

Friday, 03 November 2023

Democratic and Members' Services
Emma Duncan
Service Director: Legal and Governance

10:00

New Shire Hall
Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon
PE28 4YE

**New Shire Hall
[Venue Address]**

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

0. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
1. **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Guidance on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ccs-conduct-code>
2. **Minutes of the Local Pension Board held 30th June 2023 and Action Log** **5 - 12**
3. **Internal Audit Report 2022-23** **13 - 30**
4. **Administration Performance Report** **31 - 48**
5. **Pension Fund Annual Business Plan Update report 2023-24** **49 - 70**
6. **Governance and Compliance Report** **71 - 86**

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 7. | Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Potential Breaches of the Law Report | 87 - 104 |
| 8. | Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Cash Management Strategy | 105 - 120 |
| 9. | Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Board Agenda Plan | 121 - 122 |
| 10. | Exclusion of Press and Public
<i>To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the agenda contains exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)</i> | |
| 11. | Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information); | |
| 12. | Cyber Resilience and Data Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information); | |
| 13. | Additional Contribution Provider (AVC) administration and investment performance review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information); | |
| 14. | ACCESS Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information); | |

The County Council is committed to open government and members of the public are welcome to attend Committee meetings. It supports the principle of transparency and encourages filming, recording and taking photographs at meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens. These arrangements operate in accordance with a protocol agreed by the Chair of the Council and political Group Leaders which can be accessed via the following link or made available on request: [Filming protocol hyperlink](#)

Public speaking on the agenda items above is encouraged. Speakers must register their intention to speak by contacting [Democratic Services](#) no later than 12.00 noon three working days before the meeting. Full details of arrangements for public speaking are set out in Part 4, Part 4.4 of the Council's Constitution: [Procedure Rules hyperlink](#)

The Council does not guarantee the provision of car parking on the New Shire Hall site. Information on travel options is available at: [Travel to New Shire Hall hyperlink](#)

Meetings are streamed to the Council's website: [Council meetings Live Web Stream hyperlink](#)

The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Board comprises the following members:

Councillor Denis Payne (Chair) Mr Barry O'Sullivan (Vice-Chair) Val Limb Councillor Simon King and Councillor Geoffrey Seeff

Clerk Name:	Rhiannon Leighton
Clerk Telephone:	
Clerk Email:	rhiannon.leighton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Public Local Pension Fund Board Minutes

Date: 30 June 2023

Time: 10:00am – 11.53am

Venue: Virtual

Present: Employer Representatives: Councillors Simon King and Geoffrey Seeff
Employee Representatives: Barry O’Sullivan [Vice-Chair]

100. Election of Chair

As the current Chair, Councillor Payne, was unable to join the meeting, it was agreed to defer the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair items.

101. Election of Vice Chair

Item deferred.

102. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Denis Payne and Val Limb.

103. Local Pension Fund Board Minutes – 28 April 2023 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held 28 April were approved as a correct record.

With regard to item 98, the Vice Chair confirmed that he had attended the most recent ACCESS meeting as an observer and would feedback on this experience under the ACCESS update item.

The board noted the action log.

104. Local Pension Fund Board Minutes – 27 January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held 27 January were approved as a correct record.

105. Minutes of the Pension Investment Sub-Committee – 25 May 2023

The minutes of the Investment Sub-Committee meeting held 25th May were noted.

106. Administration Report

The Local Pension Fund Board received a report which set out the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund's performance for the period 1st April to 31st May 2023.

In April and May, targets were missed in the following areas:

- Payment of retirement benefits from active employment (Red/April).
- Payment of pension benefits from deferred membership status (Red/May);
- Provide a maximum of one estimate of benefits to employees per year on request (Amber/April)

During the Covid period, the Pension team had enjoyed a stable workforce, but since then there had been a number of staff leaving to take up new roles. New staff had been recruited but their inexperience in the team was an issue, but this was expected to improve. Additionally, there were a number of Maternity Leave covers coming up.

The following points were noted:

- At the April Board meeting, new KPIs had been developed looking at the customer experience. The Operations Manager was currently analysing initial results;
- The section of the report dealing with Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures (IDRP) had been reformatted, specifically in relation to separating out the Stage 1 and 2 Disputes;
- With regard to the overpayments section, officers gave detail on how the overpayment had occurred. An invoice had subsequently been raised, and the Board was reassured that checks had been carried out to ensure there were no similar cases, and that the current processes were very robust.

Arising from the report:

- In response to a question on the Stage 1 IDRP complaint of maladministration following delays in paying AVCs, it was confirmed that this was likely to be due to administrative delays within the team, rather than any issue with Prudential, the provider of AVCs for the Fund. Officers agreed to circulate a note to Board Members, and also confirmed that the situation with Prudential was now improving. Action required;
- Discussing the Stage 1 and Stage 2 IDRP disputes relating to the refusal to pay 50% widow's pension following the death of a pensioner, it was confirmed that these related to the same case. The case was currently at Stage 2, awaiting Monitoring Officer determination. If not upheld, the complainant could take the matter to the Pensions Ombudsman;

- With regard to the Overpayment, it was confirmed that the Fund could recover overpayments where there were errors and where the Fund had not been notified of a death. An invoice had been raised in this case, in line with the Overpayment of Entitlement policy. However, officers always ensured that any such financial demand did not cause hardship;
- A Member asked if there was any implication of not meeting the statutory targets. Officers explained that an internal breaches log was maintained so underperformance would be recorded, and these issues would be monitored and addressed accordingly;
- Observing that there appeared to be some outliers in terms of receipt of employer contributions in May and November 2022, a member asked if this situation had stabilised? Officers explained that they were generally not concerned with one-off late payments, especially where a good reason was given. Of more concern were patterns of persistent late payments, which was always closely monitored, and a number of actions were available to the team in those cases;
- A typo was noted in paragraph 10.1 – should “und” should read “Fund”;
- A Member asked about the circumstances surrounding Chorus Homes Group leaving the scheme, as Chorus were a major local employer. Officers agreed to check the details and circulate information if there was anything unusual with this cessation. **Action required;**
- With regard to Service Levels and statutory requirements in connection with deferred pensions, a Member commented that presumably the team had sophisticated computer systems which calculates dates when pensions fall due, and he asked how this deferred pension issue had arisen. Officers advised that deferred pensions were usually straightforward, as they were not potentially waiting information e.g. from the Employer’s payroll. For that reason, it was unusual to see Red KPIs in relation to Deferred Pensions. The circumstances of this specific case were outlined;
- It was also noted that the Amber KPIs mainly related to the challenging targets the Fund had set itself, compared to industry standards e.g. a five day target compared to an industry standard of twenty days.

It was resolved to note the Administration Performance Report.

107. Business Plan Update

The Committee considered an update to the Business Plan, which set out progress against key activities.

The reprocurement of pensions administration and pensioner payroll platform was a critical action this year. The closing date for the Competition exercise had passed and more than one software supplier had come forward.

With regard to the processing of undecided leaver records, progress on achieving the number of aged cases has been significantly slowed down as a result of the Government Actuary's Department issuing an instruction not to process entitlement for those members who are entitled to a refund or a cash transfer value until they have recalculated the factors used in cash transfer value calculations. The new factors had been provided at the end of May and work on this backlog would start shortly. More broadly, AON had been asked to undertake a review of processes around undecided leavers, to ensure there were no further efficiencies to be gained in this area.

With regard to unprocessed leaver records, it was noted that this figure could be artificially inflated, e.g. following a pay award after a member had left, which effectively appeared as a new record on the Payroll system. New processes were being introduced so that this would not be an issue going forward.

The report was welcomed. A Member asked if headway was being made on reducing the backlog of Undecided leavers. Officers explained that the original backlog had been reducing but new aged cases had arisen from "Business As Usual" activities. Additional resources had been allocated to that team and this was starting to feed through. The AON review of those processes would be helpful in providing an independent view and ascertaining whether this was a process issue, or a broader issue relating to resources, performance or quality of data received from scheme employers.

It was resolved to note the Business Update.

108. Governance and Compliance Report

The Local Pension Fund Board received a report which provided information on governance and compliance issues.

Members were reminded that there had been a project reset on the Pensions Dashboard Programme, and there had been a recent announcement confirming there would be a single connection deadline of 31 October 2026. The staging deadline elements of the proposals would not be set out in legislation but would be issued as guidance, with 31 October 2026 as the absolute deadline for completion. The Fund was waiting for guidance from the Money and Pensions Service and DWP, which should include this staging timeframe. The message was to continue with data improvement and ensure that the level of data quality was good. Members were reminded that the Data Improvement Plan had been considered at the April meeting of the Board. There were some regional discussions taking place with peers e.g. regarding the AVC elements, with a view to identifying potential solutions.

The new consultation for the McCloud Remedy now been launched, focusing on technical issues, and the Fund would be submitting a consultation response. The LGA had published a consultation response earlier this week. It was agreed that the final consultation response would be circulated to members. **Action required.**

A report on the Gender Pensions Gap within the LGPS had been published in March. There was limited scope in terms of what Funds could do, as this was more of an Employer issue, but it was envisaged that it would have useful communication and engagement elements.

In March 2023 the Pension Fund Committee had agreed that all policies and strategies would be reviewed by the Committee on a three-year cycle, with officer reviews to be conducted, largely annually. To ensure transparency and oversight, amendments deemed immaterial would be provided to the Committee in advance of implementation and to the Board to note, to ensure that all members had oversight of the changes being made.

The new LGPS Online Learning Academy platform was now live, and Members were encouraged to ensure they could sign in and navigate the platform. It was agreed that this information would be resent to Cllr King and Mr O'Sullivan. Action required.

One Member expressed strong concerns that all the external events in the Training Plan only offered face to face attendance, which he found astonishing given the increasing importance of environmental considerations. He observed that only one event, a governance conference, offered hybrid attendance. Officers agreed to feed back on this point, but suggested that it was probably due to the sponsorship model which supported most of these external events. The Board and Committee's desire to have virtual or hybrid training was reflected in the internal training programme. The Vice Chair commented that from a personal perspective, he gained a great deal from attending these external events in person, especially in terms of networking opportunities.

It was resolved to note the Governance and Compliance Report.

109. Training Strategy

The Board reviewed the Pension Fund Training Strategy. Due to the change in approach to the Fund's core training requirements, officers had reviewed the Strategy to ensure the new approach was appropriately reflected, and expectations were clear.

It was noted that the main CIPFA Knowledge and Skills framework would now include reference to the Hymans Robertson Online Training Academy. The timescales set out in the revisions were noted i.e. six months for the Pensions Regulator's e-learning Toolkit, twelve months for the Online Training Academy and three months for the current issues modules. The Strategy would be reviewed in twelve months, by which stage all mandatory training should have been completed, and feedback could be reviewed. It was stressed that bespoke training would still be appropriate as issues emerged. Officers would be emailing members once the Strategy was live, and it was confirmed that the twelve month Academy timescale had not yet commenced.

The Board indicated their support for the Strategy. It was suggested that in-person training session could be scheduled on the same date as the Board's annual face to face meeting.

It was resolved to review the Strategy.

110. Agenda Plan

It was confirmed that the November meeting would be in-person, but that provisions could be made for a hybrid meeting in case any Member was unable to physically attend.

It was confirmed that election of Chair and Vice Chair would be considered at the November meeting.

The agenda plan was noted.

111. Exclusion of Press and Public

It was resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the agenda contained exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

112. Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Monitoring

The Board reviewed the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Register.

It was resolved to review the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Register.

111. ACCESS Update

The Board received an update on the ACCESS Asset Pool.

It was noted that observers had attended the last meeting on 5th June, including Cllr King (remotely) and Mr O'Sullivan.

It was resolved to note the report.

The Vice Chair was thanked for ably chairing the meeting.

Chair

Cambridgeshire Local Pension Board Minutes Action Log

This is the updated action log as at 19 October 2023 and captures the actions arising from the most recent Cambridgeshire Local Pension Board meeting and updates Members on the progress on compliance in delivering the necessary actions.

Minutes 30th June 2023

Minute number	Report Title	Action for	Action	Comment	Status
106.	Administration Report	Michelle Oakensen	Officers agreed to circulate a note to Board Members regarding the AVC IDRPs dispute.		Completed. Details circulated 4 July 2023.
			Officers agreed to check the details of the Chorus Homes cessation and circulate the information.		Completed. Details circulated 19 September 2023.
108.	Governance and Compliance Report	Michelle Oakensen	It was agreed that the final McCloud consultation response would be circulated to members.		Completed. Consultation response circulated 3 July 2023.
			It was agreed that details of the online training platform registration information would be resent to Cllr King and Mr O'Sullivan.		Completed. Details confirmed 30 June 2023.
111.	ACCESS Update	Mark Whitby	It was agreed that officers would write to the ACCESS Chair on the preference for face-to-face attendance, having agreed a form of words with the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor King.		Completed. The issue was raised with the Chair of the ACCESS Joint Committee with the response being to continue with face-to-face meetings at this time. Feedback had been sought from those attending in person and the consensus was a positive experience and benefits to attending in person. A planned formal review is due in March 2024 where this issue will be considered again.

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund

Pension Fund Board

Date: 3rd November 2023

Report by: Internal Audit

Subject: Internal Audit Report 2022-23

Purpose of the Report: To present the findings of Internal Audit work covering the period 2022-23.

Recommendations: The Board are asked to note the Internal Audit work covering the period 2022-23.

Enquiries to: Scott Peasland – Audit Manager
Scott.Peasland@westnorthants.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes. The work of Internal Audit complements and supports the work of external auditors in forming their opinion on the financial accounts.
- 1.2 The administration of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund is audited annually to provide appropriate assurance to senior management, Members and key stakeholders. Each year the scope of work is assessed and on occasion is extended, as it was for the 2021-22 audit, to ensure it addresses the key elements and covers appropriate areas of risk, whilst avoiding any duplication of assurance provided by others.

2. Report Content

- 2.1 The audit assessed the adequacy of design and implementation of controls for the administration of the pension fund covering the period 2022-23. Based on the completion of the work undertaken by the WNC Audit and Risk Management Service, a **substantial** opinion assurance was given in respect of the control environment/ system in place, and a **substantial** assurance opinion for compliance. The full report is included as Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Internal Audit findings were noted by the Pension Fund Committee on 4 October 2023.

3. Relevant Fund Objectives

- 3.1 The audit work undertaken was designed to support the Pension Service in achieving its objectives through the effective management of risk. The work therefore supports all of the objectives of the Pension Service, in particular.

Manage the Fund in a fair and equitable manner, having regard to what is in the best interest of the Fund's stakeholders, particularly the scheme members and employers. *Objective 2*

Continually monitor and measure clearly articulated objectives through business planning. *Objective 4*

Continually monitor and manage risk, ensuring the relevant stakeholders are able to mitigate risk where appropriate. *Objective 5*

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 Good governance ensures that the Pension Fund is appropriately managed and has oversight by audit to ensure transparency.
- 4.2 The risks associated with failing to independently assess the Pension Fund has been captured in the Fund's risk register as detailed below.

Risk Mitigated	Residual Risk
Contributions to the Fund are not received on the correct date and/or for the correct amount. (Risk 4)	Amber
Risk of fraud and error. (Risk10)	Green
Failure to understand and monitor risk and compliance. (Risk11)	Green
Failure to administer the scheme in line with regulations and guidance. (Risk17)	Green
Incorrect/poor quality data held on the Pension Administration and Payroll platforms or delays with receiving information leading to incorrect information/delayed provision of information to members and stakeholders. (Risk14)	Amber

4.3 Please see full details of the [Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Register](#)

5. Finance & Resources Implications

5.1 There are no finance or resource implications associated with this report.

6. Communication Implications

Direct Communications: The work of auditors is transparent and reported to the Pension Committee.

Website: The report will also be published on internet.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The requirement for an Internal Audit function derives from section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. All principal local authorities and other relevant bodies subject to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in England should make provision for Internal Audit in accordance with the Code.

8. Consultation with Key Advisers

8.1 Consultation with the Fund's advisers was not required for this report.

9. Alternative Options Considered

9.1 Not applicable

10. Background Papers

10.1 Not applicable

11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Report: Administration of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund 2022-23

Checklist of Key Approvals

Has this report been cleared by Head of Pensions?
Mark Whitby – 19/10/2023

Internal Audit Final Report

Administration of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund 2022/23

Governance Opinion

Adequacy of System	Substantial
Compliance	Substantial
Organisational Impact of Findings	Minor

Report Issued	21/07/2023
----------------------	-------------------

Executive Summary

1 Background

- 1.1 The Pension Service based within West Northamptonshire Council administers the Cambridgeshire Local Government Pension Scheme.
- 1.2 The administration of the scheme is subject to an annual internal audit and for 2021/22 this was given substantial assurance for system design and satisfactory assurance for compliance. The respective audit report and assurance opinions were presented to the fund's Pension Committee and Pension Board during 2022.
- 1.3 Relevant statistics for the fund as reported in the 2021/22 Annual Report and Accounts are depicted in the following table:

Period end	No. of members	Active Employers	Value of assets
31 March 2022	92,635	349	£4.3 billion
31 March 2021	89,407	501	£3.9 billion

- 1.4 This audit forms part of the agreed 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan.

2 Scope of Audit and Approach

2.1 Scope

To provide assurance that the Pensions Service has effective arrangements in place with regards to the management and administration of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund, including the accuracy and timeliness of associated financial transactions.

The scope of the audit sought to determine whether:

- Appropriate systems are in place to ensure notification of new members and other changes (including transfers in) are recorded on the pensions systems accurately and on a timely basis.
- Mechanisms exist to ensure the correct contributions are received from employer organisations in line with agreed deadlines on a timely basis.
- Appropriate action is taken upon notification that a member has left the scheme.
- Pension payments are made accurately and in accordance with regulations and agreed procedures.
- Reconciliations related to Pensions are completed on a timely basis, with prompt action taken to clear unreconciled items.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) reported in Administration Performance reports are accurate.
- Appropriate procedures are in place to identify and report breaches of the law to the Pension Committee and Pension Board in the Administration Report.
- There is an up-to-date Risk Strategy and Risk Register in place which are monitored and reported on at appropriate intervals.

2.2 Approach

To move away from historic routine systems documentation, testing and control evaluation, a different approach was adopted to the audit review this year.

The initial stage of the approach involved the undertaking of an assessment with the help of management to document and understand the following aspects in each of the areas covered within the scope of this audit:

- Significant changes in staff / IT systems / activity including transaction volumes
- Current / future risks relating to these areas
- Where and how management gets its assurance that the identified risks are being effectively managed
- Implementation of prior year recommendations
- Any areas of management concern

This evaluation and mapping approach enabled us to assess the level of assurance and risk within each aspect of the administration process with a view to then determining and agreeing with management the areas requiring further audit attention, which may involve i.e. walk-through and/or compliance testing, as deemed appropriate.

2.3 Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of staff consulted, for their assistance and co-operation during this review.

3 Internal Audit Opinion and Main Conclusions

- 3.1 The review has confirmed that the current arrangements largely ensure that adequate controls are in place for achieving the eight key control objectives listed in 2.1 above. Therefore, the assurance opinion given to system design is one of **Substantial Assurance**. This opinion takes into account areas already recognised for improvement by management which are currently being actioned, including the imminent introduction of the new workflow design for dealing with year-end queries reconciliations, the development of complementary customer journey KPIs, and the monitoring of potential breaches of the law arising from the commissioned AON review into this area, which will further enhance the control environment.
- 3.2 Overall, the review found good levels of compliance with the expected control procedures, as confirmed by our testing. Therefore, the assurance given to procedural compliance is **Substantial**.
- 3.3 The organisational impact of the findings is **Minor**. This reflects the fact that whilst a small number of improvements are being implemented, which are considered to have a limited impact on the operations of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund.
- 3.4 **Recommendations**
There are no recommendations arising from this review as areas identified for improvement are already being actioned by management.
- 3.5 **2021/22 Audit recommendations - Follow-up**
The 2021/22 final report highlighted five issues for management action. Four issues have now been actioned and the other which relates to the annual reconciliation of outstanding employer data submission checks and validation is currently work in progress as it is scheduled for July/August (See paragraph 4.3).

DETAILED FINDINGS

4 Assurance Area - Recording new starters / changes (incl: transfers in)

Control Objective (1) - Appropriate systems are in place to ensure notification of new members and changes (including transfers in) are recorded on the pensions systems accurately and on a timely basis.

