



# Governance Policy and Compliance Statement

December 2024

## Contents

Introduction .....	3
Governance Objectives.....	3
Governance Arrangements .....	4
Pensions and Investments Committee .....	4
Derbyshire Pension Board.....	5
LGPS Central Pool .....	5
Joint Committee .....	7
Shareholders' Forum .....	7
Practitioners' Advisory Forum.....	7
Review and Compliance with Best Practice .....	8
Structure.....	8
Selection and Role of Lay Members.....	9
Voting .....	10
Training / Facility Time / Expenses.....	10
Meetings.....	11
Access.....	11
Scope .....	11
Publicity .....	11

## **Introduction**

This is the Governance Policy and Compliance Statement (the Statement) for Derbyshire Pension Fund (the Pension Fund/the Fund) which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (the LGPS). The Fund is managed and administered by Derbyshire County Council (the Council) in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (2013 Regulations). At a national level, the LGPS is governed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board.

The 2013 Regulations require an administering authority, after consultation with such persons as it considers appropriate, to prepare, publish and keep under review, a written statement setting out:

- whether it delegates its functions, or part of its functions under these Regulations to a committee, a sub-committee or an officer of the authority
- the terms, structure and operational procedures of any such delegations
- the frequency of any committee or sub-committee meetings
- whether such a committee or sub-committee includes representatives of Scheme employers or members, and if so, whether these representatives have voting rights
- the extent to which a delegation, or the absence of a delegation, complies with guidance given by the Secretary of State and, to the extent that it does not so comply, the reasons for not complying
- details of the terms, structure and operational procedures in relation to the local pension board

This Statement sets out the governance arrangements of Derbyshire Pension Fund.

Derbyshire County Council's Pensions and Investments Committee approved this updated Statement at its meeting on 4 December 2024.

## **Governance Objectives**

The Pension Fund's governance objectives are to:

- Meet the highest standards of good governance through the application of the key principles of openness and transparency, accountability, integrity, clarity of purpose and effectiveness
- Ensure robust governance arrangements are in place to facilitate informed decision making supported by appropriate advice, policies, and strategies, which do not unreasonably favour one group of stakeholders over another
- Ensure the Pension Fund is managed, and its services delivered by people who have the appropriate knowledge and expertise.
- Comply with all appropriate legislation and statutory guidance, and to act in the spirit of other relevant guidelines and best practice guidance

The identification and management of conflicts of interest is integral to the Fund achieving its governance objectives. A Pension Fund Conflicts of Interest Policy was approved by the Pensions and Investments Committee on 4 November 2020.

## **Governance Arrangements**

Under the terms of the Council's Constitution, responsibility for the functions of the Council as the administering authority of Derbyshire Pension Fund is delegated to the Pensions and Investments Committee. A Local Pension Board, set up in 2015 in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015, assists the Council with the governance and administration of the Fund.

The day-to-day management of the Pension Fund is delegated to the Director of Finance who is supported by the Head of Pension Fund and in-house investment and administration teams. A proportion of the Fund's investment assets are managed by LGPS Central Limited (the Fund's pooling company) and by other external fund managers.

### **Pensions and Investments Committee**

The Committee comprises eight voting Councillors representing the County Council and two voting Councillors representing Derby City Council. The County Council members of the Committee reflect the political balance of the Council. The Councillors representing Derby City Council were appointed to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting of Derby City Council on 22 May 2024.

Two trade union representatives are also entitled to attend meetings of the Pensions and Investments Committee as non-voting members.

Officers of the Council and an independent investment adviser also attend meetings to provide advice and support to members of the Committee. Other experts attend Committee to provide advice as required.

Members of Derbyshire Pension Board are invited to attend the Committee's meetings as observers.

