

# Compliance and Reporting Committee (CRC)

## Hybrid meeting of 20 October 2025

### Item 3 – Paper A

#### Actions and agreements from 23 June 2025

##### Present

Jeffrey Dong  
Rachel Brothwood  
Nemashe Sivayogan  
Richard McIndoe  
Jack Bower

Catherine Pearce  
Ian Colvin  
John Neal  
John Boyd  
Will King

Bramman Rajkumar  
Clair Alcock

Jeremy Hughes  
Becky Clough  
Sophia Chivandire  
Ona Ehimuan  
Sarah Tingey

Chair  
Practitioner – Metropolitan Authorities  
Practitioner – London Borough  
Practitioner – Scotland  
Institute of Chartered Accountants in  
England and Wales (ICAEW)  
Governance Consultant (Aon)  
Governance Consultant (Hymans Robertson)  
UNITE  
Audit Scotland  
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local  
Government (MHCLG)  
MHCLG  
Local Government Association (LGA) – Head  
of Pensions and Board Secretary  
LGA – Deputy Board Secretary  
LGA – Board Support and Policy Officer  
LGA – Pensions Support and Policy Officer  
LGA – Pensions Secretary  
LGA – Research and Data Analyst

#### Items 1 & 2 – Welcome, introductions, apologies, declaration of interests, and meeting protocol

1. Jeffrey Dong welcomed attendees to the meeting as the new Chair of Committee and advised them of the meeting protocol. Clair Alcock who joined the Secretariat team as the new Board Secretary and LGA Head of Pensions in May 2025 was welcomed to her first meeting.
2. Apologies had been received from Fiona Miller (Border to Coast), Kevin Gerard (Dyfed Pension Fund), George Georgiou (GMB), Nick Harvey (CIPFA), Peter Turner (London Borough of Bromley), Christina Thompson (LPFA), Karen Gibson (Dorset Pension Fund) and Nicola Todd (NILGOSC). Paul Mayers (National Audit Office) was absent without apology. There were no declarations of interest raised.

#### Item 3 – Matters arising from the meeting of 17 February 2025

3. The minutes of the meeting on 17 February 2025 were agreed as a fair and true record of the meeting.

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## Item 4 – MHCLG update

4. Will King (WK) gave an update on key MHCLG workstreams related to this Committee. On accounts decoupling, it is hoped that the English Devolution Bill will be used as the legislative vehicle for the decoupling of pension fund accounts from main authority accounts, will be implemented in time to apply for the 2026/27 accounting year.
5. The Government's response to the Fit for the Future consultation was published on 29 May 2025. WK confirmed that the majority of the Government's proposals on governance would be going ahead. The workplan for the production of accompanying guidance to support the changes was being worked on by MHCLG.
6. The [Pensions Schemes Bill](#) was introduced to Parliament on 5 June 2025. There was some concern about the broad powers that have been proposed, for example it would allow for the merging of LGPS funds at the direction of the Secretary of State. WK was asked whether there would be further detail provided in a public statement on the type of circumstances when the powers are to be used. WK said that the powers were intended to be used as a matter of last resort and in very rare instances where governance standards were persistently low. He also acknowledged that a public statement of this would be reassuring to funds. Clair Alcock (CA) added that good project management would be important given the multiple workstreams that were being advanced at the same time.
7. It was discussed whether the Secretariat should issue a survey to ascertain the readiness of funds to meet the new governance proposals. The Secretariat confirmed that they would consider this as but were also mindful of the great number of issues requiring officer attention at this time.

## Item 5 – Fit for the Future Response – Governance Proposals

8. Becky Clough (BC) introduced Paper B to the Committee. To support the production of guidance needed to implement the governance proposals, the Secretariat have started recruiting members for a new Administration working group. The Knowledge and Skills, Peer Support Officer and Good Governance working groups all met during the week commencing 9 June 2025 and received a presentation from WK on the Government's proposals. The 2008 Governance Statutory Guidance would need to be redrafted and work on this was already underway.
9. The Knowledge and Skills working group would be contributing to the knowledge and skills section of the guidance and developing the Training Strategy guidance, however the latter guidance document would be completed on a longer timeline. The Annual Report guidance working group may also need to be reconvened in order to agree the amendments needed to reflect the new governance proposals.

