

# Scheme Advisory Board

## HYBRID MEETING – 21 JULY 2025

### ITEM 9– PAPER G

#### BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

##### Selection of a new Board Chair

1. Cllr Roger Phillip's tenure as the Chair of the LGPS Advisory Board will be coming to an end in March 2026, having completed two full terms. The Secretariat have been liaising with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government who have confirmed that a full public appointments process will need to be undertaken to select a new Chair. The Secretariat will be feeding into the process and will be working over the Summer to gather information and develop key documents to support the recruitment process.
2. MHCLG have raised the topic of remuneration for the new Board Chair. While remuneration could potentially have a positive impact in encouraging a wider range of applications, as far we understand, there was a broad range of applications for the post the first time it became available. The level of remuneration is only likely to be very small and probably not going to be a significant motivation for the cohort of people likely to be able to fulfil the role. Remuneration would also bring other administrative complications, in terms of employment and tax issues, that may over-ride the potential benefits. It is therefore the Secretariat's recommendation that the role remains non-remunerated.

##### ***Does the Board agree with this recommendation?***

#### Political Representation on the Board and Committees

3. The 2025 May elections have resulted in a change in the balance of political representation of councillors across the country. The Local Government Association (LGA) as a politically led organisation is in the process of setting up a new political group office for the Reform Party to reflect these changes. The Secretariat believe this is an opportune moment for the Board to reflect on its own political balance and discuss whether changes will need to be made to the elected membership of the Board or the Committees
4. The current political balance of the Board is that the Chair is a Conservative councillor and of the other 5 elected Board members, 2 are Conservative 2 are Labour and 1 is Welsh Labour. No other political parties are represented on the Board.
5. Of the Committees, only the Investment Committee has elected members on it, and both of those are currently Labour councillors (Cllr Thornton as Chair and Cllr Chapman as the LAPFF nomination).

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## Board and Committee Membership update

6. Cllr Andrew Thornton's first term on the Board has come to an end and the Labour Group office has been contacted to confirm a renomination or new nomination. Once confirmed this will be sent to MHCLG for approval.
7. As reported at the last Board meeting, Rachel Brothwood has now stepped down from the Compliance and Reporting Committee. A replacement is yet to be confirmed; however, the Secretariat has put an open advertisement in the June edition of the LGPC Bulletin. An update will be brought to the next Board meeting on the outcome of that process. There is also a vacancy on the Committee for a Society of Municipal Treasurers representative and the Secretariat hopes to bring a nomination for this vacancy to the next meeting.
8. Richard Lane has been proposed by the Department for Education as an Academies Representative on the Cost Management, Benefit Design and Administration (CMBDA) Committee replacing Charity Main who has now joined the Board. Emelda Nicholroy was initially approved for this role at the March 2025 Board meeting; however, she has since left Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA). The Education Sectors Employers have also suggested that a Further Education representative on the Committee would be of use and have nominated Richard Paul from UCEA to be considered by the Board for this role.
9. Simon Taylor has been nominated for a second term on the CMBDA Committee as a practitioner representative. Catherine McFadyen (Hymans Robertson) has stepped down from the Committee and Robert Bilton has been nominated as her replacement. Jonathan Teasdale (Aon) has also stepped down and Becky Durran has been nominated to replace him.
10. Tim Gooding from Ballie Gifford has been nominated to replace Piers Lowson as an Asset Manager representative on the Responsible Investment Advisory Group. Gareth Dixon from COSLA has been nominated to replace Jonathan Sharma. There is currently an open vacancy to replace George Graham who has stepped down from the Group.
11. The following RIAG members were approved for a second term by the Board via correspondence on 22 May 2025:
  - Sandra Stewart (Greater Manchester Pension Fund – Chair)
  - Frances Deakin (Local Pensions Partnership (LPP))
  - Ashley Hamilton Claxton (Royal London Asset Managers (RLAM))
  - Sarah Wilson (Minerva)

## Scheme Advisory Board Secretariat

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- John Neal (UNITE)
  - Graham Cook (Phoenix Group)
12. Sallie Wilson (ACCESS) was also approved as a replacement for Kevin McDonald who stepped down from the Group.
13. John Wiffen has been nominated as the replacement Academies Sector representative following Richard Lane stepping down from the Investment Committee having joined the CMBDA Committee as detailed at paragraph 8.
14. Fiona Miller has been nominated to serve a second term on Investment Committee as an Asset Pool representative.

## Conflicts of Interest Register

15. At its previous meeting, the Board agreed to maintain a Conflicts of Interest (Col) Register for Board and Committee members. The Secretariat have since contacted Board and Committee members to request this information and is currently in the process of chasing outstanding forms from Board and Committee members. Once this has been completed, summary information will be hosted on the Board website as agreed at November 2024 meeting.

## Changes to the Terms of Reference

16. At the last Board meeting, members were invited to discuss a possible revision to the Terms of Reference (ToR) in relation to the process for seeking nominations. The proposed new principles were sent to the Board for further comment after the meeting and an updated version can be found at paragraph 17. If approved, this will be added to the existing ToR. The Board also discussed the possibility of having a further extension to two five-year terms currently in place for Board members in certain circumstances (for instance - but not limited to - where a sitting union officer is the only possible appointment). The Secretariat has discussed this proposal with MHCLG however they are not willing to agree that for voting members. The current position held by MHCLG is that succession planning should be put in place by nominating bodies to find and prepare suitable members for the Board.
17. An additional change being proposed at this stage is the removal of the requirement that the Vice-Chair of the Board be appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. This requirement is contained in the ToR but is not reflected or required in the 2013 LGPS regulations and therefore potentially creates a further obstacle to the appointment process.
18. The Secretariat recommends that going forward the Vice-Chair be one of the 12 voting members appointed by the Secretary of State to be

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agreed upon by a unanimous vote of the remaining voting members and the Chair. The Secretariat also invites views at this stage on how the ToR sets out which representative group the Vice-Chair should belong to. For example, it could be stipulated that if the Board Chair is an employer representative, then the Vice-Chair should be a member representative and vice versa. If the Board Chair is an independent member, then there could be two Vice-Chairs (one from the employers' representative group and one from the members').

## ***Is there a preferred process on the selection of the Board Vice-Chair?***

### **Proposed nomination principles (to be added to Board ToR)**

19. In liaising with the nominating body, the Secretariat asks (and will document) that the body provides evidence and/or confirms the following:

- Nominee's knowledge of the LGPS
- Nominee's relevant experience and how that relates to the LGPS and the Board's work
- Nominee's involvement and links into other relevant groups
- Where the nominee is an elected member, they should ideally be from an alternative fund to the preceding outgoing member on the Board
- how the nomination process was conducted and how the decision on the specific nomination was taken by the nominating body
- Due consideration of PSED requirements by the nominating body

20. It is recommended that the changes detailed at paragraph 17 are approved whilst the Terms of Reference remains under ongoing review as to suitability.

**Recommendation: That the Board approves the recommendations in this paper.**

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