The Committee meets eight times per year (six formal committee meetings and two training sessions) and its responsibilities include reviewing and approving the Fund's:

- Governance Policy and Compliance Statement
- Investment Strategy Statement
- Funding Strategy Statement
- Treasury Management Strategy
- Quarterly tactical asset allocation
- Other statutory policies required by the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations and strategy/policy statements in line with best practice

The Committee also receives and considers the Fund's:

- Triennial actuarial valuation report and annual funding reports
- Annual Report
- Administration and investment performance reports
- Risk Register

The Committee ensures arrangements are in place for:

- communicating with the Fund's stakeholders
- considering admission body applications
- the adjudication of applications under the Application for Adjudication of Disagreements Procedure (AADP) (including the appointment of adjudicators)

The Committee is responsible for appointing the Fund's:

- Actuary
- Independent investment adviser
- External fund managers for segregated mandates in advance of the management of the investment assets transitioning to the LGPS Central investment pool
- AVC providers

To oversee the Fund's involvement in investment pooling, the Committee:

- ensures that the Fund is effectively represented in the LGPS Central Pool's governance structure.
- determines what is required from the Pool to enable the Fund to deliver its Investment Strategy
- is responsible for the selection, appointment and dismissal of an investment pooling operator (the Operator) to manage the Fund's assets
- monitors the performance and effectiveness of the Operator both as a shareholder in the Operator and as an investor in the Operator's products
- ensures that appropriate measures are in place to monitor and report on the ongoing costs and cost savings of investment pooling
- ensures that the responsible investment, corporate governance and voting policies of the Fund are delivered effectively
- receives and considers reports and recommendations from the Pool's Joint Committee, Shareholders' Forum, and Practitioners' Advisory Forum

### **Derbyshire Pension Board**

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced a framework for regulatory oversight by the Pensions Regulator and introduced a new governance structure for the LGPS which came into effect in April 2015 and included the requirement for administering authorities to establish Local Pension Boards.

Derbyshire Pension Board (the Board) consists of two Scheme Member representatives and two Scheme Employer representatives together with a non-voting Independent Chair.

Officers of the Council attend Pension Board meetings to provide advice and support to members of the Board.

The role of the Pension Board is to assist the administering authority to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS, including:

- Securing compliance with the LGPS Regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme
- Securing compliance with any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme

Members of the Pension Board are invited to attend meetings of the Pensions and Investments Committee as observers and receive all papers ahead of each meeting.