- 4.1 Employers are responsible for notifying the Pensions Fund of any employees who wish to join the pension scheme. This information is currently received by Pensions through two mechanisms:
- Electronic data submissions via I-connect, which is a system which interfaces with the pensions system.
 - Manual forms from employees and employers, although these are very rare.
- 4.2 Irrespective of the mechanism, checks are undertaken to ensure that only correct and complete records are uploaded into the pensions system (Altair), which are then used to create the member record. This includes:
- Independent checks on manual information input onto the pensions system by Pension Officers, and
 - Checks to ensure that electronic data received is accurately transferred to the pensions system. This includes ensuring that all submissions received from employers have been processed and that any rejected data is investigated and resolved.
- 4.3 At the time of reporting the Pensions Service was commencing the annual reconciliation for all employer submissions to be able to confirm the number of queries that they will need to raise with scheme employers as to the quality and accuracy of their submitted data for the 2022/23 financial year. The service has introduced improvements to the process of querying the year end data with the employer by:
- Creating query tasks on each individual member's record which can be reported on using the system's reporting tool, Insights. This replaces the use of multiple spreadsheets used by different officers.
 - Establishing a workflow so that a query on an individual's record can be tracked and reported on to check progress and whether the employer needs chasing for a response and/or escalating via the Funds' escalation policy. Insights reporting will easily detail this information.
 - Forming a permanent and auditable record of how the query was resolved.
- 4.4 New members who wish to transfer in from another pension scheme can do so providing defined procedures are followed. Walkthrough testing of a transfer into the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (CPF) confirmed that the following controls were operating effectively:
- A transfer in request was made within one year and a form was on file signed by the member.
 - If a transfer in request was made outside one year, the request has to be referred to the Head of Pensions to agree for the transfer to proceed.
 - A calculation of the transfer in value is on file which has been subject to independent review and authorisation.
 - The pension certificate has been provided by the previous pension provider.
 - The correct payment had been received from the previous pension provider.
 - The member's pension record on the Altair system had been updated accurately and the member notified.

5 Assurance Area - Contributions

Control Objective (2) - Mechanisms exists to ensure the correct contributions are received from employer organisations in line with agreed deadlines on a timely basis.

- 5.1 **Monthly Employer Contributions** - A clearly defined process is in place to oversee the monthly payment of employer contributions to the CPF. Employers submit details of their contributions each month on a PEN18 electronic return. The PEN18s system checks that employer contributions received agree to actuary percentage rates for pensionable pay for employer's contributions. This system is automated so that when the data is fed into the system it calculates the amount due based on pensionable pay, this is then compared to the amount received. A check is also completed at the same time to monies received. Where variances occur, the employer is contacted and they either adjust the next payment or invoice the employer.
- 5.2 Monthly performance data for the year 2022/23 ("CPF March 2023 Late Payments Stats" - the source document from which this information is derived is the Contribution Monitoring Sheet) was provided by the Principal Finance Technician. Review of this highlighted the monthly collection rates for the year April 2022 – March 2023 was 100% for all months, except March 2023 which was 99.4%. This information is submitted to the Governance Team on a regular basis and it is presented to the Pensions Committee/Board. At the end of June 2023, the Board received the Administration Report which included at Appendix B monthly collection rates for May 2022- April 2023 – all 100% except for March 2023.
- 5.3 **Annual Employer Reconciliations** - In addition to the monthly reconciliation of the receipt of employer contributions, an annual reconciliation of employer and member contributions to payments received takes place around July/ August in the following financial year. This takes place for employers who do not have access to the I-Connect system and manually submit an annual return. The Principal Finance Technician confirmed that there were no adjustments or differences out of tolerance levels for 21/22.

6 Assurance Area - Leaving the pension scheme

Control Objective (3) - Appropriate action is taken upon notification that a member has left the scheme.

- 6.1 Employers notify the Pensions Team when an employee leaves and the member's pension is then "deferred" until payments are due. Action is taken if a request or event takes place. These are considered below.
- 6.2 **Transfers Out** - former members who wish to transfer out to another pension scheme are able to do so providing defined procedures are followed. The following controls are operational where it is to another LGPS England and Wales Pension Fund:
- A transfer out request form signed by the member is received if applicable.
 - Payment request received from Pension Fund.
 - Documentation from the employer / payroll to confirm the member had left their pensionable employment.
 - A calculation of the transfer out value is subject to review and authorisation.
 - The payment had been made to the appropriate Pension Fund.

The following controls are operational where it is to another pension scheme.

- Member issued information on pension scams.

- A signed transfer out request form was on file signed and final sign off (if applicable) received from the member.
- Confirmation of independent advice is received, where the total transfer is more than £30K.
- Documentation from the employer / payroll to confirm the member had left their pensionable employment.
- Due diligence checks carried out based on TPR (The Pensions Regulator) and LGA guidance.
- A calculation of the transfer out value is subject to review and authorisation. All actual transfers are currently reviewed and checked by the quality assurance officer.
- The payment is made to the new pension provider.

Walkthrough testing of a transfer out of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (CPF) confirmed that the expected controls in relation to that transfer were operating effectively.

- 6.3 **Death** - certain procedures must be followed on the death of a pensioner member of the scheme.
- A death certificate or other official notification (e.g. tell us once) is obtained.
 - The pension is stopped on a timely basis.
 - A reconciliation is completed and independently checked to confirm if over / under payments had occurred and appropriate action then taken based on the findings.
 - The pensioner's records on the Altair System are "closed" where appropriate to do so.

Walkthrough testing of a death of a member of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (CPF) confirmed that the expected controls in relation to that death were operating effectively.

- 6.4 The CPF Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy - March 2022 (Section 10) has details of ongoing procedures that address the risk of payments being made to pensioners after their death.

7 Assurance Area - Pension Payments

Control Objective (4) - Pension payments are made accurately and in accordance with regulations and agreed procedures.

- 7.1 **New Pensioners** - Pension payments can be set up for both new and dependent pensioners. For a new pensioner, the Pensions Team will initially seek confirmation that the member has left their pensionable employment. This information can either be provided by the employer or through Payroll. The Pensions Team then seek to validate key information including the member's date of birth, length of service, marital status and pay details. This information is then used to calculate the pension payments (lump sum where applicable and monthly) and then the monthly payment set up on the pension payroll. Both the calculation and setting up on the pension payroll are subject to independent checks for accuracy and then payment. The pensioner is notified, and payments made accordingly.

Walkthrough testing of a new pensioner of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (CPF) confirmed that the expected controls in relation to that status were operating effectively.

- 7.2 **Dependents**- following the death of a pensioner / member in service there is a need to seek official notification that the member has died, confirming the status of the dependent, performing a calculation, and a senior review of potential death grants and monthly payments (which also require authorised payroll set up), together with notification of the dependents of these. Walkthrough testing of a new dependent of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (CPF) confirmed that the expected controls in relation to that status were operating effectively.

- 7.3 **Overseas Pensioner Payments** – Section 10.1 CPF Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy - March 2022 requires annual proof of existence for overseas pensioner members including that all pensioner

members are asked to complete and return a proof of existence form (witnessed by a suitably qualified professional).

Walkthrough testing of an overseas pensioner of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (CPF) confirmed that the expected control in relation to that status was operating effectively.

- 7.4 **Annual Uplift** - the annual uplift of pension payments is completed based on information provided by central government – Public Service Information Sheet (PSIS) Tables in an Excel sheet format. The updated PSIS values are input by a Pension System Analyst to a table in the Altair system and an uplift process run - both in the test and live environments – calculates the increase in pension required. The output which is used to update the payroll data with the increases are checked by another Pensions System Analyst to ensure the changes are complete and accurate before updating the live payroll system. We were provided with evidence by one of the Pension System Analysts that this process was successfully completed for 2022/23.

8 Assurance Area - Reconciliations

Control Objective (5) - Reconciliations related to Pensions are completed on a timely basis, with prompt action taken to clear unreconciled items.

- 8.1 **Bank Reconciliations** – The Pension Fund has four NatWest bank accounts, namely:
- 1) Payables
 - 2) Income
 - 3) Reserves
 - 4) Salaries
- 8.2 Monthly reconciliations of all four bank accounts are undertaken by the WNC Business Systems and Change Team.
- 8.3 A review of two months (September 2022 and February 2023) reconciliations for all four bank accounts completed by the Business Systems and Change Team highlighted that all had all been completed on a timely basis and included appropriate supporting documentation (bank statements and system extracts to support entries in the reconciliations). Unreconciled items were generally cleared on a timely basis. Different officers in the Business Systems and Change Team had completed (Business Support Officer) and reviewed (Business Systems Team Leader) the reconciliations for September 2022 and February 2023 ensuring adequate separation of duties.
- 8.4 **Payroll Control Accounts** - A walkthrough test to confirm that the WNC Payroll Control Account - Creditors Others - ZPR04 Reconciliation for March 2023 (which contains amongst others reconciling creditor entries for each of the payroll clients (WNC, NNC, and CCC) – ie employee payroll pension deductions and employer contributions which have to be paid over to the pension funds) had been completed and, that those reconciling items relating to pension contributions due to the CPF have been paid over via PEN 18 submissions in a timely manner.
- 8.5 **Employer data submission reconciliations** – See paragraph 4.3.

9 Assurance Area - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Control Objective (6) - KPIs reported in Administration Performance reports are accurate.

9.1 The Lead Authority SLA 2022/23 - Pensions Section sets out seven KPIs for scheme administration performance monitoring. This performance is regularly reported to the Pension Committee and Board.

9.2 The Quality Assurance Officer confirmed the process for providing performance information for reporting is as follows:

Workflow reports are run monthly on the Altair system. The required Service Level Agreement (SLA) information is extracted and then checked for accuracy. From this information, the following are updated:

- SLA Performance PowerPoint report, which details the total SLA figures for the fund for all the SLA casework.
- SLA “misses” which provides details of the reason why a case has missed the relevant SLA target and by how many days.
- An SLA administration report in the form of a spreadsheet for the fund, which provides the required committee SLA information and is issued to the Governance team to report to the committee.
- A Pensions KPI and volumes spreadsheet which provides the required lead authority SLA information for the fund, which is uploaded to SharePoint.
- All the SLA information is checked internally by the Operation Team Leaders and Operations Manager, before that information is provided to the Governance Team to be included in the Performance Administration report for committee submission or uploaded to SharePoint for the Lead Authority Board.

Note that in arriving at SLA “misses” a detailed exercise is undertaken as follows:

- Using the potential misses shown on a pivot table worksheet the relevant cases are pulled from the relevant Altair system report and then checked on Altair to see if they have missed the SLA or not. Not all cases listed will have missed the SLA and reasons why include:
 - Out of office awaiting information from member, employer etc.
 - Reply received date not entered onto a task. These are shown on the SLA misses spreadsheet to highlight training issues to the relevant Team Leader.
 - Other issues with the completion of tasks, which will also be shown on the SLA misses spreadsheet.
- The Operations Manager checks the SLA misses spreadsheet to see what reasons have been provided by the Team Leaders for missed targets to ensure appropriate actions are being taken to stop re-occurrence and to review and provide guidance on the correct classification on misses where this is sought from the Team Leaders.

9.3 Testing

Walkthrough testing of one KPI of the seven referred to at 9.1(Statutory - “Award Dependant Benefits”) reported for March 2023 was undertaken to verify compliance with the identified procedures. The results were:

- It had been reported to the Pension Board in April 2023. No issues were noted.
- The reported performance can be verified to underlying system records (higher level testing). No issues were noted.
- Whilst the KPI tested did not require direct intervention from the Operations Manager, we obtained confirmation that the Operations Manager had been checking

the SLA misses spreadsheet to observe what reasons had been provided by the Team Leaders for missed targets to ensure appropriate action had been identified to stop re-occurrence and, to assist with the review and reclassification the potential misses.

9.4 Development of KPIs – see Section 10 below.

10 Assurance Area - Breaches

Control Objective (7) - Appropriate procedures are in place to identify and report breaches of the law to the Pension Committee and Pension Board in the Administration Report.

- 10.1 The fund has a policy in place, “Reporting Breaches of the Law to the Pensions Regulator Policy 2022”, to identify and report breaches of the law to the Governance Manager, the S151 Officer, the Pensions Committee and Pension Board, and upwards to the Pensions Regulator. It will be reviewed again upon release of the new Code of Practice. It is available on the fund website - [Key documents \(NCC\) - Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire LGPS](#)
- 10.2 The Governance and Regulations Manager stated that following on from last year’s audit, complementary customer journey KPIs have been agreed by the Pension Committee at the March 2023 meeting and are being further developed during 2023/24, which will enhance reporting of statutory disclosure requirements and may lead to the identification of further immaterial breaches.
- 10.3 A review of all potential Breaches of the Law areas has been conducted by Aon. The next stage, following on from the KPI development is to map this against the processes and procedures to ensure compliance and report assurance accordingly to the Pension Committee and Pension Board. The current suite of KPIs will continue to be reported as these measure the performance of the administering authority, generally from the point of receipt of all information. The customer journey KPIs will measure performance from an event date, such as the date of retirement, and therefore encompass the performance of the administering authority, the scheme employer, any payroll contractor, other pension funds, and even the scheme member should they delay in sending back documentation. It is expected that the customer journey KPIs may identify immaterial breaches, especially where third parties have prevented the administering authority completing casework in a timely manner.
- 10.4 The CPF Pension Committee and Pension Board Agenda papers and minutes during 2022/23 were reviewed for evidence of the reporting of breaches. This confirmed regular reporting to the Pension Committee in the Administration Performance Report as follows- (June 2022; Oct 2022; Dec 2022; March 2023) and Pension Board (April 2022; July 2022; Nov 2022; Jan 2023) during the year. There was no material breach rated as red which required reporting to the Pensions Regulator - all the breaches reported to the committee and board had been classified as non-material.

11 Assurance Area - Risk Management

Control Objective (8) - There is an up-to-date Risk Strategy and Risk Register in place which are monitored and reported on at appropriate intervals.

- 11.1 An up-to-date Risk Strategy, the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Strategy (December 2022) and Risk Executive Summary (June 2023) is in place. Both documents are available on the fund website. [Key documents \(NCC\) - Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire LGPS](#)

Extract from - Section 11: Reporting and monitoring (Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Strategy (December 2022) - Progress in managing risks will be monitored and recorded on the risk register. The risk register, including any changes to the internal controls, will be provided on a quarterly basis to the Pension Fund Board and a biannual basis to the Pension Fund Committee. Pre scrutiny on the proposed changes is undertaken by the Board with final approval by the Pension Fund Committee.

11.2 Our review confirmed the following reporting on risk management in line with current agreed practice:

To the Pension Board as follows during 2022/23:

- April 2022 - Agenda - Exempt Item 9
- July 2022 - Agenda - Exempt Item 11
- November 2022 - Agenda - Exempt Item 10
- January 2023 - Agenda - Exempt Item 12

To the Pension Committee during 2022/23:

- June 2022 Meeting - Agenda - Exempt Item 15
- December 2022 Meeting – Agenda - Exempt Item 13

Review of the committee papers confirmed that the references to Risk Monitoring and Key Risks (Sections 10.5 and Section 12 respectively) to the effective delivery of the strategy within the current Risk Management Strategy are being addressed by the recognition of these in the Risk Registers which are presented to the committee and board.

Appendix 1 – Glossary / Definitions

There are three elements to consider when determining an assurance opinion as set out below.

1 Control Environment / System Assurance

The adequacy of the control environment / system is perhaps the most important as this establishes the key controls and frequently systems ‘police/ enforce’ good control operated by individuals.

Assessed Level	Definitions
Substantial	There are minimal control weaknesses that present very low risk to the control environment.
Good	There are minor control weaknesses that present low risk to the control environment.
Satisfactory	There are some control weaknesses that present a medium risk to the control environment.
Limited	There are significant control weaknesses that present a high risk to the control environment.
No Assurance	There are fundamental control weaknesses that present an unacceptable level of risk to the control environment.

2 Compliance Assurance

Strong systems of control should enforce compliance whilst ensuring ‘ease of use’. Strong systems can be abused / bypassed and therefore testing ascertains the extent to which the controls are being complied with in practice. Operational reality within testing accepts a level of variation from agreed controls where circumstances require.

Assessed Level	Definitions
Substantial	The control environment has substantially operated as intended with no notable errors detected.
Good	The control environment has largely operated as intended although some errors have been detected.
Satisfactory	The control environment has mainly operated as intended although errors have been detected.
Limited	The control environment has not operated as intended. Significant errors have been detected.
No Assurance	The control environment has fundamentally broken down and is open to significant error or abuse.

3 Organisational Impact

The overall organisational impact of the findings of the audit will be reported as major, moderate or minor. All reports with major organisational impact will be reported to ELT along with the relevant directorate's agreed action plan.

Organisational Impact of Findings	
Level	Definitions
Major	The weaknesses identified during the review have left the Council open to significant risk. If the risk materialises it would have a major impact upon the organisation as a whole.
Moderate	The weaknesses identified during the review have left the Council open to medium risk. If the risk materialises it would have a moderate impact upon the organisation as a whole.
Minor	The weaknesses identified during the review have left the Council open to low risk. This could have a minor impact on the organisation as a whole.

4 Findings prioritisation key

When assessing findings, reference is made to the Risk Management matrix which scores the impact and likelihood of identified risks arising from the control weakness found, as set out in the Management Action Plan.

For ease of reference, we have used a high/medium/low system to prioritise our recommendations, as follows:

Category	Definitions
Essential	Action is imperative to ensure that the objectives for the area under review are met.
Important	Requires actions to avoid exposure to significant risks in achieving objectives for the area.
Standard	Action recommended to enhance control or improve operational efficiency.

Distribution List

Full Report Issued for Action: Mark Whitby - Head of Pensions
Michelle Oakensen - Governance and Regulations
Manager

Full Report Issued for Information: Michael Hudson (Executive Director Finance &
Resources)
Martin Henry - Executive Director of Finance
(Section 151 Officer)

This audit and report have been prepared in line with the Internal Audit Manual and has been subject to appropriate review.

Head of Audit & Risk Management

Approval: Jen Morris - Head of Audit & Risk Management

Quality Reviewed: Jen Morris - Head of Audit & Risk Management
Scott Peasland - Audit Manager

Lead Auditor: Anand Persaud - Principal Auditor

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund

Pension Fund Board

3 November 2023

Report by: Head of Pensions

Subject: Administration Performance Report

Purpose of the Report: To present the Administration Performance Report to the Pension Fund Board for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023

Recommendations: The Pension Fund Board are asked to note the Administration Performance Report

Enquiries to: Michelle Oakensen
Governance and Regulations Manager
michelle.oakensen@westnorthants.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 One of the core functions of the Pension Fund Board is to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the scheme. This report covers key areas of administration performance for consideration by the Pension Fund Board.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the performance of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund.
- 2.2 The administration performance for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 is detailed in section 3.
- 2.3 The achievement against the Key Performance Indicators for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 are detailed in section 4 and appendix 1. The majority of KPIs were met over the period.
- 2.4 The progress of supplementary key performance indicators is detailed in section 5 and appendix 2.
- 2.5 Timeliness of receipt of employee and employer pension contributions for the payroll periods of September 2022 to August 2023 are detailed in section 6 and appendix 3. Over 99% of employer contributions were received on time in respect of the period September 2022 to August 2023. Details of contribution payments received late are detailed in appendix 4 (**exempt**).
- 2.6 Occurrences of breaches of the law for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 are detailed in section 7. There were no material breaches in the period.

- 2.7 Details of any Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure cases for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 are detailed in section 8. There are two concluded stage 2 administering authority disputes detailed.
- 2.8 Occurrences of material data breaches for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 are detailed in section 9. There were no data breaches that occurred during the period.
- 2.9 Details of any significant overpayment of pension for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 are detailed in section 10. There were no significant overpayments for the period.
- 2.10 Details of new employers admitted to the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund and those that have ceased are detailed in section 11 and appendix 5. Five transferee admission bodies were admitted to the Fund during the period and six scheme employers were reported as ceasing.

3. Administration Performance

- 3.1 During the period 1 June to 30 September 2023, 3 complaints were managed informally by the Operations Manager and 3 compliments were also recorded.
- 3.2 To put this into context, over the same period in excess of 10,048 calculation tasks were completed in connection with the Cambridgeshire Fund.
- 3.3 The Fund issues member surveys to scheme members where a check task has been completed on the workflow system. During the period 1 June to 30 September 2023, 648 surveys have been issued to Cambridgeshire members with response rates in the range of 7.28% to 19.79% over the period. Scheme members have given the Fund's administration an average rating of between 3.51/5.00 and 3.98/5.00 over the 4-month period. Note this rating is for Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Fund administration combined. All feedback is analysed, and changes implemented where necessary.

