

Investment Committee

Hybrid Meeting – 10 November 2025

Item 9 – Paper F

Responsible Investment Advisory Group (RIAG) report

Report from last meeting on 6 October 2025

1. Oliver Watson (OW) from Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) explained that the Government will in due course be consulting on revised Investment Strategy Statement and Pooling Governance Guidance, in line with the Fit for the Future consultation response. Draft investment regulations are also expected to be consulted on later in the calendar year. The group asked about the [Climate Related Transition Plans Requirements consultation](#) issued by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero which closed on 18 September 2025. OW explained that the consultation made high level references to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) but confirmed that there were no timelines yet for a Government response or for a further consultation on climate reporting to be issued. However, it is still expected that climate related requirements in the LGPS will be developed separately to the private sector.
2. The group agreed that engagement with stakeholders on responsible investment policy was difficult to navigate, and the Board's offer of guidance would be useful. Any guidance should focus on how to evidence that decisions were properly informed, and case studies would be useful. It was largely thought that large-scale engagement with scheme members was not common, but more funds are now actively considering how best to undertake this type of engagement, including the use of surveys. How best to engage with scheme members had been discussed within many of the funds represented in the group but there was a concern about how representative the results truly were. Guidance on methodology and the framing of questions would be useful to ensure they are not leading towards getting a certain response. Given the clear statements in the [recent legal advice from Nigel Giffin KC](#), it seems likely that most funds will want to engage with scheme members and other stakeholders about their use of non-financial factors in the future.
3. It was agreed that the Secretariat reflect on this feedback to consider what type of practical guidance is needed and come back with some proposals to review at a future meeting.
4. An overview of the letter and position paper that was received by numerous funds from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), as well as the subsequent statements made by the Board, was discussed. It was not

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expected that the Minister would make statement on whether the Government has a view on these matters.

5. The Pension Schemes Bill's progress through Parliament was discussed. It had just completed the Committee stage in the House of Commons. The Bill includes statutory requirements for local investment in the LGPS and requires LGPS AAs to "co-operate with the strategic authorities to identify and develop appropriate investment opportunities". The group were asked for their thoughts on the local investment proposals and any points they would like the Board to include in its briefings on the Pension Schemes Bill.
6. The group generally agreed that common reporting guidelines on local investment would be useful however this shouldn't be overly prescriptive, as this could hinder innovation. It was noted that there are parallels with the Cost Transparency Initiative and it would be useful to develop a similar mechanism. [The Good Economy's White Paper, Scaling-Up Local Investing for Place-Based Impact was flagged as a good resource](#) and the measurement of outputs and impact would be useful but there was a need to be realistic about what could be achieved. The group discussed that standardised reporting should include funds and pools however it should be noted that not all local investment will be impact based, and any reporting standards needed to take account of this. It was agreed that the Secretariat would bring a paper with areas to consider when developing practical guidance to a future RIAG meeting.
7. The expectations on funds and pools to co-operate with strategic authorities and to identify and develop opportunities was discussed. The group had questions about how this could work in practice, and it was acknowledged that relationships would take significant time and effort to develop.
8. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on Climate Change which was published on 23 July 2025 and group agreed to readdress the topic at the next meeting on 1 December 2025.
9. The Board's establishment of a new Pooling Steering Group was discussed under Any Other Business. The group's aim is to enable the Board to have a more formal link with the pools. A draft Terms of Reference (ToR) had been drawn up and further consideration would be given to a representative from RIAG.
10. The date of the next RIAG meeting was confirmed as 1 December 2025.