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10. The working groups would be contacted again over the summer with a view to arranging meetings in September and it was agreed that the Secretariat would provide a progress update to the Committee before the next meeting.
11. The Committee asked whether the governance guidance products would be staggered in their delivery and whether the decoupling of pension fund accounts would require some amendment to the LGPS regulations. WK could not confirm whether decoupling would be reflected in the LGPS regulations. On the topic of the guidance documents to be produced, he explained that the current thinking was that staggering of the guidance documents could become cumbersome.
12. Jeremy Hughes (JH) asked WK if he could confirm who the independent persons carrying out the independent governance review would be and whether he had made any estimate of how much it would cost for funds. WK said that thinking on this was still developing and the details could not be confirmed at this stage.
13. The Committee discussed the new Independent Advisor to pension committee role. It was observed that funds would need appropriate time to run a procurement or appointment process. The Committee also discussed the remuneration of the role and suggested that when guidance for local pensions boards is drafted, different potential models should be considered, and the Board should not seek to be overly prescriptive.

**ACTION – that the Secretariat organises the next working group meetings and the audit roundtable and an update is provided to the Committee in September**

## **Item 6 – Peer Support Offer**

14. BC introduced Paper C to the Committee. The working group had met twice since the last meeting and both BC and Sophia Chivandire (SC) had taken part in a LGA peer support shadowing experience within a Council. It was noted that the response to the Fit for the Future consultation had made reference to the peer support offer linked to the independent governance review, but the Secretariat have identified other routes into peer support, if required.
15. Extensive work had been undertaken by the Secretariat to scope out the practicalities of the LGPS peer support offer. The Secretariat have also met with LGA colleagues to learn about the LGA's corporate peer challenge offer and will be using some of the documents and guidelines from that as a guide to developing the LGPS offer. The LGA programme was extensive and well organised with recommendations provided to the organisation at the end of the process. There is also a second review after

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12 months to check on the organisation's progress. From discussions with the sector to date, engagement and communication with funds about service-specific LGPS peer support offer would be helpful.

16. The Committee noted the scoping work undertaken so far and welcomed the proposal for a service specific function that would focus on adding value and customer focus. In undertaking that work, there must be consideration for the sector's capacity to engage with the offer as well as making sure there is fair access and use of the service.
17. Annex A of the paper gave a breakdown of the initial findings of the Board so far which were noted. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat proceed with developing a pilot programme and submit the costs and proposal for running a peer support offer to be approved as part of the 2026/27 Board budget. This would also be on the basis that scale of running a full program of peer support would be built over time. It is envisioned that while the Board budget would meet the pilot costs from its own resources, it is proposed that the service would be paid for by the funds receiving the support at the point of engagement once the programme is fully established.

**ACTION – that the Secretariat continues to develop a Peer Support Offer programme, submits the costs to be approved as part of the 2026/27 SAB levy and plans for a pilot exercise.**

## Item 7 – Workplan update

18. The Committee received Paper D and noted the progress of each of the working groups. Nick Harvey (NH) had sent apologies for the meeting but after the Audit working group meeting on 10 June 2025, he had informed the Secretariat via email that he had discussed timelines for any CIPFA Accounting Code amendments that may be required as a result of decoupling with MHCLG colleagues. It was felt that the changes required will be relatively limited and that implementation of decoupling with effect from 2026/27 may be achievable.

## Item 8 – AOB and date of next meeting

19. The Chair thanked Rachel Brothwood for her contributions to the Committee and chairing of the Funding Strategy Statement guidance working group as she stepped down. It was also agreed that the Secretariat write to Mark Wynn to thank him for his work as the previous Chair of the Committee.
20. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 20 October 2025 at 11am.

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