4. Key Performance Indicators – Pensions Service

- 4.1 The Fund has in place a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess the performance of the Pensions Service in the delivery of key items of casework. The actual performance against these KPIs for the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 can be found in appendix 1 along with the explanations for any underperformance.
 - 4.1.2 Over the 4-month period, 19 of the 28 KPI targets have been met.
 - 4.1.3 The team that processes retirement benefits and estimates had several contributing factors that led to KPIs being missed over the reporting period. The team contended with periods of annual leave and sickness and two inexperienced team leaders were receiving training in preparation to replace a leaver and a maternity cover in August. The team itself is inexperienced with ongoing training continuing to be delivered at different levels.
 - 4.1.4 Maternity leave across the wider Operations Team has impacted the ability to divert resources as required due to the back filing of those positions. In addition, following the release of the GAD factors, resource was allocated to clearing a divorce backlog.

4.1.6 Performance is expected to improve once the training requirements reduce at both officer and team leader level and skills and experience are embedded within the team, although this will not impact instantly, the results are expected to be seen by the end of the calendar year. The medium to long term plan is to increase multi-skilling to help with service resilience across teams.

5. Development of the Pension Service Key Performance Indicators

5.1 New and supplementary KPIs are being developed during 2023-24 to measure the overall customer journey as approved by the Committee in March and presented to the Board in April.

5.2 Initial test data has been produced in the following areas for July:
1) inform members who leave the scheme before retirement age of their right and options.
2) provide transfer details for transfer in.
3) provide transfer details of transfer value for transfer out.

5.3 Officers are analysing this information and identifying high level reasons for the customer journey outcomes. The Committee will be presented with the first customer journey KPIs in December and to the Board in January 2024. In the meantime, the full suite of KPIs being developed can be seen at appendix 2.

6. Receipt of Employee and Employer Contributions

6.1 Employers in the Fund have a statutory obligation to arrange for the correct deduction of employee and employer contributions and to ensure payment reaches the Pension Fund by the 19th of the month following the month of deduction. Providing an associated monthly statement/schedule in a format acceptable to the Administering Authority.

6.2 The table in appendix 3 shows the percentage of employers in the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund who paid their employee and employer contributions and/or submitted their schedules on time or late for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2023.

6.3 For May, June and August 100% of contributions were received on time, with 98.8% of contributions being received on time for July. The current yearly average for payments made on time is 99.7% and schedules being received on time is 99.5%.

6.4 Details of late contribution payments can be found in appendix 4 (**exempt**).

7. Breaches of the Law

7.1 There are various laws relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme, with various individuals, including the Pension Fund Board, having a statutory duty to report material breaches of the law to the Regulator. The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund maintains a record of both material breaches that are reported to the Pensions Regulator as well breaches that are deemed not to be of material significance and so are not reported to the Pensions Regulator.

7.2 For the period 1 June to 30 September 2023, the following breaches occurred:

Type of Breach	Detail of Breach	Course of action
Material Breaches	None	None
Non Material Breaches	21 refund of contribution payments were paid outside of the statutory 5-year period.	No further action at this stage, it is likely that the legislation surrounding this will be amended to remove the 5-year requirement.

8. Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure

- 8.1 Members, prospective members, and beneficiaries may not always agree with pension decisions that are made or may be unhappy that decisions have not been made, by either an administering authority or a scheme employer. The Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) is the route by which they may raise their concerns and challenge such decisions.
- 8.2 Disputes that are upheld at stage 1 may still progress to stage two if the scheme member or their representative remain unsatisfied with the overall outcome. The outcome may not fully meet the complainant's expectations – particularly if their perception is that their financial loss was greater than any compensation awarded, or the level of non-financial injustice award was not consistent with their expectation.
- 8.3 The following details that activity undertaken during the period 1 June to 30 September 2023 with regards to administering authority disputes.

Stage 1 disputes: None

Stage 2 disputes:

Nature of Stage 2 Dispute (CCC Monitoring Officer)	Date received	Date Decision Due	Stage 1 Decision: Upheld/not upheld/partially upheld	Date of Decision
Refusal to pay 50% widow's pension following death of a pensioner (relating to the Stage 1 decision made on 24 April 2023)	2 May 2023	1 July 2023	Upheld	14 July 2023
Challenging the process followed, in allowing a transfer to an overseas scheme to take place in 2015.	23 June 2023	16 October 2023 (extended from 22 August 2023)	Upheld	16 October 2023

- 8.4 There were no employer disputes raised/in progress during the period.

9. Material Data Breaches

- 9.1 Please refer to the separate Cyber Resilience and Data Protection report (exempt).

10. Significant overpayment of pension

10.1 None.

11. Employers Admissions and Cessations

11.1 The following transferee admission bodies were admitted to the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund:

- ABM Catering Limited
- Avocet Cleaning Services Limited
- Caterlink UK Limited
- Easy Clean Contractors Limited
- Innovate Services Limited
- Pabulum Catering Limited

11.2 The following bodies have ceased to be an employer within the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund:

- Aspens Services Limited
- Excellerate Services UK Ltd
- Nightingale Cleaning Limited
- Nourish Catering Limited
- Pabulum Catering Limited
- Sanctuary Housing Association

11.3 When an employer ceases to participate in the Fund, the Regulations require the administering authority to obtain a valuation of the assets and liabilities attributed to that employer to determine if there is a funding surplus or deficit. If a deficit exists, the employer must pay an exit payment to the Fund equal to the value of the deficit. If a surplus exists, the administering authority must make a determination of the amount of exit credit (which could be zero) should be paid to the exiting employer.

11.4 The Pension Fund Board is asked to note the update on the following previously reported cessations.

- ABM Catering Limited
- Chorus Homes Group Limited
- Friends Therapeutic Community Trust
- Serco Limited

11.5 Further details of each previously reported cessation can be located in Appendix 5.

12. Relevant Pension Fund Objectives

Have robust governance arrangements in place, to facilitate informed decision making, supported by appropriate advice, policies and strategies, whilst ensuring compliance with appropriate legislation and statutory guidance. *Objective 1*

Manage the Fund in a fair and equitable manner, having regard to what is in the best interest of the Fund's stakeholders, particularly the scheme members and employers. *Objective 2*

Ensure the relevant stakeholders responsible for managing, governing and administering the Fund, understand their roles and responsibilities and have the appropriate skills and knowledge to ensure those attributes are maintained in a changing environment. *Objective 3*

Continually monitor and measure clearly articulated objectives through business planning *Objective 4*

Continually monitor and manage risk, ensuring the relevant stakeholders are able to mitigate risk where appropriate. *Objective 5*

Put in place performance standards for the Fund and its employers and ensure these are monitored and developed as necessary. *Objective 8*

Administer the Fund in a professional and efficient manner, utilising technological solutions and collaboration. *Objective 10*

13. Risk Management

13.1 The Fund's Administration Strategy sets out the performance standards of both the scheme employer and the administering authority. The Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board are expected to monitor performance standards through information contained within the Administration Report which is presented at each meeting.

13.2 The mitigated risks associated with this report has been captured in the Fund's risk register as detailed below -

Risk	Residual risk rating
Information may not be provided to stakeholders as required.	Green
Those charged with governance are unable to fulfil their responsibilities effectively	Green
Failure to provide relevant information to the Pension Fund Committee/Pension Board to enable informed decision making	Green

13.3 The Fund's risk register can be found on the Pensions website at the following link: [Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Register.](#)

14. Communication Implications

Direct communications: The Fund publishes performance against the key performance indicators in the regular reports to the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board and in the Fund's Annual Report.

Employers of the Fund are guided through the admission process and directly kept up to date with requirements and progress.

Members who enter the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure are kept informed of progress within the statutory timescales.

15. Finance & Resources Implications

15.1 There are no financial and resource implications associated with this report.

15. Legal Implications

15.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

16. Consultation with Key Advisers

16.1 Consultation with the Fund's advisers was not required for this report.

17. Alternative Options Considered

17.1 Not applicable

18. Background Papers

18.1 Not applicable

19. Appendices

19.1 Appendix 1 Key Performance Indicators – Pensions Service

19.2 Appendix 2 Development of Key Performance Indicators during 2023/2024

19.3 Appendix 3 Receipt of Employee and Employer Contributions

19.4 Appendix 4 Details of late contribution payments (**exempt**)

19.5 Appendix 5 Update on previously reported cessations

Checklist of Key Approvals

Has this report been cleared by Head of Pensions

Mark Whitby – 16/10/23

Appendix 1 - Key Performance Indicators – Pensions Service June, July, August and September 2023

Function/Task	Indicator	Target	Month	Completed	Within Target	Over Target	% Within Target	RAG	Comments
Notify leavers of deferred benefit entitlement	Notify leavers of deferred benefit entitlements or concurrent amalgamation within 15 working days of receiving all relevant information.	90%	June	211	206	5	98	Green	SLA target met
			July	250	246	4	98	Green	SLA target met
			August	247	232	15	94	Green	SLA target met
			September	213	213	0	100	Green	SLA target met
Payment of retirement benefits from active employment	Notify employees retiring from active membership of benefits award, from date payable or date of receiving all necessary information if later within 5 working days.	95%	June	47	45	2	96	Green	SLA target met
			July	34	27	7	79	Red	SLA target not met*
			August	42	31	11	74	Red	SLA target not met*
			September	49	38	11	78	Red	SLA target not met*
Payment of pension benefits from deferred membership status	Notify members retiring from deferred membership status of benefits award, from date payable or date of receiving all necessary information if later within 10 working days.	90%	June	109	84	25	77	Red	SLA target not met*
			July	98	86	12	88	Amber	SLA target not met*
			August	86	59	27	69	Red	SLA target not met*
			September	82	66	16	80	Amber	SLA target not met*
Award dependant benefits	Issue award within 5 working days of receiving all necessary information.	95%	June	24	24	0	100	Green	SLA target met
			July	30	30	0	100	Green	SLA target met
			August	23	22	1	96	Green	SLA target met
			September	41	40	1	98	Green	SLA target met
Provide a maximum of one estimate of benefits to employees per year on request	Estimate in agreed format provided within 10 working days from receipt of all information.	90%	June	69	68	1	99	Green	SLA target met
			July	54	50	4	93	Green	SLA target met
			August	32	25	7	78	Red	SLA target not met**
			September	30	25	5	83	Amber	SLA target not met**

Provide transfer-in quote to scheme member	Letter issued within 10 working days of receipt of all appropriate information.	95%	June	39	39	0	100	Green	SLA target met
			July	67	67	0	100	Green	SLA target met
			August	21	21	0	100	Green	SLA target met
			September	25	25	0	100	Green	SLA target met
Payment of transfer out	Process transfer out payment – letter issued within 10 working days of receipt of all information needed to calculate transfer out payment.	90%	June	40	40	0	100	Green	SLA target met
			July	39	38	1	97	Green	SLA target met
			August	44	42	2	95	Green	SLA target met
			September	34	33	1	97	Green	SLA target met

* Payment of retirement benefits from active employment/payment of pension benefits from deferred membership status – several contributing factors that led to KPI targets being missed for June, July, August and September. The team contended with periods of annual leave and sickness and two inexperienced team leaders were receiving training in preparation to replace a leaver and a maternity cover in August. The team itself is inexperienced with ongoing training continuing to be delivered at different levels.

Maternity leave across the wider Operations Team has impacted the ability to divert resources as required due to the back filing of those positions. In addition, following the release of the GAD factors, resource was allocated to clearing a divorce backlog.

Performance is expected to improve once the training requirements reduce at both officer and team leader level and skills and experience are embedded within the team. The medium to long term plan is to increase multi skilling to help with service resilience across teams.

**Provide a maximum of one estimate of benefits to employees per year on request – the same team that processes retirements from active and deferred status are also responsible for the production of estimates and therefore the same factors apply for the missed targets in August and September.

Green: Equal to or above Service Level Agreement (SLA) target.

Amber: Below SLA target, but number completed within target is within 10% of the SLA target.

Red: Below SLA target and number completed within target is not within 10% of the SLA target

Appendix 2 - Development of Key Performance Indicators during 2023/2024

Activity	Statutory deadline	Current reporting	Proposal	Comment/progress
Provide basic scheme information to new joiners	2 months from date of joining / members request or within 1 month of being provided with 'Job holder information'	No specific KPI but breaches are identified and reported	To introduce a new KPI measured from the date of notification.	Reporting being developed.
Inform members who leave the scheme before retirement age of their rights and options	As soon as practical and no more than 2 months from date of initial notification	Measured from the date that all relevant information is received.	To introduce a supplementary KPI measured from date of notification.	Testing in progress – results expected for December Committee meeting.
Inform members who leave the scheme at or after retirement age of the benefits due	Within 1 month of retirement date where the member retires on or after normal pension age or within 2 months of retirement where the member retires before normal pension age	Measured from the date that all relevant information is received.	To introduce a supplementary KPI measured from date of notification.	Reporting being developed.
Provide transfer details for transfer in	2 months from date of request	Measured from the date that all relevant information is received.	To introduce a supplementary KPI measured from date of request.	Testing in progress – results expected for December Committee meeting.
Provide details of transfer value for transfer out	3 months from date of request	Measured from the date that all relevant information is received.	To introduce a supplementary KPI measured from date of request.	Testing in progress – results expected for December Committee meeting.

Appendix 2 - Development of Key Performance Indicators during 2023/2024

Activity	Statutory deadline	Current reporting	Proposal	Comment/progress
Calculate and notify dependant(s) of amount of death benefits	As soon as possible, but in any event no more than 2 months of date or becoming aware of death	Measured from the date that all relevant information is received.	To introduce a supplementary KPI measured from date of death notification.	Reporting being developed.
Provide a CETV quotation for divorce purposes	Within 3 months of the request (or shorter deadline as specified in a court order)	Not currently reported on. There is a target in the Administration Strategy.	To introduce a new KPI measured from date of request.	Reporting being developed.
Notify implementation information after receiving a pension sharing order (and no outstanding information)	Within 21 days of the later of, the date of receipt of the pension sharing order or the day on which the order takes affect or the date of receipt of the relevant documents / information.	Not currently reported on.	To introduce a new KPI measured from the relevant date.	Reporting being developed.

Appendix 3- Receipt of Employee and Employer Contributions

Month/Year	% of Employers Paid on Time	% of Employers Paid Late	% of Employers that Submitted Schedule on Time	% of Employers that Submitted Schedule Late
September 2022	99.2	0.8	99.6	0.4
October 2022	99.8	0.2	99.8	0.2
November 2022	98.5	1.5	98.5	1.5
December 2022	99.8	0.2	99.8	0.2
January 2023	100	0	99.6	0.4
February 2023	99.8	0.2	100	0
March 2023	100	0	100	0
April 2023	100	0	100	0
May 2023	100	0	100	0
June 2023	100	0	100	0
July 2023	98.8	0.2	97.0	3.0*
August 2023	100	0	100	0
Average for period	99.7	0.3	99.5	0.5

* July schedule submissions are higher than expected due to one payroll provider having a genuine issue with unexpected illness.

Appendix 5: Update on previously reported cessations

- **ABM Catering Limited (Eynesbury Primary School)**

The cessation of ABM Catering Limited (Eynesbury Primary School) was originally reported at the June 2023 meeting of the Pension Fund Committee. The actuarial assessment as at the exit date identified a funding surplus of £15,000.

Following an exit credit determination, as required by, and considering the factors listed under section 64 (2ZC) of the Regulations, the Administering Authority has determined that the amount of exit credit payable to ABM Catering Limited is £6,000. The exiting employer has been informed of the decision.

The Fund is making arrangements for the exit payment to be paid.

- **Chorus Homes Group Limited**

The cessation of Chorus Homes Group Limited was originally reported at the June 2023 meeting of the Pension Fund Committee. The actuarial assessment at the date of exit noted that Chorus Homes' assets were within the lower and upper bounds of the funding corridor so therefore no exit payment or exit credit is required. Chorus Homes have been discharged of all obligations to the Fund.

- **Friends Therapeutic Community Trust**

The cessation of Friends Therapeutic Community Trust was originally reported at the June 2023 meeting of the Pension Fund Committee. The actuarial assessment at the date of exit noted that Friends Therapeutic Community Trust's assets were within the lower and upper bounds of the funding corridor so, therefore no exit payment or exit credit is required. Friends Therapeutic Community Trust have been discharged of all obligations to the Fund.

- **Serco Limited (Peterborough County Council IT)**

The cessation of Serco Limited (PCC) was originally reported at the December 2020 meeting of the Pension Fund Committee. The cessation assessment identified a funding surplus of £1,137,000.

Following an exit credit determination, as required by, and considering the factors listed under section 64 (2ZC) of the Regulations, the Administering Authority has determined that the amount of exit credit payable to Serco is nil. The exiting employer has been informed of the decision and its right to appeal the decision.

Cambridgeshire
Pension Fund

Pension Fund Board.

Date: 3 November 2023.

Report by: Head of Pensions

Subject: Pension Fund Annual Business Plan Update report
2023/24

Purpose of the Report: To present the Business Plan Update.

Recommendation: The Pension Fund Board is asked to:
1) note the Business Plan Update.
2) note the new Business Plan activities at 3.18 and 3.19.

Enquiries to: Mark Whitby
Head of Pensions
mark.whitby@westnorthants.gov.uk

1. Background.

1.1 Good governance requires that updates to the pre-agreed Annual Business Plan and Medium-Term Strategy are provided to the Committee and Board on a regular basis. This update highlights the progress made on the key activities for the period.

2. Executive summary.

2.1 The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund has for many years considered it good governance to have in place a Business Plan and Medium-Term Strategy that is agreed annually and regularly monitored by the Committee and Board.

2.2 The report summarises the progress made on each activity for the period under review.

2.3 Section 3 of this report provides a progress update for each business plan activity. The table below provides an overview of the RAG status of each activity.

Paragraph	Activity	RAG status
3.1	Re-tender for benefits and governance consultancy services.	Green
3.2	Re-tender for actuarial consultancy services.	Green
3.3	Re-tender for legal services provider.	Green
3.4	Re-tender for pensions administration and pensioner payroll platform.	Green
3.5	Address and mortality screening Services.	Green
3.6	Review and implement changes required from the Pension Regulator's new Code of Practice.	Green
3.7	Continue to review cyber resilience.	Green
3.8	Implement the best practice recommendations of the good governance review.	Green
3.9	Review the administrative performance of the Fund's additional voluntary contribution providers.	Green
3.10	Complete the Guaranteed Minimum Pension Rectification.	Green
3.11	Application of the McCloud age discrimination remedy.	Amber
3.12	Prepare for the implementation of Pension Dashboards.	Green
3.13	Processing of undecided leaver records.	Green
3.14	Continue development of the ACCESS asset pool.	Amber
3.15	Continue activities within the Fund's Climate Action Plan.	Green
3.16	Implement the revised Investment Strategy.	Green
3.17	Implement recommendations from the review of the website and digital communications.	Green
3.18	New activity – Implement equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) best practices.	Green
3.19	New activity – Review of investment consultancy contract.	Green

2.5 The tables in appendix A provide an update of the Fund account, investment and administration income and expenditure against the cash flow projection outlined in the Annual Business Plan as agreed by the Pension Fund Committee in March 2023. There are no material variances identified.

2.6 The link to the full Business Plan approved by the Committee in March 2023 is provided in section 11 for full context and reference.

Procurement of Services.

3.1 Re-tender for benefits and governance consultancy services.

3.1.1 Activity: To re-tender for the supplier of benefits and governance consultancy services currently with Aon due to expire 31 March 2024.

3.1.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Register to access national LGPS Frameworks.	May 2023.	Completed.
Draft specification of services required an associated documentation.	June – July 2023.	Completed.
Issue invitation to tender to suppliers on the Framework.	September 2023.	Completed.
Evaluate tender responses.	October - November 2023.	On target.
Award contract.	January 2024.	On target.

3.1.4 Update: The invitation to tender documentation was published at the end of August with prospective bidders invited to submit responses by midday on the 27 October 2023.

3.2 Re-tender for actuarial consultancy services.

3.2.1 Activity: To re-tender for the supplier of actuarial services currently with Hymans Robertson due to expire 31 March 2024.

3.2.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Register to access national LGPS Frameworks.	May 2023.	Completed.
Draft specification of services required and associated documentation.	June – July 2023.	Completed.
Issue invitation to tender to suppliers on the Framework.	October 2023.	Completed.
Evaluate Tender responses.	December 2023.	On target for rescheduled target date.
Clarification interview/presentation	January 2024	On target
Award Contract.	February 2024	On target for rescheduled date.

