

TEESSIDE PENSION FUND

Administered by Middlesbrough Council

TEESSIDE PENSION BOARD REPORT

9 FEBRUARY 2026

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION– ANDREW HUMBLE

Government Consultation Responses

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the of the Teesside Pension Board (the Board) of recent Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation responses.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Board Members note this report and discuss any issues arising from it.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The proposed changes to the scheme will potentially have a financial impact through changes in scheme membership and benefit entitlements. It is unclear what the impact on any individual Fund will be.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Fit for the Future consultation launched on 14 November 2024 and brought about sweeping reforms to how the LGPS in England and Wales invest assets and are governed. A number of these are in the process of being put into primary legislation through the Pension Schemes Bill, which also covers a much wider range of reforms covering the full spectrum of pension schemes in the UK. MHCLG are also working on regulations and guidance specific to the LGPS to implement these reforms. It's expected that there will be a number of consultations launched before the 1 April 2026 deadline for these reforms to come into effect (subject to passage of the pensions Scheme Bill through Parliament).

4.2 On 13 October 2025, MHCLG launched a consultation on changes to the LGPS in England and Wales. The proposals relate to access to the Scheme and its benefits and cover four main areas:

- normal minimum pension age (NMPA)
- pension access for mayors and councillors
- academies in the LGPS
- new Fair Deal.

4.3 Links to all documents are on this page:

[**Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Scheme improvements \(access and protections\) - GOV.UK**](#)

4.4 The Government published draft regulations for comment covering new Fair Deal and pension access for mayors and councillors alongside the consultation.

Links to the separate documents are as follows:

LGPS Consultation – [**Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Scheme improvements \(access and protections\) - GOV.UK**](#)

Mayors and Councillors - [**The Local Government Pension Scheme \(Elected Member Pensions\) Regulations 2026**](#)

New Fair Deal – [**The Local Government Pension Scheme \(Fair Deal\) Regulations 2026**](#)

Best Value Direction - [**SI/SR Template**](#)

4.5 The consultation ran until 22 December 2025. Officers consulted with pooling partners and considered responses from LGA, advisory firms and Trade Unions before agreeing the response attached at Appendix A with the Chairs and Vice Chair of Pensions Committee.

4.6 On 20 November, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) opened a technical consultation relating to two “draft statutory instruments” relating to Fit for the Future reforms for the LGPS in England and Wales. They asked for feedback across 29 questions on two new sets of draft regulations, with a 6-week deadline of 2 January 2026.

4.8 This consultation was on two sets of draft regulations implementing the LGPS Fit for the Future reforms. MHCLG asked for feedback on these, focussed on whether they’re fit for purpose and do the job that government want. There are a range of different types of questions across the 29 asked, ranging in scope from strictly whether the wording of the regulations is sufficient to meet the government’s aims, through to open questions asking for any comments respondents may have. While the consultation itself provides a summary of the key points they’re asking questions on, the devil is in the detail within the draft regulations, which can be difficult to follow and are open to interpretation.

4.9 The consultation was split into two sections. The first covered 23 questions regarding the draft Local Government Pension Scheme (Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2026, which will replace the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 and give legal effect to the proposals set out in the Pooling and Local Investment chapters of the ‘Fit for the Future’ consultation. The second section asked six questions tackling the

draft Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2026, which tackle the governance section of Fit for the Future.

4.10 On 20 November 2025, MHCLG launched a consultation on changes to the LGPS in England and Wales. The proposals relate to two draft statutory instruments relating to Fit for the Future reforms for the LGPS England and Wales

Links to all documents are on this page:

[Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Fit for the Future - technical consultation - GOV.UK](#)

4.11 The Government published draft regulations for comment covering Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds and governance arrangements for administering the LGPS.

Links to the separate documents are as follows:

LGPS Consultation – [Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Fit for the Future - technical consultation - GOV.UK](#)

Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds - [The Local Government Pension Scheme \(Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds\) Regulations 2026](#)

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2026
– [The Local Government Pension Scheme \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#)

4.12 The consultation ran until 2 January 2026. Officers consulted with pooling partners and considered responses from LGA, advisory firms and Trade Unions before agreeing the response attached at Appendix B with the Chairs and Vice Chair of Pensions Committee.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 MHCLG will produce consultation responses which will be reported back to Board.

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