responsible Investment approach as set out in the Principles for Responsible Investment. The Fund is committed to supporting a fair and just transition to net-zero. Highlights from 2024/25 are included within the Annual Report and there are no changes to this approach as a result of this paper.

Equality Implications

12. There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Fund incorporates financially material Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") factors into investment processes. This has relevance both before and after the investment decision and is a core part of the Fund's fiduciary duty. The Fund will not appoint any manager unless they can show evidence that responsible investment considerations are an integral part of their decision-making processes. This is further supported by the Fund's approach to stewardship and voting through voting, and its approach to engagement in support of a fair and just transition to net zero. There are no changes to this approach as a result of this paper.

Human Rights Implications

13. There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Fund incorporates financially material Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") factors into investment processes. This has relevance both before and after the investment decision and is a core part of the Fund's fiduciary duty. The Fund will not appoint any manager unless they can show evidence that responsible investment considerations are an integral part of their decision-making processes. This is further supported by the Fund's approach to stewardship and voting through voting, and its approach to engagement in support of a fair and just transition to net zero. There are no changes to this approach as a result of this paper.

Appendix

Pension Fund Annual Report

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