3.2.1 Update: The invitation to tender documentation was published in October with prospective bidders invited to submit responses by the end of November. The evaluation stage has been rescheduled for December and a clarification interview and presentation has now been added to the process. The chair of the Pension Fund Committee will be invited to join and will be able to ask questions to inform the evaluation process but will not be part of the evaluation panel.

3.3 Re-tender for legal services provider

3.3.1 Activity: To re-tender for the supplier of legal services currently with Squire Patten Boggs due to expire 31 March 2024.

3.3.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Register to access national LGPS Frameworks.	July 2023.	Completed.
Draft specification of services required an associated documentation.	July – August 2023.	Completed.
Issue invitation to tender to suppliers on the Framework.	September 2023.	Completed.
Evaluate tender responses.	October - November 2023.	On target.
Award contract.	December 2023.	On target.

3.3.3 Update: The invitation to tender documentation was published in October with prospective bidders invited to submit responses by the end of November.

3.4 Re-tender for pensions administration and pensioner payroll platform.

3.4.1 Activity: To re-tender for pensions administration and pensioner payroll platform currently with Heywood that is due to cease in September 2024.

3.4.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Invitation to Further Competition exercise using National LGPS Frameworks.	April - June 2023.	Completed.
Evaluation and award.	July - September 2023.	Completed.
Year 0 transitional period.	October 2023 - September 2024.	Not applicable.
Go Live.	1 October 2024.	On target.

Update: Invitation to further competition was published 24 April 2023 with a closing date for responses of 19 June 2023. All suppliers on the framework submitted a bid and following the scoring and moderation process the contract was awarded to the incumbent supplier, Heywood Pension Technologies.

3.5 Review address and mortality screening services.

3.5.1 Activity: The current contract for address tracing and mortality screening ceases in June 2023 with no ability to extend.

Following the 12 month extension of the contract a long term approach is now required from June 2024 onwards.

3.5.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones	Dates	On target for completion?
Develop a contract to enable the continuation of services past June 2023 (with the assistance of legal services).	April - May 2023.	Completed.
Both parties to sign up to new contract on existing terms.	May 2023.	Completed.
Review new LGPS Framework offerings and internal Fraud Hub options.	Rescheduled to January 2024 (assuming the Framework is released on schedule).	On target for rescheduled date
Develop approach for procurement of address and mortality screening services.	March 2024.	On target.

Update: A new contract has been entered into with Accurate Data Services on existing terms for a period of 12 months. In December 2023 the LGPS National Framework is due to be released and Officers will review alongside the Government Fraud Hub. The procurement approach will subsequently be developed by the end of March.

Core governance activities.

3.6 Review and implement changes required from the Pension Regulator's new Code of Practice.

3.6.1 Activity: In March 2021 the Pensions Regulator launched a consultation on its revised code of practice for the pensions industry. The responses to the consultation have taken the Pensions Regulator longer than expected to digest and as such the new code of practice was expected to come into force early 2023. Once the code of practice is in force, the Fund will have six months to achieve full compliance with its contents.

3.6.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Develop an action plan of changes required on launch of code of practice.	TBC.	Awaiting release of the Code.
Present action plan to the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board	TBC.	Awaiting release of the Code.

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Present update on progress on action plan to the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board.	TBC.	Awaiting release of the Code.

3.6.3 Update: The singular Code of Practice was due to be released by the Pensions Regulator in April 2023, but it did not materialise at this time. Once the Code is released funds will have 6 months to become fully compliant and an action plan will be developed to ensure this is achieved.

3.7 Continue to review cyber resilience

3.7.1 Activity: Cyber-crime will continue to evolve and become increasingly sophisticated and as such this area will be regularly reviewed and monitored. The cyber action plan will be updated as and when necessary.

3.7.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Ongoing monitoring and development of the cyber strategy and action plan via the Business Plan Updates at each meeting of the Pension Committee and Pension Board.	April 2023 – March 2024.	On target.

3.7.3 Update: A separate report on cyber resilience and data protection is being presented as an agenda item at this meeting.

3.8 Implement the best practice recommendations of the good governance review

3.8.1 Activity: Following consultation with LGPS stakeholders, in February 2021, a number of recommendations for improvement were identified. Some would require the input of DLUHC to amend scheme regulations and publish statutory guidance, others by SAB and others for Funds to implement as best practice.

The standards are due to be issued in 2023.

3.8.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones	Dates	On target for completion?
Develop an action plan to implement the best practice activities.	TBC.	Awaiting release of the standards.
Present update on progress on action plan to the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board.	TBC.	Awaiting release of the standards.
Implementation of activities	TBC.	Awaiting release of

Key Milestones	Dates	On target for completion?
requiring SAB and DLUHC guidance.		the standards.

3.8.3 Update: The good governance review standards are now due to be released early 2024.

3.9 Review the administrative performance of the Fund's additional voluntary contribution providers

3.9.1 Activity: The Fund has two additional voluntary contribution (AVC) providers, Utmost Life and Prudential.

Since 2020 LGPS Funds across the country collectively became concerned about the administrative performance of Prudential citing cases of not allocating contributions to members' accounts in a reasonable time period and the disinvestment of funds from members' accounts taking several months to complete.

Although Funds are starting to see improvements with the administrative performance of Prudential it is now a good opportunity to conduct a review of the two AVC providers to ensure they remain suitable options for Cambridgeshire scheme members.

3.9.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestone	Dates	On target for completion?
Present to the Pension Committee the findings of the independent review alongside any recommendations for action (the timing of this will depend on the co-operation of the AVC providers in providing the necessary information for analysis by Aon.	October 2023.	Completed.

3.9.3 Update: A separate report on the findings of the AVC review is being presented as an agenda item at this meeting.

Scheme member and data projects.

3.10 Complete the Guaranteed Minimum Pension Rectification

3.10.1 Activity: To complete the rectification stage for scheme members, making adjustments to pensions in payment where necessary.

3.10.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones	Dates	On target for completion?
Manual rectification of outstanding records.	April 2023 to March 2024.	On target.

3.10.3 Update: Following the completion of the annual pensions increase exercise, the rectification has recommenced, and the project is on track to complete by 31 March 2024. As at 30 September July, 62% of cases completed and the project remains on track to complete by the deadline.

3.11 Application of the McCloud age discrimination remedy

3.11.1 Activity: The pension records of scheme members within scope of the McCloud ruling will be rectified following the implementation of the age discrimination remedy, expected via amendment to legislation on 1st October 2023.

3.11.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Respond to DLUHC consultation on draft regulations (delayed from 2022 and still pending release).	June 2023.	Completed.
Devise communication plan for members and scheme employers.	September 2023 Rescheduled from May 2023.	Completed.
Undertake scheme member record preparations to identify members in scope of remedy in readiness for the application of the underpin.	April 2023 – September 2023.	Completed.
Application of the revised underpin following release of amended LGPS Regulations.	October 2023 onwards.	Ongoing.

3.11.3 Update: DLUHC launched a further consultation on supplementary McCloud issues and draft regulations in May 2023 and a response was submitted on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund. DLUHC subsequently announced the outcome of the consultation on 8 September, and laid The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2023, which took effect from 1 October 2023.

Officers received training from Aon on 12 September 2023 in preparation of the changes.

The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund has 18,046 members (20,246 employment records) in scope of the remedy for which further guidance is awaited from DLUHC to apply the remedy and calculate any retrospective adjustments. Additional cases may come to light when other LGPS and Public Sector Service is identified putting current non eligible members into scope.

The Fund’s administration system is largely applying the underpin as expected. There will be some continued development in this area where issues are identified. In the meantime, there will be elements of manual intervention to ensure there is no detriment to members or backlogs accruing.

McCloud web pages have been created for members and employers, which link through to centrally produced McCloud resources and wording provided by the LGA has been inserted into existing letters for cases from 1 October 2023 where the underpin applies. The next step is to review LGA template letters received that satisfy the disclosure requirements and communicate these in the most effective manner.

A draft version of the ‘McCloud prioritisation policy’ was circulated by LGA on behalf of DLUHC on 12 October with the intention to release the final version early 2024. Officers will review the draft policy ahead of the release date and start preparations where possible. The administrator guidance is currently in development and due to be released at the end of October 2023.

3.12 Prepare for the implementation of Pension Dashboards.

3.12.1 Activity: In the 2016 Budget, the Government made a commitment that Pension Dashboards would be created by the pensions industry, enabling pension savers to view details of all their pensions together.

The activity will be updated following the DWP announcement to reset the Pension Dashboard Programme and the delay to connection deadlines.

3.12.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones	Dates	On target for completion?
Continue to work with the pensions administration software supplier to connect to a Pensions Dashboard by the revised deadline which is TBC.	TBC following project reset.	TBC once DLUHC issue staging guidance.
Undertake project plan activities to enable connection to the Dashboard including data cleansing activities.	TBC.	TBC once DLUHC issue staging guidance.
Connect to the Dashboard.	31 October 2026.	On target.
Pension Dashboard Go Live.	TBC.	TBC.

3.12.3 Update: A staging timetable will be set out in connection guidance and is due to be released late 2023. The staging timetable will indicate when schemes are scheduled to connect, based on their size and type. The table will be updated when the guidance is published to ensure the Fund complies with the new requirements. In the meantime PASA has published value data guidance which provides schemes with good practice approaches to providing data to the dashboards.

3.13 Processing of undecided leaver records

3.13.1 Activity: To reduce the backlog by 2,500 cases per year for the next 2.5 years from a baseline of approximately 8,500 at March 2023.

3.13.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones	Dates	On target for completion?
Reduce aged cases by 2,500.	April 2023 – March 2024.	On target.
Reduce aged cases by 2,500.	April 2024 – March 2025.	On target.
Reduce aged cases to BAU baseline (<2,000).	April 2025 – September 2025.	On target.

3.13.3 Update: The baseline at April 2023 was 8,851 cases. Progress on achieving the number of aged cases had slowed due to new factors being needed from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) following a change in discount rate. These factors were made available later than expected but are now in place and bulk processing of cases impacted, refunds and cash transfer value calculations, have recommenced. As at 30 September the aged cases outstanding are down to 7,419 cases, a drop of 1,432 cases (16.1%) from April 2023 and 1,880 cases (20.2%) down from the high point in November 2022.

Investment related activities.

3.14 Continue development of the ACCESS asset pool

3.14.1 Activity: The ACCESS asset pool Authorised Contractual Scheme (ACS) sub-fund structure is now at a mature stage with ongoing developments prioritising completing the sub-fund pipeline and putting in place supplementary sub-funds as and when required.

Other developments within the ACCESS pool include the non-listed work programme, Operator re-procurement, and the Phase II ESG/RI procurement.

3.14.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones	Dates	On target for completion?
Development of ACS sub-fund pipeline.	April 2023 – October 2024.	On target.
Non-listed (property, infrastructure, private equity, private debt) programme development.	April 2023 – December 2024.	Not on target.
ESG/RI Phase II procurement and reporting developments.	April 2023 – March 2024.	On target.
Operator re-procurement.	April 2023 – March 2025.	On target.

3.14.3 Update: UK Core Real Estate Mandate has been awarded to CBRE. CBRE will focus on impact investing, affordable housing and long lease investments. Mercer has been commissioned to provide assurance that JP Morgan and IFM Infrastructure can be classified as “Pool Aligned” assets.. PIRC has been appointed to provide external advice and support in respect of the implementation of the RI Guidelines and, in particular, delivery of the reporting requirements.

3.15 Continue activities within the Fund’s Climate Action Plan.

3.15.1 Activity: During 2023-24 the Fund will continue to focus on the milestone dates within the plan which are key to ensure the Fund is on the correct path to achieve “net-zero” carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest.

3.15.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
To complete the activities against the Climate Action Plan.	April 2023 to March 2024.	On target.

3.15.3 Update: Implementation of the Climate Aware Passive equities has been completed and this has been reported to the Sept ISC (UBS Climate Aware and Osmosis Fossil Free); in May 2023 the Investment Sub Committee reviewed the progress against decarbonisation targets, adopted a new primary metric for monitoring progress against the existing decarbonisation targets and agreed to include Scope 3 emissions in the Fund’s target setting once reporting improves. This paper will be taken again to the November ISC for further update.

3.16 Implement the revised Investment Strategy.

3.16.1 Activity: A review of the Fund’s investment strategy was undertaken in March 2023 resulting in changes to its strategic asset (SAA).

Work will be undertaken throughout 2023-24 to action implement these changes.

3.16.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Expiry of Equity Protection.	May 2023.	Complete.
Sales of listed equity and increase in Multi-Asset Credit.	May 2023.	Complete.
Consideration of preferred characteristics of new commitments for Infrastructure investments.	May 2023.	Complete.
Switch of Gilts from segregated accounts to the UBS pooled fund.	June 2023.	Not of target.
Purchase of M&G MAC.	June 2023.	Complete.
ACCESS puts in place long lease property building block...	Q4 2023.	Yes, for revised target.

Revised draft Investment Strategy to be presented to Pensions Committee.	December 2023.	Yes, for revised target.
Committee makes allocation decision in connection with long lease property.	Q4 2023/Q1 2024	Yes, for revised target.
Investment into BlueBay ESG MAC once launched within ACCESS.	Q3 2023.	On target.
Conducting wider reviews of infrastructure options if required.	Q4 2023.	On target.

3.16.3 Update: Work has been completed to switch the segregated index linked gilts to UBS pooled funds. . During Q2 2023 the ISC was provided with training on timberland asset class in order to approve a 1% allocation to the asset class. In August 2023, further sales of Global Equity were used to fund a 1.5% increase in allocation to M&G Multi-Asset Credit, with a further +1.5% allocated to BlueBay MAC once the ESG MAC is launched within ACCESS, expected November 2023. The ACCESS-led Long Lease manager selection exercise has been completed in September 2023, and will be reported to the November ISC as part of the ongoing Strategic Asset Allocation update paper.

Communications

3.17 Implement recommendations from the review of the website and digital communications

3.17.1 Activity: A review of the Fund’s websites was carried out in 2022/23, the review assessed whether the website was still fit for purpose in meeting the needs of stakeholders and explored alternative options including moving the hosting of the member related information pages away from our software supplier Heywood and hosting both member and employer pages internally on a single website. Approval from the Pension Committee was granted to implement the recommendation from the review.

3.17.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Funding for the website development approved.	March 2023.	Completed.
Resources in place e.g. recruitment	May 2023.	Completed.
High fidelity designs created.	August 2023.	Completed.
New website built.	March 2024.	Completed.

3.17.3 Update: High fidelity designs partly based on the .gov.uk approach to web design have been created and user testing of the different options has begun. The project is currently and expected to remain within the agreed budget of £30,000.

3.18 New activity – Implement equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) best practices.

3.18.1 Activity: The Pensions Regulator has published guidance to help improve pension schemes' equality, diversity and inclusion. Pension schemes have legal duties to scheme members, and good decision making is key to ensuring those duties are met. EDI supports robust discussion and effective decision making and is an important consideration for schemes. The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund will be aiming to improve its equality, diversity and inclusion via these best practices.

3.18.2 Key milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Fully review TPR guidance and produce an action plan, including delivery of relevant training.	October 2023 – March 2024.	On target.

3.18.3 Update: The Pensions Regulator issued a survey to Board members in July 2023 with the intention to collect views on equality, diversity and inclusion. The responses were anonymised and used to improve EDI on pension scheme governing bodies. The next stage is to produce an action plan of the activities the Fund needs to undertake to improve EDI outcomes.

3.19 New activity – Review of investment consultancy contract

3.19.1 Activity: The current investment consultancy contract expires September 2024, with the ability to extend up to a maximum of three years.

3.19.2 Key Milestones:

Key Milestones.	Dates.	On target for completion?
Complete Investment Consultancy (IC) Objectives review	July 2024	On target.
Decision as to whether to extend or re-procure the investment consultancy contract	October 2024.	On target.
Implement Committee decision	October 2024 – March 2025	On target.

3.19.3 Update: The proposed pathway is to align a decision regarding the investment consultancy contract to the annual IC objectives review with a decision at the meeting following the review. This would require a short-term extension to the investment consultancy contract should a procurement be required.

4. Relevant Fund objectives

4.1 To continually monitor and measure clearly articulated objectives through business planning.

5. Risk Management.

- 5.1 The Pension Fund Committee approves the Annual Business Plan and Medium-Term Strategy every March for the upcoming year. The plan highlights the key activities of the Fund, and the progress of these activities are reported through the Business Plan Update reports provided to the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board at every meeting.
- 5.2 The risks associated with failing to monitor progress against the Business Plan have been captured in the Fund's risk register as detailed below:

Risk.	Residual risk rating.
Those charged with the governance are unable to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.	Green.
Failure to provide relevant information to the Pension Committee/Pension Board to enable informed decision making.	Green.
Pension Fund objectives not defined and agreed.	Green.

- 5.3 Please see the [Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Register Executive Summary](#)

6. Communication Implications.

The Business Plan Update will be presented to the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board at each meeting.

7. Finance & Resources Implications.

- 7.1 Any updated financial implications are set out in the relevant activities.

8. Legal Implications.

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. Consultation with Key Advisers.

- 9.1 Consultation with the Fund's advisers was not required for this report.

10. Alternative Options Considered.

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11. Background Papers.

- 11.1 [Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

12. Appendices.

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Variances against the forecast of investments and administration expenses based on original setting of assumptions.

Appendix 2 – Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Climate Action Plan

Checklist of Key Approvals

Has this report been cleared by Head of Pensions?

Mark Whitby – 19/10/2023

Appendix 1 – Variances against the forecast of investments and administration expenses based on original setting of assumptions.

Fund Account.	2023/24 Budget.	2023/24 Forecast.	Variance	Comments.
	£000	£000	£000	
Contributions.	148,000	155,000	7,000	Two employers elected to pay a prepayment of their annual deficits up to 25/26 in 23/24. The 23/24 estimate only counted their 23/24 deficits for these employers, which caused the £7m variance. Demand led.
Transfers in from other pension funds.	11,000	15,400	4,400	
Total income.	159,000	170,400	11,400	
Benefits payable.	(137,000)	(136,000)	1,000	Benefits in line with current membership numbers. Demand led.
Payments to and on account of leavers.	(9,000)	(12,100)	(3,100)	
Total Payments.	(146,000)	(148,100)	(2,100)	
Net additions/(withdrawals) from dealings with members.	13,000	22,300	9,300	
Management Expenses (Invoiced).	(4,947)	(5,064)	(117)	See below.
Management Expenses (Non-invoiced).	(22,900)	(20,000)	(2,900)	Fees from prior year plus actuarial growth assumption on AUM at June 23 to March 24.
Total Management Expenses	(27,847)	(25,064)	2,783	
Total income less expenditure.	(14,847)	(2,764)	12,083	
Investment income.	34,000	68,000	34,000	Actual income received to Q1 plus three estimated quarters.
Taxes on income.	-	-	-	
profit and (losses) on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	204,000	190,000	(14,000)	Actual Q1 return followed by actuarial long term growth assumption.
Net return on investments.	238,000	258,000	20,000	

Fund Account.	2023/24 Budget.	2023/24 Forecast.	Variance	Comments.
	£000	£000	£000	
Net increase/(decrease) in the net assets available for benefits during the year.	223,153	255,236	32,083	

Management Expenses.	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Forecast	Variance	Comments.
	£000	£000	£000	
Total Administration Expenses.	(3,221)	(3,243)	(22)	See below
Total Governance Expenses.	(881)	(943)	(62)	Payroll for final IHLI termination account from 2021 - not included in 23/24 budget ¹ .
Total Investment Invoiced Expenses.	(845)	(878)	(33)	Increased custodian fees due to transitions that took place during Q1
Total Management Expenses.	(4,947)	(5,064)	(117)	

Administration Expenses Analysis.	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Forecast	Variance	Comments.
	£000	£000	£000	
Staff Related.	(2,080)	(2,115)	(35)	Budget based on estimated 23/24 pay rates, higher than expected pay awards received.
Altair administration and payroll system.	(485)	(461)	24	
Data assurance.	(25)	(40)	(15)	A more proactive approach to address tracing has been undertaken in preparation for Dashboards.
Communications.	(51)	(52)	(1)	
Other Non-Pay and Income.	(27)	(23)	4	
Council Overhead Recovery.	(553)	(553)	-	
Total Administration Expenses.	(3,221)	(3,243)	(22)	

¹ Settlement of ill health insurance with Legal and General. Delays in payments are due to allowing for an extended period after the policy end date to ensure no further claims will arise and updates to the data provided that required several iterations before accurately calculating the final settlement figure.