### **LGPS Central Pool**

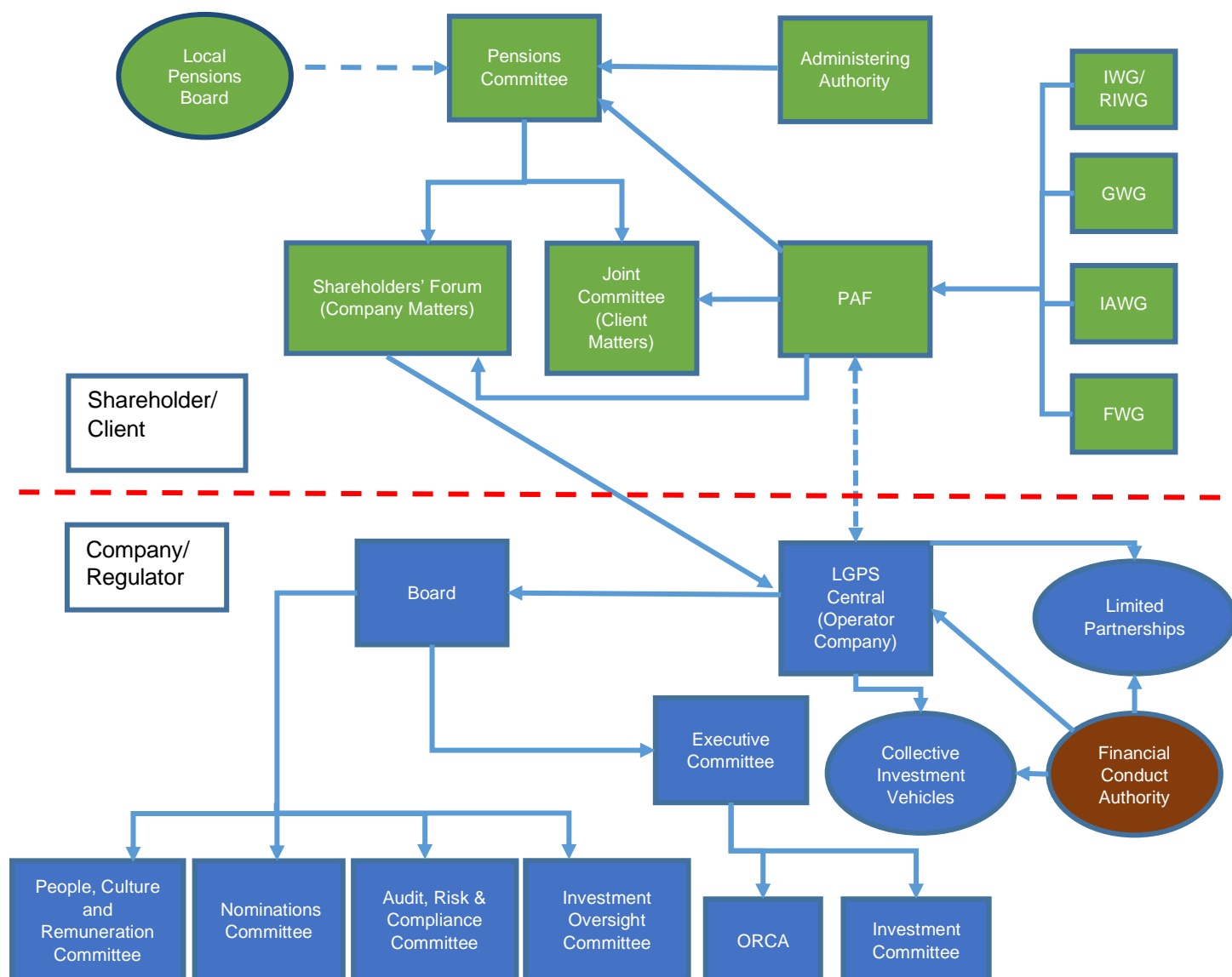
Derbyshire Pension Fund has partnered with the LGPS pension funds of Cheshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and West Midlands to form a collective

investment pool, known as the LGPS Central Pool (the Pool), in accordance with Government requirements for pooling the management of LGPS investment assets.

The governance structure of the LGPS Central Pool enables Partner Funds to exercise control, both individual and collectively, over pooling arrangements as clients and shareholders of LGPS Central Limited (the pooling company).

The following diagram illustrates the governance arrangements of the LGPS Central Pool:

### LGPS Central Pool Governance arrangements



List of abbreviations included in the chart	
PAF	Practitioners' Advisory Forum
IWG	Investment Working Group
RIWG	Responsible Investment Working Group
GWG	Governance Working Group
IAWG	Internal Audit Working Group
FWG	Finance Working Group
ORCA	Operations, Risk, Compliance & Administration Committee

The governance arrangements of the Pool include the following bodies:

**Joint Committee:** to provide oversight of the delivery of the objectives of the Pool, the delivery of client service, the delivery against the LGPS Central business case and to deal with common investor issues. The Joint Committee provides assistance, guidance and recommendations to the individual Councils, taking into consideration the conflicting demands and interests of the participants within the Pool. The Joint Committee does not have delegated authority to make binding decisions on behalf of the participating Councils.

Membership of the Joint Committee consists of one elected member from each participating council. The Chair of the Pensions and Investments Committee, or his/her nominee, represents Derbyshire County Council on the LGPS Central Joint Committee.

**Shareholders' Forum:** to oversee the operation and performance of LGPS Central Ltd and to represent the ownership rights and interests of the shareholding councils with the LGPS Central Pool. Collective shareholder discussions take place in the Shareholders' Forum and aim to ensure that the Councils act in a unified way in company meetings, having agreed to a common set of principles. Unanimous decisions are required for certain reserved company matters. Shareholder Forum meetings are distinct from LGPS Central Ltd company meetings, however, members of the Shareholders' Forum also represent the councils at company meetings.

