

TEESSIDE PENSION FUND

Administered by Middlesbrough Council

TEESSIDE PENSION BOARD REPORT

9 FEBRUARY 2026

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION– ANDREW HUMBLE

The Pensions Regulator Governance and Administration Survey 2025-26

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the of the Teesside Pension Board (the Board) of the Pensions Regulator - PSPS Governance and Administration Survey 2025-26. The report will outline some key points from the survey to generate feedback for incorporation into the response.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications resulting from this report.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Pensions Regulator (tPR) issued a survey to the scheme through an email on 19th January 2026. The survey is to be completed by the scheme manager working with the pension board chair and completed online by Friday 13th February 2026.
- 4.2 The tPR email states “The survey will help TPR determine how schemes are progressing on meeting the expected standards so it can focus on areas where they may need more support. When the survey was last conducted in 2023, 94% of all public service pension schemes completed it and this helped TPR build a comprehensive picture of governance and administration standards. TPR is hoping that all public service pension schemes participate in this year’s research.”
- 4.3 A meeting has been arranged with the Funds pensions administrator, Tyne and Wear Pension Fund to assist in the completion of the survey. Tyne and Wear Pension Fund will also be completing a survey in relation to their own Fund.

5. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SURVEY

- 5.1 The Pension Regulator last conducted a survey of public sector pension schemes in 2023. The regulator uses the survey to gain a greater understanding of the sector

and the sectors response to the issues facing pension funds. The regulator will use the responses to shape the focus of its future plans.

- 5.2 The PSPS Governance and Administration Survey is made up of 8 sections:
- A. Governance
 - B. Managing Risks
 - C. Administration and Record Keeping Processes
 - D. Annual Benefit Statements
 - E. Reporting Breaches
 - F. Improvements to Governance and Administration
 - G. General Code of Practice
 - H. Attribution
- 5.2 The responses required are a mixture of quantitative and qualitative questions with the majority of response required being straightforward “tick box” questions. Many questions are yes/no/don’t know with other questions asking for ranking of response and some response requiring an indication of degree of agreement to statements.
- 5.3 The questions asked in the survey illustrate the focus of the pensions regulator on the issues facing public sector pension funds. The focus of the Local Pension Board work plan should reflect these areas of focus to ensure the Teesside Pension Fund is meeting the expected standards.
- 5.4 A copy of the survey is included as an Appendix. The questions of particular interest to the Board include questions A3 to A11, section B, section F and section G with many of the other questions directed at the administrator in the first instance. There will be an opportunity to discuss these questions at the meeting.

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The Head of Pensions Governance and Investments will work with colleagues at Tyne and Wear Pensions Fund and the Board Chair to produce a response.

CONTACT OFFICER: Andrew Lister – Head of Pensions Governance and Investments

TEL NO.: 01642 726328