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund - Climate Action Plan

Calendar Year

Quarter 1 2022

Agree decarbonisation pathway and targets that align the beliefs and ambitions of the Investment Sub Committee (ISC). The ISC agreed target reductions in absolute carbon emissions of the Fund's listed equity holdings of at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23% from June 2021 baseline by 2024 • 57% from June 2021 baseline by 2030 	✓
Communicate agreed targets and aspirations to investment managers	✓
Instruct advisers to investigate high level approaches to climate aware passive equity investing	✓
Publish Climate Action Plan	✓

Quarter 2/3 2022

ISC receive training on strategic options to decarbonise the Pension Fund's active equity portfolio, including setting targets for existing managers and considering sustainable and impact equity and/or UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) alignment	✓
ISC receive report on high level climate aware passive equity options	✓

Quarter 3/4 2022

Receive implementable proposal on carbon aware passive equity portfolio	✓
Prepare and publish reporting in line with the Task-Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) disclosure requirements for the 2021-22 Fund annual report	✓

2023

Quarter 1 2023

Agree managers and portfolio structures for climate aware passive investing	✓
Analysis of climate metrics as at 30/06/22	✓

Quarter 2 2023

Review progress against targets and appropriateness of metrics.	✓
Continue to engage with existing active equity managers around decarbonisation approaches - as required	✓
Engage with private asset managers to improve carbon data provision for portfolios and increased ESG integration	
Implement carbon aware passive equity in Q2 2023	✓
ISC consider proposals for impact investing in private markets - Infrastructure	✓

Quarter 3 2023

Engage with ACCESS on sustainable/impact infrastructure managers (based on Committee preferences following Q2 2022 discussion)	✓
--	---

Quarter 4 2023

Analysis of climate metrics as at 30/06/23	
ISC consider proposals for sustainable/impact investing in listed equity as part of equity portfolio review	

2024**Quarter 1 2024**

ISC consider proposals for including asset classes beyond listed equity in climate reporting and target setting	
Consider setting more granular targets across: - Sustainable/Climate solutions - Transition alignment - Stewardship	
ISC receive report on availability of data and approach on alternatives assets	
ISC consider proposals for sustainable/impact investing in private markets (Private equity/property)	
Review progress against targets and appropriateness of metrics	
Consider draft UK Stewardship Report ahead of submission to FRC	
ISC consider feasibility of including Scope 3 within emissions reduction reporting and targets	

Quarter 2 2024

Use insights and recommendations to shape discussions and support climate change reporting (TCFD) - awaiting outcomes of consultation	
Consider potential connections to biodiversity/natural capital	
Submit approved UK Stewardship Report to FRC	

Quarter 3 2024

Continuation of the work with active managers to implement carbon reduction measures and increase the sustainability of the portfolios they manage	
--	--

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund

Pension Fund Board

3 November 2023

Report by: Head of Pensions

Subject: Governance and Compliance Report

Purpose of the Report: To provide the Pension Fund Board with information on:

- 1) Pensions Dashboards
- 2) McCloud
- 3) Scheme Advisory Board
- 4) The Pensions Regulator
- 5) SCAPE discount rate and impact on actuarial factors
- 6) Mansion House Speech 2023
- 7) DLUHC consultation on investment reforms
- 8) Abolishing the lifetime allowance consultation
- 9) DWP pension scam regulations
- 10) Additional Voluntary Contributions
- 11) Apprenticeship and qualification: next steps survey

Recommendations: The Pension Fund Board are asked to note the Governance and Compliance Report.

Enquiries to: Michelle Oakensen
Governance and Regulations Manager
michelle.oakensen@westnorthants.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 This is a standing report that identifies issues concerning the governance of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and potential, new, amending and overriding legislation that will have an impact on how the Scheme is managed and on members' benefits.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides the Pension Fund Board with information on the following significant current issues which have an impact on the governance, management and administration of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund.
- Pensions Dashboards (3.1)
 - McCloud (3.2)
 - Scheme Advisory Board (3.3)
 - The Pensions Regulator (3.4)
 - SCAPE discount rate and impact on actuarial factors (3.5)
 - Mansion House Speech 2023 (3.6)
 - DLUHC consultation on investment reforms (3.7)
 - Abolishing the lifetime allowance consultation (3.8)

- DWP pension scam regulations (3.9)
- Additional Voluntary Contributions (3.10)
- Apprenticeship and qualification: next steps survey (3.11)

2.2 The report also provides details of immaterial amendments made to policies or strategies as a result of Officer reviews (3.12).

3. Updates

3.1 Pensions Dashboards

3.1.1 Pension Dashboards Amendment Regulations 2023

3.1.1.1 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has laid [the Pensions Dashboards \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023](#). A revised staging timetable will be set out in guidance and all schemes in scope will need to connect by 31 October 2026. The staging timetable will indicate when schemes are scheduled to connect, based on their size and type.

3.1.2 Staging dates – TPR expectations

3.1.2.1 The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has updated its [failing to comply with pensions dashboards duties guidance](#). The purpose of the updates is to outline what schemes will need to do to demonstrate that they have had regard to the staging timetable. The staging timetable will be set out in connection guidance.

3.1.2.2 TPR expects schemes to do the following to show that they 'have regard to the connection guidance':

- Connect to dashboards by the connection deadline of 31 October 2026 that is set out in legislation. Failure to do so could result in regulatory action by TPR.
- A revised staging timetable will be set out in guidance which will indicate when schemes are scheduled to connect. All trustees and scheme managers must have regard to this guidance. Failure to do so will be a breach.
- Although the timelines in guidance will not be mandatory, schemes will be expected to demonstrate how they have had regard to the guidance. Amongst other considerations, this means that scheme managers:
 - should not make decisions about connection until they have engaged with the guidance
 - must be able to demonstrate that they have adequate governance and processes for making such decisions. The reasoning for the decisions should be clearly considered and documented, as should how relevant risks are identified, evaluated and managed
 - should make sure that they have access to all the relevant information before making decisions and acting on them. This includes engaging with those who are supporting them to develop a practical delivery plan. Clear and accurate audit trails need to be kept demonstrating the decisions made, the reasons for them and the actions taken
- A phased approach to staging enables a controlled and well-planned connection, reduces the risk of provider capacity constraints and means savers can realise the benefits of pension dashboards as early as possible
- Continuing to prepare for dashboards by engaging with those who will support them with their dashboards duties, such as integrated service providers and administrators to:
 - assess the potential impact of these changes on their schemes

- agree a practical delivery plan, and
- continue activity on getting to grips with member data.

3.1.3 PASA publishes dashboards value data guidance

3.1.3.1 On 8 June 2023, the Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA) published [value data guidance](#).

3.1.3.2 The guidance provides pension schemes with 'good practice' approaches to providing value data to dashboards. It is designed for use by both defined benefit and defined contribution schemes and covers twenty topics. It includes possible approaches for dealing with issues such as late retirements, underpins, partial retirements and split normal retirement ages.

3.1.3.3 The LGPC secretariat contributed to this guidance and ensured there were specific recommendations for public service pension schemes. The Pensions Regulator (TPR) encourages administering authorities to read and consider the guidance to provide a consistent approach across schemes. Further guidance is expected over the coming months.

3.2 McCloud

3.2.1 McCloud remedy consultation

3.2.1.1 On 30 May 2023, DLUHC published a consultation and draft regulations concerning the McCloud remedy. The consultation closed on 30 June 2023 and sought views on proposals to address discrimination found by the courts in the McCloud case.

3.2.1.2 DLUHC sought views on the following proposals:

- No aggregation requirement: underpin protection will extend to a new pension account that started before 1 April 2022, even if the earlier period of membership is not aggregated, as long as there has not been a disqualifying break.
- Previous membership of another public service pension scheme on or before 31 March 2012: a member will qualify for underpin protection because of earlier membership of another public service pension scheme, even if the pension rights from the other scheme have not been transferred to the LGPS, as long as there has not been a disqualifying break.
- Flexible retirement: a member with underpin protection who takes flexible retirement before 1 April 2022 will also have underpin protection on any benefits built up after flexible retirement and before the end of the underpin period.

3.2.1.3 The consultation covered topics that were not included in the 2020 consultation. These included:

- policies for individuals with excess teacher service
- when a member may be paid compensation if they have suffered a loss relating to the discrimination found in the McCloud case or the McCloud remedy
- the interest terms that will apply when payments are made late due to the McCloud discrimination.

3.2.2 Consultation outcome and regulations laid

- 3.2.2.1 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) subsequently announced the outcome of the consultation on supplementary McCloud issues and draft regulations on 8 September 2023. It also laid The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2023, which took effect from 1 October 2023.
- 3.2.2.2 The regulations implement the McCloud remedy and amend the underpin rules to make sure they work correctly. Part 2 of the regulations replaces the underpin rules in the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014. It also makes some related changes to the LGPS Regulations 2013. Part 3 requires administering authorities to check past calculations for events that happened between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2023.

3.2.3 Statutory guidance for administering authorities

- 3.2.3.1 The Fund has identified cases in scope of the remedy and to encourage a broadly consistent approach, DLUHC will be providing statutory guidance on how authorities should prioritise this work. It is also in the process of setting up an implementation group to decide what other statutory guidance is needed. The Government Actuary's Department is updating actuarial guidance to reflect the changes.

3.3 Scheme Advisory Board

3.3.1 Scheme Advisory Board Committees

- 3.3.1.1 The SAB has three subcommittees and one advisory group formed underneath the main SAB body. The committees are:
- Compliance and Reporting Committee (CRC)
 - Cost Management, Benefit Design and Administration (CMBDA) Committee
 - Investment, Governance and Engagement (IGE) Committee
 - Responsible Investment Advisory Group (RIAG) Each committee looks at a specific area of the LGPS.
- 3.3.1.2 Each has its own terms of reference and membership profile made up of practitioners, advisors, scheme member and employer representatives.
- 3.3.1.3 On behalf of the SAB and Committee chairs, the secretariat team would like to thank the volunteers on each of the committees and working groups who devote their time and knowledge to support this important work.
- 3.3.1.4 The CRC was established following the disbandment of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) pensions panel in 2021. It aims to coproduce statutory guidance for LGPS administering authorities on a range of issues. The CRC has five workstreams looking at drafting new or updating existing statutory guidance. The workstreams are:
- Good governance
 - Knowledge and skills
 - Funding strategy statements
 - audit issues
 - producing the Annual Report.

3.3.2 Annual Report

- 3.3.2.1 The Board has published its tenth [Annual Report](#) and provides a single source of information about the status of the LGPS for its members, employers and other stakeholders. Continually improving key information about the Scheme as a whole is one of the top priorities of the Board.
- 3.3.2.2 The report combines information supplied in 86 fund annual reports, as at 31st March 2022.
- 3.3.2.3 Key highlights for 2022 are:
- total membership of the LGPS increased slightly, growing by 161,871 (2.6 per cent) to 6.39 million members in 2022 from 6.23 million in 2021.
 - total assets of the LGPS increased to £369 billion (a change of 7.8 per cent), invested in
 - pooled investment vehicles – 67%
 - public equities – 12%
 - bonds – 3%
 - direct property – 3%
 - other asset classes – 15%.
 - local authority returns on investment over 2021/22 was 8.1 per cent. This compares to UK CPI year on year inflation of 8.8 per cent (Sept to Sept).
 - the Scheme maintained a positive cash-flow position overall, including investment income
 - over 1.95 million pensioners were paid over the year.
 - life expectancy rebounded to pre-covid levels with an increase of 0.8 years for males and 0.6 years for females (2021 figures versus 2022).
 - total management charges increased by £385 million (22.5 per cent) from £1,711 million. This was primarily driven by a £381 million (25.6 per cent) rise in investment management charges, while administration and oversight and governance costs remained broadly stable.

3.3.3 Preparing the Annual Report guidance – review

- 3.3.3.1 The Compliance and Reporting Committee has identified several areas in the 2019 CIPFA ‘preparing the Annual Report guidance’ that require updating and clarification. A priority is to streamline the guidance and reduce duplication with other reporting obligations, wherever possible. This message is fully endorsed by DLUHC.
- 3.3.3.2 Another key area for improvement is how funds should report and categorise the allocation of assets. This area is covered in the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) consultation on LGPS investment reform. This proposes a requirement for ‘a single standard set of data on investments across Annual Reports and LGPS statistics. The new guidance will suggest that administering authorities follow a ‘worked example’ template provided by the SAB. The aim is to improve consistency and scheme-level reporting of asset allocation in the SAB Annual Report. Using standard data to report asset classes should make the Annual Report process simpler for funds and more consistent, allowing readers to compare data directly. A ‘worked example’ template for the categorisation of assets will shortly be shared by the SAB secretariat team. Administering authorities should incorporate this into reporting as soon as possible while the new guidance is being prepared.

3.3.3.3 The administrative Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are under review. The SAB has invited fund officers and software suppliers to comment on the current guidance. The aim is to define the KPIs better and allow for standardised reporting. This will enable funds to benchmark themselves properly against others. SAB aims to have the guidance in place for the 2023/24 reporting period but hopes that some reporting changes can be implemented on a voluntary basis for 2022/23 Annual Reports.

3.3.4 Gender pensions gap report

3.3.4.1 The LGPS Gender Pensions Gap report produced in January 2023 identified a substantial difference between the average level of pension benefits built up by male and female scheme members. The difference is 34.7 percent for benefits in the CARE scheme and 46.4 percent for benefits in the final salary scheme. For benefits in payment, the difference is even greater at 49 percent.

3.3.4.2 The Board asked the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) to explore these gender gaps in more depth. The Board asked them to focus on:

- career patterns, in particular evidence of recent and past part-time working.
- differences relating to employers or categories of employer.
- comparing the analysis of LGA's 2019 gender pay gap report.

3.3.4.3 GAD issued their [findings](#) in June 2023 and concluded that:

- 1) Part-time working patterns are closely related to gender pension (and pay) gaps for members. However, the observed differences between men and women in terms of both their current and historic part-time working patterns are not sufficient to account fully for these gender gaps.
- 2) Pay and pension gender gaps can be seen for staff working with the same employer. The size of the gap at scheme-level is also due to the difference in the proportion of males and females working at higher paying employers, as well as between different categories of employers.

3.3.4.4 There is no settled approach to data and methodological issues that would allow detailed comparisons to be drawn between gender gaps in different public sector pension schemes. The Board has proposed that GAD puts in place a common reporting framework for all the public sector schemes. Potentially this could be worked into the quadrennial scheme valuation process. The Board believes that the relationship between gender pay and pension gaps reporting needs to be addressed to allow for greater transparency and understanding.

3.3.4.5 The Board has now set up a small working group to consider next steps and was due to hold its first meeting in October. Areas for consideration included:

- Are there any in-scheme changes that would help address the levels of inequality eg around the ability to buy back service?
- Can we direct employers to best practice in managing the career paths of those who take time off for caring responsibilities?
- How do we communicate with members to ensure they are informed about the potential pension implications of the career choices they make?
- How can we mainstream this kind of analysis so we can properly evaluate what works and how much is left to do?

3.3.5 Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

3.3.5.1 The [Economic Activity of Public Bodies Bill](#), also known as the Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions Bill had its second reading in the House of Commons on 3 July 2023. The Bill seeks to ban LGPS administering authorities from making investment decisions influenced by political and moral disapproval of foreign state conduct, except where this is required by formal Government legal sanctions, embargoes and restrictions.

3.3.5.2 During the debate, significant concerns were raised about the Bill. These centered around its rationale, practicability and whether it constituted a significant over-reach of Ministerial authority.

3.3.5.3 The LGA has published a [technical brief](#) on the Bill. The technical brief includes a section on the Bill's effect on pensions and the LGA view of the Bill.

3.3.5.4 The SAB will provide written evidence on the Bill to the Public Bill Committee which will scrutinise the draft Bill. The Vice-Chair of the Board, Jon Richards, and LGA's Head of Pensions, Jo Donnelly, have also been invited to give evidence to that Committee. As far as the Board is aware, there is no evidence that any LGPS fund has instituted inappropriate politically motivated boycott or divestment policies.

3.4 The Pensions Regulator

3.4.1 Protecting savers from economic volatility

3.4.1.1 On 6 June 2023, the Pensions Regulator published a [blog](#) on protecting savers from economic volatility. Although there are signs of recovery from some financial markets, TPR reminds trustees to stay focussed to protect savers. The impact on defined benefit schemes appears to have settled, though trustees must remain vigilant. TPR reminds trustees to continue to act on their guidance on managing risks in liability-driven investments.

3.4.2 Working more closely with administrators

3.4.2.1 On 13 September 2023, the Pensions Regulator (TPR) published a [blog](#) titled 'Why we are building relationships with pension administrators'.

3.4.2.2 The blog emphasises the importance of fostering closer relationships with administrators, as it allows TPR to gain a better understanding of the challenges they face and address risks more effectively.

3.4.2.3 The blog also highlights several instances of TPR's work in this area. For example, TPR has been actively supervising several strategically important administrators and has initiated voluntary engagements with third-party administrators.

3.4.3 Independent review of TPR

3.4.3.1 The Department for Work and Pensions published the results of the [Independent Review](#) of TPR on 19 September 2023. The review assessed whether TPR remains fit for purpose, and whether it is still required as a public body. It found that TPR is broadly well-run and well-regarded, with notable achievements, such as automatic enrolment. It also made seventeen recommendations across three themes: risk and growth, compliance and enforcement, digital transformation and value for money.

3.5 SCAPE discount rate and impact on actuarial factors

- 3.5.1 On 30 March 2023, administering authorities in England and Wales were informed that the superannuation contributions adjusted for past experience (SCAPE) discount rate reduced on 30 March 2023 to the consumer price index (CPI) plus 1.7 per cent. This was a change from CPI plus 2.4 per cent.
- 3.5.2 Subsequently three batches of actuarial factors were provided, the first batch in June and batches two and three in July and were effective from 1 June 2023. The June 2023 transitional measures set out when to apply the new factors and / or how to process cases on hold.
- 3.5.3 The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund put on hold cases from 30 April 2023 to the relevant release date for each category, which resulted in a backlog for this period of time and shortly after.

3.6 Mansion House Speech 2023

- 3.6.1 On 10 July 2023, the [Chancellor delivered a speech at Mansion House](#). The Chancellor announced a number of measures aimed at increasing returns for savers and encouraging growth. The announcements included launching a consultation on accelerating the consolidation of LGPS assets in England and Wales (please see 3.7).

3.7 DLUHC consultation on investment reforms

- 3.7.1 On 11 July 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) launched a consultation on LGPS investment reforms [consultation on LGPS investment reforms](#). The consultation was announced by the Chancellor in his Mansion House Speech.
- 3.7.2 The consultation seeks views on proposals in five areas:
- Pooling: a deadline of 31 March 2025 for funds to transition all listed assets to their pool and a move to fewer, larger pools, each with assets in excess of £50 billion, to maximise benefits of scale
 - Levelling up: requiring that funds have a plan to invest up to 5 percent of assets to support levelling up in the UK
 - Private equity: an ambition to increase investment into high growth companies via unlisted equity
 - Investment consultants: regulations to implement the requirements set out in an order made by the Competition and Markets Authority in respect of the LGPS
 - Definition of investments: a technical change to the definition in the LGPS Investment Regulations 2016.
- 3.7.3 The consultation closed on 2 October 2023. A response was submitted on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund and the Scheme Advisory Board have responded to the consultation. The Fund response was agreed with the s151 Officer and Chair and supported the ACCESS response, which had been developed with the agreement of the ACCESS Joint Committee, s151 Officer Group and Officer Working Group.

3.8 Abolishing the lifetime allowance – consultation

- 3.8.1 On 18 July 2023, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) launched a consultation on [abolishing the pensions lifetime allowance](#). The consultation included draft legislation that aims to:
- abolish the lifetime allowance from pension legislation from 6 April 2024
 - limit the amount of tax-free cash an individual can receive to a maximum of £268,275, unless they hold valid lifetime allowance or lump sum protection
 - limit the total amount of lump sums an individual can receive before marginal rate taxation applies to £1,073,100 unless they hold a valid lifetime allowance protection, and
 - clarify how lump sums and lump sum death benefits will be taxed in the absence of the LTA.
- 3.8.2 On 12 September 2023, LGA responded to the policy paper from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on abolishing the lifetime allowance (LTA).
- 3.8.3 The Government announced in the Spring Budget 2023 that it will abolish the LTA completely from April 2024. HMRC then released draft legislation and a policy paper on 18 July 2023 to achieve this and asked for responses by 12 September 2023.
- 3.8.4 The LGA response said:
- they do not think the proposals simplify the pension tax regime for the local authority workforce and other LGPS employers
 - having two limits for lump sums will be confusing for members
 - the limit for pension commencement lump sums should go up with inflation (instead of being frozen)
 - trivial commutation lump sums should not be part of the £1.073 million limit
 - it will be difficult to get relevant information from members
 - there is no rule on how to value lump sums paid before 6 April 2006
 - there is not enough time to implement the changes for April 2024, especially for public service schemes who are already busy implementing the McCloud remedy
 - it will be tough to explain the changes to members as the policy, in LGA's view, is confused and unclear.

