

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced the requirement to have a Local Pensions Board to assist in the good governance of the scheme.

The Board met four times in 2023/24, 3 in-person meetings and 1 hybrid meeting. The Board consists of 4 Employer and 4 Member representatives. One Member representative role was vacant at the start of the year and remains vacant. Recruitment to fill this vacancy is in progress. An attendance rate of 89.29% has been achieved for this year.

All members of the Board have equal voting rights.

On 31 March 2024, the Board members were:

Scheme member representatives

- Peter Dearden
- Tina Pearce
- Ian Thompson (Vice-Chairman)
- Vacant

Scheme employer representatives

- Bev Black
- Roona Ellis (Chairman)
- Anna Rulton
- Jo Whiteley

Members of the Board are required to disclose any declarations of interest at the beginning of each Buckinghamshire Pension Board meeting.

In accordance with Section 248a of the Pensions Act 2004, every member of the Buckinghamshire Pension Board must be conversant with the rules of the scheme (the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations), and any document recording policy about the administration of the scheme which is for the time being adopted in relation to the scheme.

Pension Board members must also have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions, and such other matters as may be prescribed.

Accordingly, all members of the Board are encouraged to take advantage of the many training opportunities notified to them by Pensions Officers and to maintain their core knowledge via self-study using the Pension Regulator's Public Services toolkit for online learning. This includes modules on conflicts of interest, managing risk and internal controls, maintaining accurate member data, maintaining member contributions, providing information to members and others, resolving internal disputes and reporting breaches of the law.

Other training opportunities offered to and undertaken by Board Members include:

- CIPFA/ISIO Board Member events
- LGA Annual Governance Conference
- LGA Fundamentals Training Programme
- SAB workshop

- TPR Public Sector Toolkit e-learning

At the end of its eighth year since inception, the Board looked back at a busy and varied 12 months. The Board undertook annual reviews of:

- their Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct Policy, Conflicts Policy and the Knowledge and Understanding Framework,
- the Pension Fund Annual Report,
- the Pension Fund Governance Compliance Statement, and
- the Pension Fund Risk Register.

At each meeting of the Board, reports were presented and considered regarding:

- Pension Fund Administration Performance Statistics,
- Pension Fund Administration Year-end Updates,
- Pension Fund Committee agenda and minutes, and
- Pension fund performance.

Ad-hoc reports were presented and considered regarding:

- Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) Review,
- Annual Accounts Audit 2021/22; 2022/23
- Breaches of the Law,
- CIPFA Benchmarking,
- Cyber Policy,
- Employer Risk Analysis,
- My Pension Online,
- Internal Administration Benchmarking,
- Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure,
- McCloud Judgement,
- Scheme member and employer communications,
- TPR – General Code of Practice
- Training Opportunities.

In addition, the Board Chairman attended meetings of the Pensions Committee in an 'observer' capacity and had regular meetings with senior Officers to review Administration and Investments.

The Board Chairman reported that,

Elected Chair to insert update