3.9 DWP pension scam regulations

- 3.9.1 On 21 June 2023, DWP published a review of the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Conditions for Transfers) Regulations 2021. DWP agreed to publish the review within 18 months of the regulations being operational. The review considered the following questions:
- are the regulations effective?
 - are there any unintended consequences?
 - what does the pension fraud landscape look like following the regulations?
 - are the red and amber flags still appropriate?
- 3.9.2 The report concludes that the original policy intent remains appropriate. However, there is concern about applying the regulations, in particular regarding the incentive red flag and overseas investment amber flag. DWP will work with industry and TPR to consider if changes could be made to the regulations to improve the transfer experience, without undermining the policy intent. The full report can be found on the relevant page of [Gov.uk](#).

3.10. LGPS Frameworks – provision of AVC services

3.10.1 National LGPS Frameworks intends to launch a new framework for AVC services later this year. They have recently published a [Prior Information Notice for the AVC framework](#).

3.10.2 The purpose of the prior information notice is to inform providers about the opportunity and express an interest in the project. The information has already been shared with all current AVC providers operating within the LGPS.

3.11 Apprenticeship and qualification: next steps survey

3.11.1 The LGA is looking at ways to help administering authorities access relevant pensions administration apprenticeships and qualifications. They have been researching how best to do this and have put together an LGPS apprenticeship and qualification proposal setting out their plan for England and Wales.

3.11.2 The apprenticeship and qualification: next steps survey was issued in August to seek views on the proposal, as the proposed approach will involve significant resource from the LGA pensions team were only willing to proceed if 75 per cent of administering authorities in England and Wales agree to it in principle.

3.11.3 A response was submitted for the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund supporting the proposal.

3.11.4 LGA received 57 responses representing 69 administering authorities, 48 responses were from in house administrators, 7 from shared service providers and 6 from third party administrators.

The summary of results was as follows:

- 54 per cent of respondents think they will use the new pensions administrator apprenticeship, a further 29 per cent said that they may use the apprenticeship in the future.
- 84 per cent of respondents are interested in attending an information session or webinar giving further information about the pensions administrator apprenticeship.
- Some of the additional comments about the apprenticeship related to needing more information on the content, time commitments, structure, funding and assessment methods.
- All respondents support our proposal to partner with the Pensions Management Institute (PMI) to provide a level three LGPS specific qualification.
- Some of the additional comments relating to the LGPS specific qualification expressed interest in a level 4 or 5 qualification in the future. Some administering authorities stated that they would prefer the qualification to cover pensions more broadly and not just the LGPS.
- 78 per cent of respondents would like to see a session at the Pension Managers' Conference in Torquay covering the pensions administrator apprenticeship and our proposal for an LGPS specific qualification.
- LGA received 37 offers to participate in a qualification working group to shape the LGPS specific qualification.

3.11.5 LGA will now:

- start talking to the PMI about the LGPS specific qualification.
- run an information session at the Pension Managers' Conference about the apprenticeship and the qualification.
- facilitate a webinar to give more information about the apprenticeship and answer some of the questions from the survey.

- set up a working group to make sure the new qualification meets the needs of the sector.

3.12 Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Policy/Strategy updates.

3.12.1 In March 2023 the Pension Fund Committee agreed for all policies and strategies to be reviewed by the Committee on a three-year cycle (unless stated otherwise) with Officer reviews to be conducted on an annual basis or as deemed necessary.

3.12.2 The following immaterial amendments have been made to the following policies/strategies and the full versions will be published on the Pension Service website –

Policy/Strategy	Review reason	Amendments made
Governance Policy and Compliance Statement.	Officer review due to ensure it remains synchronised with the Constitution and Inter Authority Agreement.	1) Chairwoman/Chairman replaced with Chair. General tidying up and policy restructured. 2) Governance structure diagram updated. 3) ACCESS terms of reference added as per the IAA. 4) The Joint Committee standing orders updated to reflect changes to observers and substitute members. 5) Section 151 Officer statutory function reflected and inclusion of the S151 Officers Group terms of reference as per the IAA.
Investment Strategy Statement (ISS).	To reflect strategic asset allocation changes within the ISS.	Updated strategic asset allocation within the ISS to that agreed at the March 2023 Pensions Committee. A full review of the ISS will follow the active equity review.

3.12.3 The Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer have reviewed the Governance Policy and Compliance Statement with no further comments ahead of the Committee and Board oversight.

3.12.4 The updated policies were published on the Pension Service website following the noting of these changes.

3.13 Skills and knowledge opportunities

3.13.1 The Public Services Pensions Act 2013 and the Pensions Regulator's Code of Practice (Governance and administration of public service pension schemes) require all members of the Pension Fund Committee and Board to maintain the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake their role effectively.

3.13.2 In addition, in order to facilitate the acquisition of skills and knowledge for members of the Pension Fund Board, appendix 3 lists the main events that are deemed useful and appropriate.

- 3.13.3 If members of the Pension Fund Committee would like to attend any of the events listed in appendix 3, please contact a member of the Fund’s governance team who will make the necessary arrangements if an invitation has not already been sent.
- 3.13.4 The Training Strategy was approved at the July meeting of the Pension Fund Committee and members have until 21 July 2024 to complete the mandatory training modules. Here is a copy of the [Training Strategy](#) for reference.

4. Relevant Pension Fund Objectives

Have robust governance arrangements in place, to facilitate informed decision making, supported by appropriate advice, policies and strategies, whilst ensuring compliance with appropriate legislation and statutory guidance. *Objective 1*

Manage the Fund in a fair and equitable manner, having regard to what is in the best interest of the Fund’s stakeholders, particularly the scheme members and employers. *Objective 2*

Ensure the relevant stakeholders responsible for managing, governing and administering the Fund, understand their roles and responsibilities and have the appropriate skills and knowledge to ensure those attributes are maintained in a changing environment. *Objective 3*

To continually monitor and manage risk, ensuring the relevant stakeholders are able to mitigate risk where appropriate.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 The mitigated risks associated with this report has been captured in the Fund’s risk register as detailed below -

Risk	Residual risk rating
Those charged with governance are unable to fulfil their responsibilities effectively	Green
Failure to administer the scheme in line with regulations and guidance.	Green
Failure to provide relevant information to the Pension Fund Committee/Pension Board to enable informed decision making	Green

- 5.2 The Fund’s risk register can be found on the Pensions website: [Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Register](#).

6. Communication Implications

- 6.1 Training - All staff involved in the administration of the LGPS are aware of how any new developments impact on the calculation and payment of benefits from the scheme.
- 6.2 Employers - All relevant items are communicated to scheme employers

7. Finance & Resources Implications

7.1 There are no financial and resource implications associated with this report.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 Not applicable

9. Consultation with Key Advisers

9.1 The LGPS Online Learning Training is a Hymans product.

10. Alternative Options Considered

10.1 Not applicable

11. Background Papers

11.1 None

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1 Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Training Plan

Checklist of Key Approvals

Has this report been cleared by Head of Pensions?

Mark Whitby – 13/10/23

Training plan 2023/24

Date	Training	Method of delivery	Delivered by	Target audience	Additional Information
APR					
MAY					
JUN	Local Authority Conference 2023	Conference – face to face	Pension and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA)	Committee, Board & Officer	26-28 Local Authority Conference PLSA (Cotswolds)
JULY	Heywood Officer Conference	Conference – face to face	Heywood	Officer	12-13 July in Manchester
AUGUST					
SEPTEMBER	Investment and Pensions Summit	Conference – face to face	Local Government Chronicle (LGC)	Committee, Board & Officer	7-8 September in Leeds. LGC Investment & Pensions Summit 2023 - Home Page (lgcplus.com)
	McCloud training for administration teams	Virtual	Aon	Officer	12 September 2023
	Pooling Consultation	Virtual	In House	Committee & Board	22 September 2023
	Timberland training	Virtual	Mercer	Committee & Board	29 September 2023
OCTOBER	Property asset class training	TBC	Mercer	Investment Sub Committee	Date TBC
NOVEMBER	Investor Day	Conference – face to face	LINK (Waystone)	Committee & Officer	30 November 2023 London

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund

Appendix 1

Date	Training	Method of delivery	Delivered by	Target audience	Additional Information
DECEMBER	Annual Conference 2022	Conference – face to face	Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF)	Committee, Board & Officer	6-8 December 2023 Bournemouth.
JANUARY	Governance Conference	Conference – hybrid	Local Government Association (LGA)	Committee, Board & Officer	18-19 January 2024 (online/York)
FEBRUARY	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)	TBC	Aon	Committee, Board & Officers	TBC
MARCH					



Administered in partnership

Cambridgeshire
Pension Fund

Pension Fund Board.

Date: 3 November 2023.

Report by: Head of Pensions

Subject: Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Potential Breaches of the Law Report

Purpose of the Report: To highlight potential breaches of the law in relation to the management and administration of the Fund. The report aims to provide assurance to the Cambridgeshire Pension Board that adequate controls are in place for both identifying and reporting such breaches.

Recommendation: The Pension Fund Board is asked to:
1) note the potential breaches of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund and associated control measures.

Enquiries to: Michelle Oakensen
Governance and Regulations Manager
michelle.oakensen@westnorthants.gov.uk

1. Background.

- 1.1 As required by clause 70 of the Pensions Act 2004, and laid out in the TPR Code of Practice for Public Service Pension Schemes 14, certain individuals are required to report breaches of the law to TPR where they have reasonable cause to believe that:
- A legal duty which is relevant to the administration of the scheme has not been, or is not being, complied with.
 - The failure to comply is likely to be of material significance to the regulator in the exercise of any of its function.

- 1.2 Those who are subject to the reporting requirements (“reporters”) for public service pension schemes are:

- Scheme Managers i.e., pension committee members and officers involved in the management of the fund at the administering authority
- Members of pension boards
- Participating employers
- Professional advisers (this includes individuals such as the Fund's external auditor, actuary, investment consultant, governance/benefit consultant and legal adviser)
- Any person who is otherwise involved in advising the managers of the scheme in relation to the scheme

- Any person who is otherwise involved in the administration of a public service pension scheme.
- 1.3 In addition to the legal requirements, TPR's Code of Practice provides expectations that schemes should be satisfied that:
- those responsible for reporting breaches are made aware of the legal requirements and their guidance
 - they have a sufficient level of knowledge and understanding to fulfil that duty and
 - they have appropriate procedures in place to identify and assess
- 1.4 The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund has in place a 'Reporting Breaches of the Law to the Pensions Regulator Policy' and this report is designed to be supplementary in providing detail of the types of potential breaches the Fund may encounter.

2. Executive summary.

2.1 The below potential breach areas are covered by the Pensions Act 2004 and the Pensions Regulator's (TPR) Code of Practice and the detail for each can be found in sections 3.1-3.8 of the report.

- Knowledge and understanding
- Conflicts of interest
- Publishing information about schemes
- Scheme record keeping
- Internal controls
- Contributions
- Providing information to members
- Internal dispute resolution

2.2 The below potential breach areas are covered by the LGPS Regulations, the detail can be found in Appendix 1 of the report.

- Membership
- Contributions
- Pension accounts and benefits
- Strategies, statements and reports
- Actuarial valuations
- Payments
- Decisions
- Transfers
- Governance
- Investment

2.3 There are other regulatory requirements the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund must adhere to; these are listed below. Details of the requirements in these areas are covered in Appendix 2 of the report.

- Finance Act and HMRC requirements

- Public Sector accessibility requirements
- Pensions Dashboards
- Data protection and information requests
- Data breaches

2.4 Section 3.9 of the report highlights potential Pensions Regulator consequences from breaches of the law.

3. Details of potential breaches that fall within the Pensions Act 2004 and TPR’s Code of Practice

3.1 Knowledge and Understanding

3.1.1 Requirement: A member of the pension board of a public service pension scheme:

- must be conversant with the rules of the scheme, and any document recording policy about the administration of the scheme.
- must have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions, and any other matters which are prescribed in regulations.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Training Strategy in place.	Regularly reviewed in line with approved review cycle and published on the Pensions Service website. Prescribed timescales for mandatory training to be undertaken and the Chair of respective Committee/Board is notified of non-compliance.
Training recorded in the Annual Report and statement of Accounts.	Annual Report published by 1 December each year. Draft and final report presented to the Committee and Board each year.
Adequate policies and strategies in place.	Regularly reviewed in line with approved review cycle and published on the Pension Service website (except Cyber).
Activities undertaken by the Committee and Board are reported to Full Council.	An annual report is approved by the Chair of the Pension Committee and taken to Full Council for oversight purposes. The Board’s annual report is produced by Democratic Services and presented at a Board meeting prior to being taken to Full Council.

3.2 Conflicts of Interest

3.2.1 Requirement: The scheme manager must be satisfied:

- that a person to be appointed as a member of the pension board does not have a conflict of interest.
- from time to time, that none of the members of the pension board have a conflict of interest.

- each member or proposed member of a pension board must provide the scheme manager with such information as the scheme manager reasonably requires for the purposes of meeting the requirements referred to above.
- the pension board must include employer representatives and member representatives in equal numbers.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Conflicts of Interest Policy in place.	Regularly reviewed in line with approved review cycle and published on the Pension Service website.
Conflicts of Interest Register in place.	Declarations issued annually and the respective Chair is notified of any non-compliance.
Conflicts of interest training in place.	A link to COI training is sent with all declaration requests.
Constitution in place.	A Governance Policy and Compliance Statement is in place that reflects the CCC Constitution and is reviewed by officers annually. The Committee and Board structures are reflective of the Constitution.

3.3 Publishing information about Schemes

3.3.1 Requirement: The scheme manager for a public service scheme must publish information about the pension board for the scheme(s) and keep that information up to date. The information must include:

- who the members of the pension board are.
- representation on the board of members of the scheme(s).
- the matters falling within the pension board's responsibility.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Published information on the Committee and Board.	The Pensions Service website contains details of membership and remit of the Committee, ISC and Board. Democratic Services also publish membership details.
CCC Constitution in place.	The responsibility of the CCC Monitoring Officer and is maintained and reviewed by Democratic Services. The Constitution is published and contains the roles and responsibilities of the Committee, ISC and Board.
Governance Policy and Compliance Statement in place.	Regularly reviewed by Officers and material changes are approved by the Monitoring Officer. The Policy is published on the Pensions Service website and contains roles and responsibilities of the Committee, ISC and Board.

3.4 Scheme Record Keeping

3.4.1 Requirement: Scheme managers must keep records of information relating to:

- member information.
- transactions.
- pension board meetings and decisions.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Pension Administration System in place.	Holds information on all membership types and contains transactional information for all events such as transfers and retirements. Heywood is contracted to ensure the system is fit for purpose, data is secure and that the Fund continually cleanses data for accuracy. The administration system provides an audit trail of all activity undertaken and stores associated documentation.
Data Improvement Policy in place.	Regularly reviewed in line with approved review cycle and published on the Pensions Service website.
Data Improvement Plan in place.	Updated annually and presented to the Committee and Board.
Data scoring undertaken.	Common and Conditional data scores are a component of the Pension Regulator's annual Scheme Return which is mandatory.
Meetings undertaken in line with statutory obligations.	Meetings are co-ordinated by Democratic Services who ensure statutory obligations are adhered to in line with the Constitution. Minutes are taken at each meeting for a clear audit trail of any decisions made. Public items are published for transparency.

3.5 Internal Controls

3.5.1 Requirement: The scheme manager of a public service pension scheme must establish and operate internal controls. These must be adequate for the purpose of ensuring that the scheme is administered and managed in accordance with the scheme rules and in accordance with the requirements of the law. Internal controls refer to:

- arrangements and procedures to be followed in the administration and management of the scheme.
- systems and arrangements for monitoring that administration and management.
- arrangements and procedures to be followed for the safe custody and security of the assets of the scheme.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Task Management Processing.	The task management system contains procedural notes and checklists that are continually reviewed and updated by the Quality Assurance Officer. Training is also provided on procedural changes.
Policies and Strategies in place.	Regularly reviewed in line with approved review cycle and published on the Pensions Service website.
System reporting.	Workflow monitoring reports are produced by the Quality Assurance Officer on a weekly basis. Key Performance Indicator statistics are reported to the Committee and Board at every meeting via the Administration Report and operate under a RAG system basis.
Financial Transactions	Transactions entered within the system require managerial approval, staff who input the transaction cannot approve the transaction. These approvals are contingent upon the value associated with each transaction, with varying approval thresholds requiring different levels of authorisation. On a monthly basis, the approval hierarchy is subject to scrutiny and assessment by the Fund Accounting team.
Custodian in place.	Robust procurement process to appoint an appropriate custodian. Oversight from both the Investment Sub Committee and Pension Fund Committee.

3.6 Contributions

3.6.1 Requirement: Where employee contributions are deducted from a member's pay, the amount deducted must be paid to the managers of the scheme at the latest by the 19th day of the month following the deduction, or by the 22nd day if paid electronically (the 'prescribed period'), or earlier if required by scheme regulations.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Payment of Employee and Employer Contribution Policy in place.	Regularly reviewed in line with approved review cycle and published on the Pensions Service website.
Automated reconciliation process.	A defined process is in place to monitor the employer contribution payments to the Fund. An electronic return is completed by the employer and an automated check is carried out against the return and compares the amount received. The database flags any missed payments and/or returns for resolution.
Internal escalation Policy in place.	Where issues are not resolved within the Funding Team the issue is referred to the Employer's Team who will deal with the employer directly.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Pension Regulator Report where applicable.	Persistent late/non-payment of contributions may result in a late payment report being submitted to the Pensions Regulator. All employers reported to the Pensions Regulator are notified to the Committee and Board via the Administration Report.

3.7 Providing information to members

3.7.1 Requirement: The law requires schemes to disclose information about benefits and scheme administration to scheme members and others, this includes:

- Benefit Statements – both timescales and requirements relating to the content of annual benefit statements
- other information to be provided in other circumstances within defined timescales including:
 - basic scheme information
 - information about the scheme that has materially altered.
 - information about the constitution of the scheme.
 - information about transfer credits.
 - information about life styling.
 - information about accessing benefits.
 - information about benefits in payment.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Communication Plan in place.	Reviewed annually and presented to the Committee and Board for comment. The Communications Officer is responsible for delivering timely and accurate communications to appropriate audiences in a suitable manner. Scheme changes are covered by the disclosure regulations and must be communicated to affected members within 3 months, these are managed by the Communications Officer with support from the regulations team.
Constitution in place.	The CCC Monitoring Officer/Democratic Services are responsible for maintaining and publishing the constitution. There is a Fund specific Governance Policy & Compliance Statement in place that reflects the Constitution.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Pensions Service website in place.	Basis scheme information is accessible via the Pensions Service website. Officers are responsible for keeping it updated with current and accurate information obtained via national bodies such as the Local Government Association, Scheme Advisory Board and the Fund's governance advisors.
Cyclical processes.	Yearly processes built into work planning to ensure benefit statements are accurate and issued on time. These processes include reconciling year end data, the production of the statements and that effective communications are in place to ensure members are aware when they have been issued.
Key performance Indicators.	A suite of KPI measures is in place to monitor both administrative performance against service level targets and statutory targets that measure the overall customer experience. The KPI measures ensure action can be taken (within the service or with employers) at particular pressure points and ensure members receive timely and accurate information.
Technical guidance.	The LGPC Annual Benefit Statements technical guide is used as a reference tool for ensuring the content of the statements is compliant.

3.8 Internal Dispute Resolution

- 3.8.1 Requirement: Scheme managers must make and implement dispute resolution arrangements that comply with the requirements of the law and help resolve pension disputes between the scheme manager and a person with an interest in the scheme. Scheme managers and specified persons must take the decision required on the matters in dispute within a reasonable period of receiving the application. They must notify the applicant of the decision within a reasonable period of having taken it.
- 3.8.2 Internal dispute resolution procedures must state the manner in which an application for the resolution of a pension dispute is to be made, the particulars which must be included in such an application and the manner in which any decisions required in relation to such an application are to be reached and given. The procedure must specify a reasonable period within which applications must be made by certain people.
- 3.8.3 Scheme managers must provide information about the scheme's dispute resolution procedure as well as information about the Money and Pensions Service and the Pensions Ombudsman to certain people at certain stages.

Controls in place	Measures against the controls & oversight
Internal Despite Resolution Procedure published and accessible.	The full process and statutory timescales are detailed in the administering authority decision guide. An internal control log to monitor stage 1 & 2 cases is managed by the Governance and Regulations Manager. Letters to the member include details on the Pensions Ombudsman and information on the Money and Pensions Service.
Comprehensive documentation.	IDRP documentation including guidance, claim forms and determinations cover all regulatory requirements and timescales. Appropriate adjudicators in place at stage 1 and 2 with clear separation of processes. Information on the Pensions Ombudsman and MAPS provided at relevant stages.
Continual monitoring.	A monitoring log is in place to ensure that all stage 1 & 2 disputes are managed appropriately adhering to prescribed timescales.

3.9 Potential Pensions Regulator breach of the law consequences

3.9.1 The Pensions Regulator ensures that their decisions are proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent and targeted. A risk based and proportional approach is taken when deciding whether to take enforcement action. The role of the regulator is to support those that they regulate and to change behaviours.

3.9.2 Enforcement options are considered once any evidence that has been obtained is analysed. The decision is based on the most proportionate means to achieve the desired outcome, taking into consideration how long enforcement action might take.

3.9.3 The potential outcomes fall into 5 categories as detailed below:

Prevention – an improvement notice may be issued to mitigate a breach being repeated in the future. The notice sets out the steps that must be taken to remedy the breach within a prescribed timeframe.

Remedy – an improvement notice may be issued as with above or a financial penalty may be imposed. A fixed penalty notice can be issued to encourage compliance, if this is not successful an escalating penalty notice can be issued. For persistent or subsequent non-compliance, a criminal sanction may be appropriate.

Restoration – if an act has detrimentally affected scheme benefits the aim will be for the members pension benefits to be put back to where they would have been if the breach had not occurred. A notice maybe issued to the Fund, and potentially penalty or criminal powers under the Pensions Act 2004 may be used in addition.

Deterrence – some contravention of pensions legislation cannot be put right or remedied. When these contraventions are persistent, indicate intentional non-compliance or that a criminal offence has been committed, powers may be used to punish and deter. In this scenario financial penalty or prosecution proceedings may be immediately pursued. The prosecution powers are generally reserved for the most serious behaviour, in particular dishonest, wilful or fraudulent. In some instances, these can lead to a criminal conviction. Each prosecution case is tested against the criteria set out in TPR prosecution policy.

Settlement – in some circumstances it may be appropriate to not pursue or continue action, this will not apply where civil or regulatory proceedings have commenced. The settlement should offer a fair and appropriate outcome having regard to the circumstances of the case and the statutory objectives. Each case will offer its own unique challenges and circumstances, so an acceptable settlement for one case may be very different from that for another, even if the same regulatory power is being used.

4. Relevant Fund objectives.

4.1 The following objectives as per the Business Plan have been considered in this report -

- To have robust governance arrangements in place, to facilitate informed decision making, supported by appropriate advice, policies and strategies, whilst ensuring compliance with appropriate legislation and statutory guidance.
- To manage the Fund in a fair and equitable manner, having regard to what is in the best interest of the Fund's stakeholders, particularly the scheme members and employers.
- To ensure the relevant stakeholders responsible for managing, governing and administering the Fund, understand their roles and responsibilities and have the appropriate skills and knowledge to ensure those attributes are maintained in a changing environment.
- To put in place performance standards for the Fund and its employers and ensure these are monitored and developed as necessary.
- To maintain accurate records and ensure data is protected and used for authorised purposes only.
- To provide scheme members with up-to-date information about the scheme in order that they can make informed decisions about their benefits.
- To continually monitor and manage risk, ensuring the relevant stakeholders are able to mitigate risk where appropriate

5. Risk Management

5.1 The mitigated risks associated with this report has been captured in the Fund's risk register as detailed below –

Risk.	Residual risk rating
Those charged with the governance are unable to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.	Green.
Failure to provide relevant information to the Pension Committee/Pension Board to enable informed decision making.	Green.
Risk of fraud and error.	Green.
Failure to understand and monitor risk compliance.	Green.
Lack of understanding of employer responsibilities which could result in statutory and non-statutory deadlines being missed	Green.
Failure to act appropriately upon expert advice and/or risk of poor advice.	Green.
Failure to administer the scheme in line with regulations and guidance.	Green.

5.2 Please see the [Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Risk Register Executive Summary](#)

6. Communication Implications

6.1 None

7. Finance & Resources Implications

7.1 The Fund governance advisors Aon produced an initial report that highlighted potential breach areas.

8. Legal Implications

There could be legal implications if a breach of the law was to occur.

9. Consultation with Key Advisers

9.1 The Fund governance advisors Aon produced an initial report that highlighted potential breach areas.

10. Alternative Options Considered.

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Background Papers.

11.1 Internal Audit Report [Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

12. Appendices.

12.1 Appendix 1 – Details of potential breaches that fall within the LGPS Regulations.

Appendix 2 - Other regulatory requirements the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund must adhere to.

Checklist of Key Approvals

Has this report been cleared by Head of Pensions?

Mark Whitby – 13/10/23

Appendix 1 - Details of potential breaches that fall within the LGPS Regulations.

Potential breach area	Potential breach	Comments
Membership.	An employer not entering eligible employees into the scheme.	Employer responsibility. The Fund will communicate responsibilities with scheme employers and provide training and support.
Contributions.	Incorrect contribution rates applied by an employer.	Employer responsibility. Limited validation checks will be carried out by the Fund.
	Incorrect application of assumed pensionable pay by an employer.	
	Not deducting contributions correctly from what is defined as pensionable pay.	
Pension accounts and benefits.	Errors in calculating benefits.	Checking processes. Skills and knowledge. Pension software system. Quality Assurance Officer in post to check processes are fit for purpose. Escalation to Governance and Regulations team if any queries/unusual cases.
Strategies, statements and reports.	Missing the 1 December deadline for publishing the annual report.	The annual report is managed as a project to ensure all activities are undertaken to allow the annual report to be published on time. Relevant Committee and Board oversight factored in to meet the deadline.
	Not having all policies/statements in place as required by the regulations.	The Fund has in place an approved policy/strategy review cycle that the Committee and Board have oversight of. The Fund's governance advisor provides advice in this area.
	Not publishing any policy/statement that is required to be published.	All policies and strategies are published on the Pension Service website.
Actuarial valuations	Not having triennial actuarial valuation documents finalised by the first anniversary from valuation date.	The Valuation Report is published following each triennial valuation. The Actuary is in place to ensure the process and delivery is adhered to. Committee and Board engagement on prescribed timescales to meet the deadline. Professional actuarial guidance and advice.

Potential breach area	Potential breach	Comments
	Not having appropriate revised rates and adjustment certificates for existing employers or not publishing/providing copies in accordance with Regulation 66.	The rates and adjustments certificate is incorporated in the Valuation Report and therefore published in accordance with the above. Employers in the Fund are sent their individual rates alongside the Valuation Report.
Payments	Incorrect amounts of contributions paid by employers	Employer responsibility.
	Late payment of contributions	Payment of Employee and Employer Contribution Policy in place. Reconciliation of contributions. Escalation process in place.
	Late or non-provision of a remittance advice with payment	Payment of Employee and Employer Contribution Policy in place. Reconciliation of contributions. Escalation process in place.
Decisions	Delays in decisions being made (noting the “as soon as reasonably practicable” requirement).	Monitoring of all complaints and IDRP stage 1 and 2 cases to ensure compliance with internal policy and statutory obligations. Performance monitoring in place to establish any delays to processes and subsequent delays in decisions being made.
	Not including appropriate information in notifications of decisions.	Comprehensive determination letters including sequence of events, reason for decision and what to do next if the member does not agree the decision.
	Employer not meeting notification procedures for required information on an ongoing basis and at year end in accordance with Regulation 80(2) (Regulation 80 – LGPS Regulations 2013).	Employer responsibility. Escalation and penalties in line with the Fund’s Administration Strategy.
	Not issuing annual benefit statements to all active, deferred and pension credit members and/or missing the 31 August deadline.	As per TPR Code of Practice response in main report (6.7).

Potential breach area	Potential breach	Comments
Transfers	Paying a transfer which is not a “recognised transfer” under the meaning of the Finance Act 2004.	LGPC technical transfer guidance is incorporated into business processes and adhered to. Internal processes in place to protect members.
	Not complying with the provisions of the Club Memorandum when paying a club transfer.	LGPC technical transfer guidance is incorporated into business processes and adhered to. Internal processes in place to identify the types of transfer arrangements and associated guidance notes.
	During a bulk transfer, not providing members with sufficient information in writing before agreement.	Communication work streams between the employer and pension funds are set up at the start of a bulk transfer process. Staged approach with information and guidance provided as well as actions to be undertaken flagged. All communication is documented and discussed at progress meetings.
	Not calculating a transfer to another administering authority in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Secretary of State (unless it relates to 10 or more members).	LGPC technical transfer guidance is incorporated into business processes and adhered to. Internal processes in place to identify the types of transfer arrangements and associated guidance notes.
Governance	Not appointing at least 4 members to the local pension board, in equal numbers of employer representatives and member representatives	3 member representatives and 3 employer representatives appointed to the Board as per the Constitution.
	Not being satisfied from time to time that none of the local pension board members has a conflict of interest.	Conflicts of Interest Register in place.

Potential breach area	Potential breach	Comments
Investment	Not holding a separate bank account for all fund money.	The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund has a separate bank account from the administering authority.
	Not taking proper advice when formulating an investment strategy or the strategy not being in accordance with the Secretary of State's guidance.	Appropriate procurements of a Fund Investment consultant and Independent Investment Consultant. As part of that procurement all organisations must be authorised by the FCA, and individual advisors should have the relevant experience and qualifications.
	Not investing in accordance with the investment strategy, any fund money that is not needed immediately to make payments from the fund.	All investment decisions are delegated and approved by the Investment Sub- Committee.
	Not setting out within the investment strategy, the maximum percentage of the total value of all investments of fund money that it will invest in particular investments or classes of investment.	The Fund's strategic asset allocation is set out in the Fund's investment strategy statement and reviewed periodically by the Investment Sub-Committee and approved by the Pension Committee.
	Not reviewing the investment strategy at least every 3 years or not publishing it.	The investment strategy statement is reviewed and approved by the Pension Committee at least every 3 years.
	The authority borrowing money if, at the time of the borrowing, the authority does not reasonably believe that the sum borrowed, and interest charged in respect of that sum can be repaid out of its pension fund within 90 days of the borrowing.	Not applicable as the Fund does not borrow money for its operations.

Appendix B - Other regulatory requirements the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund must adhere to.

Regulatory area	Potential breach	Comment
Finance Act and HMRC requirements	Missing deadlines for Pension Saving Statements (PSSs)	The issuing of PSSs is part of the cyclical annual allowance process. The Committee and Board are notified of any breaches via the Administration Report.
	Missing other notifiable events requirements	Quarterly reports are submitted to the HMRC that cover annual allowance charges/lifetime allowance charges/short service refund lump sum charges and special lump sum death benefit changes which are all generated through BAU processes and actioned by the Funding Team. Event reporting which includes PSS statements, benefit crystallisation and lifetime allowance, ceased ill health pensions and unauthorised payments is undertaken on an annual basis and are generated through BAU processes and actioned by the Funding Team.
Public Sector accessibility requirements	Not meeting accessibility standards or not publishing an accessibility statement on the Pensions Service website.	Accessibility checks are made on all website content and an accessibility statement is published on the website. Accessibility statement for Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire LGPS
Pensions Dashboards	Missing the staging date for pensions dashboards.	Following TPR checklist and guidance to be prepared for the 31 October 2026. Further guidance is awaited on the staging timescale since the project reset. National guidance and regional group support.
	Not providing information to the dashboards in line with the prescribed deadlines set.	Following TPR checklist and guidance to be prepared for the 31 October 2026. Further guidance is awaited on the staging timescale since the project reset. National guidance and regional group support.

Regulatory area	Potential breach	Comment
Data protection and information requests	Not responding to requests from members in line with GDPR requirements including data subject access requests and right to withdraw.	<p>The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund follows the Cambridgeshire County Council Data Protection Policy and has a privacy notice published on the Pensions Service website stating how the Fund uses personal data.</p> <p>Privacy statement - Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>Privacy summary Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (westnorthants.gov.uk)</p> <p>Subject access requests and rights are covered by the Cambridgeshire County Council FOI process.</p> <p>Data Protection And Foi - Cambridgeshire County Council</p>
	Not complying with UK General Data Protection Regulations.	<p>The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund follows Cambridgeshire County Council Data Protection Policy and has a privacy notice published on the Pension Service website stating how the Fund uses personal data.</p> <p>Privacy statement - Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>Privacy summary Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (westnorthants.gov.uk)</p>
Data breaches	Not notifying the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) within 72 hours of becoming aware of a network and information systems (NIS) incident where there is substantial impact on the provision of the digital service.	<p>The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund follows the Cambridgeshire County Council Data Protection Policy on reporting data breaches which is compliant with the ICO reporting requirements.</p> <p>Privacy statement - Cambridgeshire County Council</p>

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund

Pension Fund Board

3 November 2023

Report by: Head of Pensions

Subject:	Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Cash Management Strategy
Purpose of the Report:	To present the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Cash Management Strategy to the Board
Recommendations:	The Pension Fund Board are asked to note the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Cash Management Strategy
Enquiries to:	Ben Barlow, Fund Accounting and Investments Manager. Tel – 07831 123167 Email – Ben.Barlow@Westnorthants.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1. The purpose of the Cash Management Strategy is to manage Fund's cash efficiently, ensuring adequate cash is available in the Fund's accounts held at NatWest bank to meet the day to day cash requirements of the Fund, and to ensure timely payment of surplus cash to Northern Trust for investment in line with the Fund's Investment Strategy.
- 1.2. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 ("the Regulations") came into force on 1 November 2016 and require the Fund to review its cash management strategy on a regular basis.
- 1.3. Under the Regulations, the Fund is required to have its own separate bank account, may only borrow by way of temporary loan or overdraft for the purpose of paying benefits due under the scheme or to meet investment commitments, and must invest, in accordance with its Investment Strategy, any fund money that is not needed immediately to make payments from the Fund.
- 1.4. To meet the requirements of the Regulations, the Fund has identified objectives and key principles to govern the Fund's approach to cash management, as can be seen in sections 3 and 4 of the Cash Management Strategy.
- 1.5. The processes set up in response to the strategy include daily forecasting and monitoring from the finance team using Public Sector Live software; monthly forecasting and reporting to management; and periodically moving cash to and from NatWest and Northern Trust when there is a surplus or deficit.
- 1.6. The strategy allows officers the ability to react efficiently to the cash requirements of the Fund.

1.7. The key changes to the strategy, approved by Pension Fund Committee 8 June 2023, include removal of references to LGSS, change of the Fund's bank provider and formatting issues. There have been no changes to internal processes since the Strategy's approval.

2. Changes to the existing policy

2.1. Following approval in June, the following changes have taken place:

Section	Changes agreed at June PC
Throughout	- Change of bank from Barclays to NatWest
8 – Operational Issues	- Reference to LGSS
Flow Chart	- Change of bank from Barclays to NatWest - Moved from section 8 Operational Issues to Section 7 Key Cash Flow Movements/Timings - Includes refunds in cash flow out of NatWest
Throughout	- Formatting issues
7 – Key Cash Flow Movements/Timings	- Includes refunds in cash flow out of NatWest
New section 9	- Effective date and reviews of the policy
Glossary	- Moved from section 9 to 10

3. Next Steps

3.1. The Pension Fund Committee approved the Strategy at its meeting on 8 June 2023, since the meeting the Strategy has been published online and the Board notified.

4. Relevant Pension Fund Objectives

To have robust governance arrangements in place, to facilitate informed decision making, supported by appropriate advice, policies, and strategies, whilst ensuring compliance with appropriate legislation and statutory guidance.

To manage the Fund in a fair and equitable manner, having regard to what is in the best interest of the Fund's stakeholders, particularly the scheme members and employers.

To ensure the relevant stakeholders responsible for managing, governing and administering the Fund, understand their roles and responsibilities and have the appropriate skills and knowledge to ensure those attributes are maintained in a changing environment.

To continually monitor and manage risk, ensuring the relevant stakeholders are able to mitigate risk where appropriate.

To administer the Fund in a professional and efficient manner, utilising technological solutions and collaboration.

To ensure cash flows in to and out of the Fund are timely and of the correct amount.

To ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund, taking a prudent long-term view, so that sufficient funds are available to meet all members'/dependants' benefits as they fall due for payment.

To ensure an appropriate cash management strategy is in place so that net cash outgoings can be met as and when required.

5. Risk management

5.1. The mitigated risks associated with this report has been captured in the Fund's risk register as detailed below -

Risk	Residual risk rating
Contributions to the Fund are not received on the correct date and/or for the correct amount.	Amber
Fund assets are not sufficient to meet obligations and liabilities.	Amber
Risk of fraud and error.	Green
Custody arrangements may not be sufficient to safeguard Pension Fund assets.	Green
Failure to administer the scheme in line with regulations and guidance.	Green

5.2. The Fund's full risk register can be found on the Fund's website at the following link: [Fund's Risk Register](#)

6. Communication Implications

6.1. The Cash Management Strategy has been published on the Funds website

7. Finance & Resources Implications

7.1. There are no finance or resources implications arising from the proposals in this paper.

8. Legal Implications

8.1. There are no legal implications arising from the report.

9. Consultation with Key Advisers

9.1. Not applicable

10. Alternative Options Considered

10.1. Not applicable

11. Background Papers

11.1. None.

12. Appendices

12.1. Appendix A – Cash Management Strategy 2023 clean

12.2. Appendix B – Cash Management Strategy 2023 tracked

Checklist of Key Approvals

Has this report been cleared by Head of Pensions?

Mark Whitby – 19/10/2023

Cash Management Strategy

Published 09 June 2023



Administered in partnership

1. Regulations

9.1. Under The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 the Fund is required to have its own separate bank account (paragraph 6.1). A number of other instructions are set out in the regulations regarding managing the Funds cash, these are listed below.

1.1.1. Regulation 5 – Restriction on power to borrow. This regulation states that an authority may only borrow by way of temporary loan or overdraft for the purpose of paying benefits due under the scheme or to meet investment commitments. The authority may only borrow if it reasonably believes that the sum borrowed and interest charged can be repaid by the pension fund within 90 days of borrowing.

1.1.2. Regulation 7.8 – Investment Strategy Statement. The authority must invest, in accordance with its investment strategy, any fund money that is not needed immediately to make payments from the fund.

2. Other Regulatory Influences

2.1. The Fund will also have regard to:

- [Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes \(Treasury Management Code\) \(2011\)](#),
- MHCLG Investment Guidance,
- The UK Money Markets Code,
- EU Money Market Funds (MMF) Regulation.

3. Objectives

3.1. The main objectives of a Cash Management Strategy are to ensure that:

3.1.1. The Fund is compliant with The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016,

3.1.2. Cash is available as and when required,

3.1.3. Surplus cash is invested,

3.1.4. Risks inherent within the Key Principles are managed.

4. Key Principles

4.1. There are three key principles relating to cash management:

4.1.1. Security – Safeguarding Pension Fund assets,

4.1.2. Liquidity – Ensuring the Pension Fund has cash available as and when required,

4.1.3. Yield – To achieve a market return.

5. Overdraft

5.1. An overdraft is a form of borrowing and the 2016 Regulations specify only two reasons that the Fund can legally overdraw, as set out in paragraph 1.1.1. above.

5.2. The Fund bank accounts operate with a zero aggregate overdraft facility, with strong financial control processes over cash activities.

6. Cash Arrangements

6.1. The Fund currently holds cash at NatWest and at the Fund's Custodian Northern Trust, both of which have access to interest bearing accounts. There is **no** cash held with the Administering Authority.

6.2. NatWest Bank

Operational cash is held at NatWest Bank, managed directly by Officers. A minimal balance is maintained, varying upon the information available from the three key interfaces:

6.2.1. Accounts Receivable - this account receives all contributions, transfers and invoiced income.

6.2.2. Payroll Account – Pension benefits are paid from this account monthly.

6.2.3. Payables Account – All invoice payments, grants and lump sums are payments are made from this account.

At close of business each day any surplus/shortfall on the above accounts are swept into an overarching interest bearing Liquidity Account to ensure a residual balance of £10,000 on each.

6.3. Northern Trust (Custodian)

The Fund will transfer surplus money from NatWest Bank accounts to the Fund's account at the Custodian for investment in line with the Fund's Investment Strategy. This account also acts as a gateway to receive and pay monies to Investment Managers, for example, cash from Investment distributions. The Fund has a contractual agreement with the Custodian to sweep excess cash into Money Market Funds.

6.4. Investment Managers

Investment managers hold cash at Northern Trust as part of their mandates. Whilst this cash is under the managers' control, it can be recalled by the Fund.

7. Key Cash Flow Movements/Timings

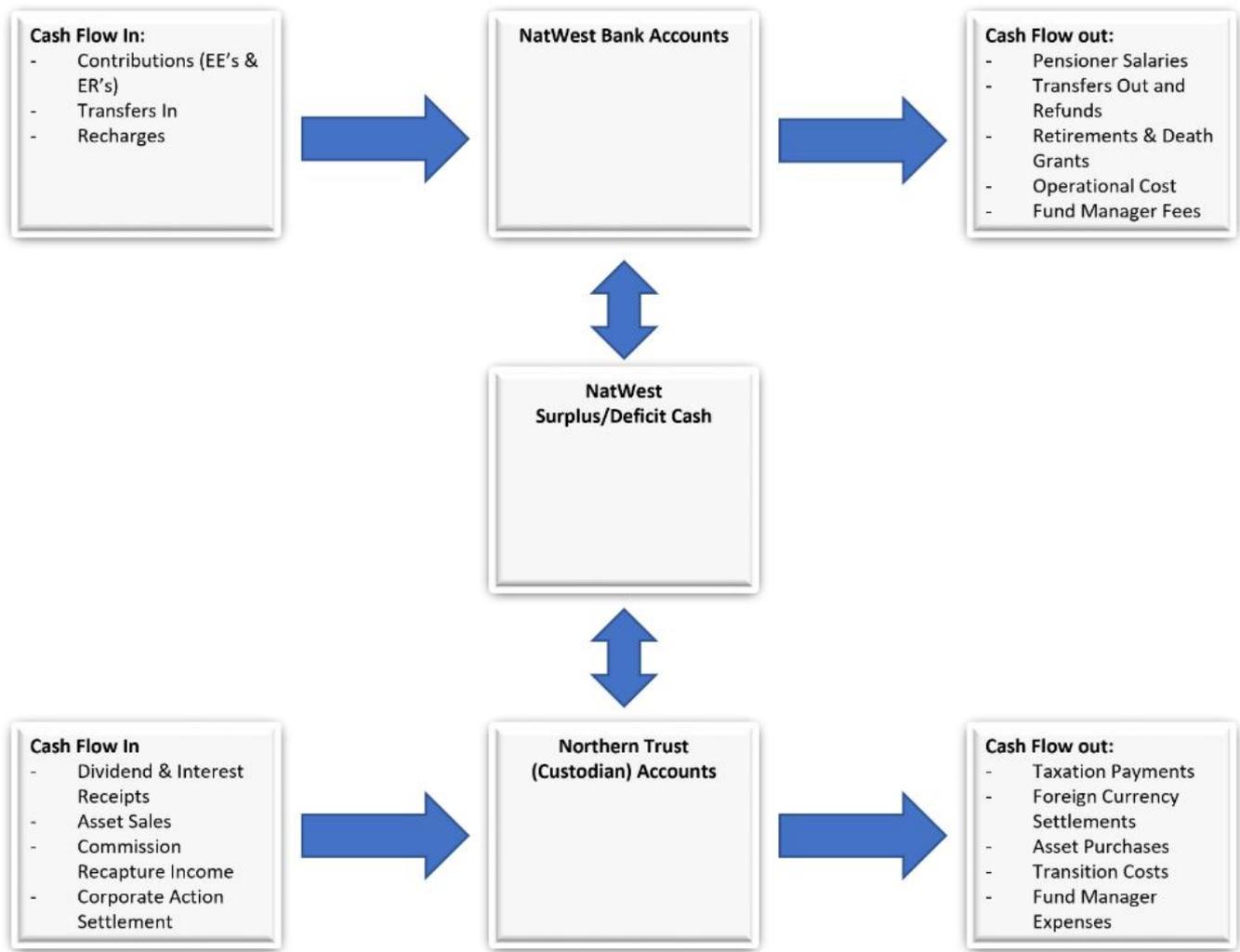
7.1. NatWest Bank

The key activities that occur within the NatWest accounts, noted at 6.2. above are monitored by Officers through regular profiling of cash movements, which identifies surplus balances or forecast shortfalls, prompting a transfer of cash to, or from, the Custodian.

There are three streams of activity; receipt of income through Accounts Receivable, payment of pension benefits through payroll and ad hoc payments through Accounts Payable. Contribution income is required to be received by the 19th of the month. This is important as it represents the receipt of income prior to the payment of the pensioners' payroll on the last working day of the month. The payments through Accounts Payable occur on an irregular pattern dependent upon demand, with the main activity being the payment of new pension liabilities such as retirement grants, in addition to death grants, transfers out and refunds.

7.2. Custodian

Officers manage the Fund's cash requirements and will first recall cash from the Custodian cash account, then from Investment Managers, giving regard to the asset allocation, liquidity and exit costs of investment assets, as required. Similarly, investing of Fund surpluses will also be in line with the Fund's Investment Strategy.



8. Operational Issues

Risk	Implication	Mitigation
Exit payments, where cash is due to Employers within the Fund who have a contribution surplus, and Employers transferring their assets and liabilities out of the Fund, generate risks to cash flows and the balance of cash within the Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Becoming overdrawn - Lack of liquidity to fund payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear inter-team communication - Segregation of duties - Sale of assets
Timing of payments result in payments exceeding the working balance held at NatWest Bank, requiring a recall of cash from the Custodian.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Becoming overdrawn - Lack of liquidity to fund payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stringent cash management and forecasting - Ability to delay non-essential payments to ease cashflow
A dependency upon Treasury to action instructions from the Pension Fund in a timely manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of liquidity to fund payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stringent cash management and forecasting - Segregation of duties
An investment drawdown where insufficient cash is	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Becoming overdrawn - Lack of liquidity to fund payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stringent cash management and forecasting

held by the Custodian on behalf of the Fund.		
County Council officers, with access to Pensions systems, can action fraudulent or erroneous cash movements.	- Becoming overdrawn - Payments made to/from wrong bank account - Fraudulent activities	- Segregation of duties - Approval from Pension Senior Management required for cash movements
Surplus cash is not invested in line with the Investment Strategy Statement on a timely basis.	- Loss of economic benefit to the Fund	- Stringent cash management - Clear inter-team Communication

8.1 The mitigated risks are managed through the Funds Risk Register

9. Effective date and reviews

9.1. The policy was first approved by the Pension Fund Committee on 28 March 2019 and was effective from 29 March 2019. The policy has since been subject to the following reviews:

Date of review	Policy effective date:
8 June 2023	9 June 2023

10. Glossary

Custodian – An external body responsible for ensuring the investing Fund’s assets are registered in the name of the Fund, managing the settlement of trades, collecting income arising and reporting transactions and values to the Fund on a regular basis.

Deficit – An outcome where expenses exceed income.

Investment Manager – An external organisation that makes investments in assets on behalf of clients.

Money Market – A mutual fund that invests in cash and cash equivalent securities.

Surplus – An outcome where income exceeds expenditure.

Cash Management Strategy
Published 09 June~~29th March~~
2023~~19~~



West
Northamptonshire
Council



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Administered in partnership

1. Regulations

9.1. Under The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 the Fund is required to have its own separate bank account (paragraph 6.1). A number of other instructions are set out in the regulations regarding managing the Funds cash, these are listed below.

1.1.1. Regulation 5 – Restriction on power to borrow. This regulation states that an authority may only borrow by way of temporary loan or overdraft for the purpose of paying benefits due under the scheme or to meet investment commitments. The authority may only borrow if it reasonably believes that the sum borrowed and interest charged can be repaid by the pension fund within 90 days of borrowing.

1.1.2. Regulation 7.8 – Investment Strategy Statement. The authority must invest, in accordance with its investment strategy, any fund money that is not needed immediately to make payments from the fund.

2. Other Regulatory Influences

2.1. The Fund will also have regard to:

- [Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes \(Treasury Management Code\) \(2011\)](#),
- MHCLG Investment Guidance,
- The UK Money Markets Code,
- EU Money Market Funds (MMF) Regulation.

3. Objectives

3.1. The main objectives of a Cash Management Strategy are to ensure that:

3.1.1. The Fund is compliant with The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016,

3.1.2. Cash is available as and when required,

3.1.3. Surplus cash is invested,

3.1.4. Risks inherent within the Key Principles are managed.

4. Key Principles

4.1. There are three key principles relating to cash management:

4.1.1. Security – Safeguarding Pension Fund assets,

4.1.2. Liquidity – Ensuring the Pension Fund has cash available as and when required,

4.1.3. Yield – To achieve a market return.

5. Overdraft

5.1. An overdraft is a form of borrowing and the 2016 Regulations specify only two reasons that the Fund can legally overdraw, as set out in paragraph 1.1.1. above.

5.2. The Fund bank accounts operate with a zero aggregate overdraft facility, with strong financial control processes over cash activities.

6. Cash Arrangements

6.1. The Fund currently holds cash at [Barclays NatWest](#) and at the Fund's Custodian Northern Trust, both of which have access to interest bearing accounts. There is **no** cash held with the Administering Authority.

6.2. [Barclays NatWest](#) Bank Plc

Operational cash is held at [Barclays NatWest](#) Bank, managed directly by Officers. A minimal balance is maintained, varying upon the information available from the three key interfaces:

6.2.1. Accounts Receivable - this account receives all contributions, transfers and invoiced income.

6.2.2. Payroll Account – Pension benefits are paid from this account monthly.

6.2.3. Payables Account – All invoice payments, grants and lump sums are payments are made from this account.

At close of business each day any surplus/shortfall on the above accounts are swept into an overarching interest bearing Liquidity Account to ensure a residual balance of £10,000 on each.

6.3. Northern Trust (Custodian)

The Fund will transfer surplus money from [Barclays NatWest](#) Bank accounts to the Fund's account at the Custodian for investment in line with the Fund's Investment Strategy. This account also acts as a gateway to receive and pay monies to Investment Managers, for example, cash from Investment distributions. The Fund has a contractual agreement with the Custodian to sweep excess cash into Money Market Funds.

6.4. Investment Managers

Investment managers hold cash at Northern Trust as part of their mandates. Whilst this cash is under the managers' control, it can be recalled by the Fund.

7. Key Cash Flow Movements/Timings

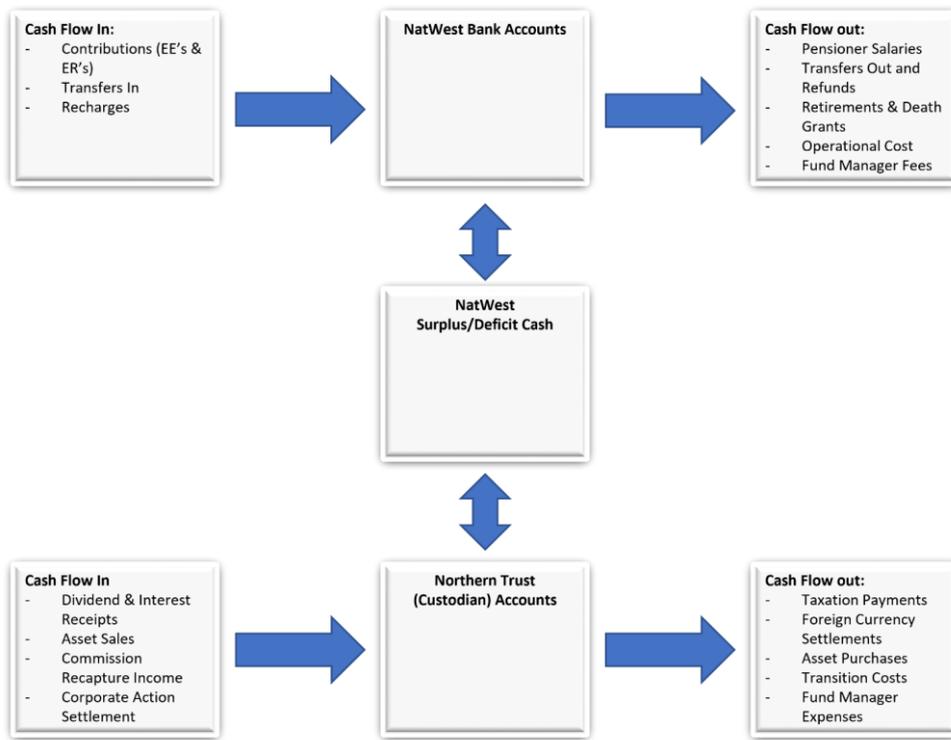
7.1. [Barclays NatWest](#) Bank

The key activities that occur within the [NatWestBarclay's](#) accounts, noted at 6.2. above are monitored by Officers through regular profiling of cash movements, which identifies surplus balances or forecast shortfalls, prompting a transfer of cash to, or from, the Custodian.

There are three streams of activity; receipt of income through Accounts Receivable, payment of pension benefits through payroll and ad hoc payments through Accounts Payable. Contribution income is required to be received by the 19th of the month. This is important as it represents the receipt of income prior to the payment of the pensioners' payroll on the last working day of the month. The payments through Accounts Payable occur on an irregular pattern dependent upon demand, with [the its](#) main activity being the payment of new pension liabilities such as retirement grants, in addition to death grants, [and](#) transfers out [and](#) refunds.

7.2. Custodian

Officers manage the Fund's cash requirements and will first recall cash from the Custodian cash account, then from Investment Managers, giving regard to the asset allocation, liquidity and exit costs of investment assets, as required. Similarly, investing of Fund surpluses will also be in line with the Fund's Investment Strategy.



Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.25 cm, First line: 0 cm

8. Operational Issues

Risk	Implication	Mitigation
Exit payments, where cash is due to Employers within the Fund who have a contribution surplus, and Employers transferring their assets and liabilities out of the Fund, generate risks to cash flows and the balance of cash within the Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Becoming overdrawn - Lack of liquidity to fund payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear inter-team communication - Segregation of duties - Sale of assets
Timing of payments result in payments exceeding the working balance held at Barclays NatWest Bank, requiring a recall of cash from the Custodian.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Becoming overdrawn - Lack of liquidity to fund payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stringent cash management and forecasting - Ability to delay non-essential payments to ease cashflow
A dependency upon LGSS Treasury to action instructions from the Pension Fund in a timely manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of liquidity to fund payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stringent cash management and forecasting - Segregation of duties

Formatted: Left

Formatted: Left

Formatted: Left

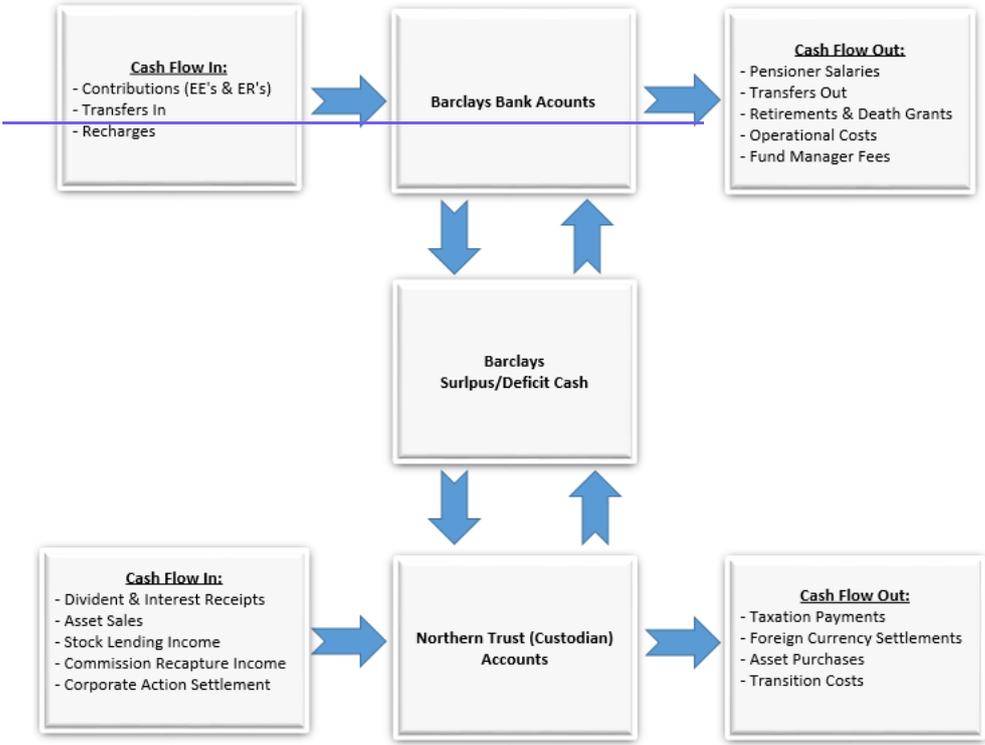
Formatted: Left

Formatted: Left

An investment draw-down where insufficient cash is held by the Custodian on behalf of the Fund.	- Becoming overdrawn - Lack of liquidity to fund payments	- Stringent cash management and forecasting
County Council officers, with access to Pensions systems, can action fraudulent or erroneous cash movements.	- Becoming overdrawn - Payments made to/from wrong bank account - Fraudulent activities	- Segregation of duties - Approval from Pension Senior Management required for cash movements
Surplus cash is not invested in line with the Investment Strategy Statement on a timely basis.	- Loss of economic benefit to the Fund	-Stringent cash management -Clear inter-team Communication

- Formatted: Left
- Formatted: Left
- Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 0.05 cm
- Formatted: Left
- Formatted: Left

8.1 The mitigated risks are managed through the Funds Risk Register



- Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 1.75 cm, Line spacing: Multiple 1.03 li
- Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, First line: 0 cm

9. Effective date and reviews

- Formatted: Font: Arial, Bold
- Formatted: Indent: Hanging: 1.27 cm

9.1. The policy was first approved by the Pension Fund Committee on 28 March 2019 and was effective from 29 March 2019. The policy has since been subject to the following reviews;

- Formatted: Font: Bold

<u>Date of review</u>	<u>Policy effective date:</u>
<u>8 June 2023</u>	<u>9 June 2023</u>

9.10. Glossary

Custodian – An external body responsible for ensuring the investing Fund's assets are registered in the name of the Fund, managing the settlement of trades, collecting income arising and reporting transactions and values to the Fund on a regular basis.

Deficit – An outcome where expenses exceed income.

Investment Manager – An external organisation that makes investments in assets on behalf of clients.

Money Market – A mutual fund that invests in cash and cash equivalent securities.

Surplus – An outcome where income exceeds expenditure.

- Formatted: Centered
- Formatted Table
- Formatted: Font: Not Bold
- Formatted: Font: Not Bold
- Formatted: Centered
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Formatted: Indent: Left: 1 cm, Hanging: 0.02 cm
- Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, First line: 0 cm

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Board Agenda Plan

Meeting date	Agenda item	Lead officer
3/11/23	Administration Report [standing item]	M Oakensen
	Business Plan Update [standing item]	M Whitby
	Governance and Compliance Report [standing item]	M Oakensen
	Cash Management Strategy [post scrutiny]	B Barlow
	Cambridgeshire Pension Fund assurance report on potential breaches of the law [to note]	M Oakensen
	Internal Audit [to note]	M Whitby
	Cyber Resilience and Data Protection [to note] exempt	M Whitby
	AVC Review [post scrutiny] - exempt	M Oakensen
	Risk Monitoring [standing item] – exempt	M Oakensen
	ACCESS Update [standing item] exempt	M Whitby
26/1/2024	Administration Report [standing item]	M Oakensen
	Administration Strategy [pre scrutiny]	C Blose
	Governance and Compliance Report [standing item]	M Oakensen
	Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Assurance Report on Potential Breaches of the Law [to note]	M Oakensen
	External Audit results report and final accounts [to note]	B Barlow
	Investment Strategy Statement [post scrutiny]	B Barlow
	External Audit plan and draft accounts	B Barlow

Meeting date	Agenda item	Lead officer
	Managed Exits – exempt	C Blose
	Data Improvement and Data Retention Policies [post scrutiny]	M Oakensen
	Risk Monitoring [standing item] – exempt	M Oakensen
	ACCESS Update [standing item] exempt	M Whitby
26/4/2024	Administration Report [standing item]	M Oakensen
	Business Plan Update [standing item]	M Whitby
	Governance and Compliance Report [standing item]	M Oakensen
	Communication Strategy [pre scrutiny]	C Blose
	Risk Monitoring – exempt	M Oakensen
	ACCESS Update – exempt	M Whitby