Membership of the Shareholders' Forum consists of one representative from each shareholding council. The Director of Finance, or his/her nominee, represents Derbyshire County Council at the Shareholders' Forum and at LGPS Central Ltd company meetings, with delegated authority to make decisions on any matter which requires a decision by the shareholders of LGPSC.

**Practitioners' Advisory Forum:** a working group of officers appointed by the shareholding councils within the Pool to support the delivery of the objectives of the Pool and to provide support for the Pool's Joint Committee and Shareholders' Forum. The Director of Finance, the Head of Pension Fund and the Investments Manager represent Derbyshire on the Practitioners' Advisory Forum as required. PAF is supported by the following individual working groups: Finance Working Group; Governance Working Group; Investment Working Group (which incorporates a quarterly Responsible Investment focused meeting). An Internal Audit Working Group, with representatives from all Partner Funds, shares the responsibility for carrying out Pool-related audit work on behalf of all Partner Funds.

## Review and Compliance with Best Practice

This Governance Policy and Compliance Statement will be reviewed annually and will be revised following any material change in the governance arrangements of the Pension Fund.

The 2013 Regulations require Administering Authorities to prepare and publish a statement which sets out the extent to which the governance arrangements of the Fund comply with statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State which is based on best practice principles.

In preparing this statement, The Fund also acknowledges The Pension Regulator's (TPR) general code of practice which includes regulatory requirements, TPRs expectations and best practice particularly focusing on how occupational pension schemes should be managed and the policies, practices and procedures that should be in place.

The Fund's statement which sets out its governance arrangements is as follows:

### Structure

Principle	Compliance
The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets clearly rests with the main committee established by the appointing council.	Compliant The Pensions and Investments Committee is responsible for these functions under the Terms of Reference included in the Council's constitution.
The representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main or secondary committee.	Partially Compliant Membership of the Pensions and Investments Committee includes two representatives from Derby City Council and two non-voting Trade Union representatives as well as eight representatives from the administering authority (also the largest employing body). In practice the Trade Union representatives tend to represent the interests of all scheme members. Membership and employer representation will be kept under review.
That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.	Not applicable
That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.	Not applicable



## Representation

Principle	Compliance
<p>That all key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented within the main or secondary committee structure. These include:</p> <p>Employing authorities (including non-scheme employers for example, admitted bodies)</p> <p>Scheme members (including deferred and pensioner scheme members)</p> <p>Where appropriate, independent professional observers</p> <p>Expert advisors (on an ad-hoc basis)</p>	<p>Partially Compliant</p> <p>Membership of the Pensions and Investments Committee includes two representatives from Derby City Council and two non-voting Trade Union representatives, as well as eight representatives from the administering authority (also the largest employing body). In practice the Trade Union representatives tend to represent the interests of all scheme members. Membership and employer representation will be kept under review.</p> <p>The Fund's Independent Investment Advisor attends investment related Pensions and Investments Committee meetings. Other independent experts attend meetings of the Committee as required e.g. the Fund's Actuary attends to discuss the triennial valuation.</p> <p>Derbyshire Pension Board (the Board) includes two employer representatives (currently from University of Derby and Aspens-Services Ltd, an Admission Body in the Fund) and two member representatives. The Board has an independent Chair.</p>
<p>That where lay members sit on a main or secondary committee, they are treated equally in terms of access to reports, meetings and training and are given full opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process, with or without voting rights.</p>	<p>Compliant</p> <p>All members of the Pensions and Investments Committee, the Pension Board and trade union representatives receive the same Committee meeting reports and have access to the same training.</p>

## Selection and Role of Lay Members

Principle	Compliance
<p>That committee or panel members are made fully aware of the status, role and function they are required to perform on either a main or secondary committee.</p>	<p>Compliant</p> <p>All members of the Pensions and Investments Committee receive training on the status, role and function they are required to perform when they join the Committee.</p>
<p>That at the start of any meeting, committee members are invited to declare any financial or pecuniary interest related to specific matters on the agenda.</p>	<p>Compliant</p> <p>Declarations of interest are required at each Pensions and Investments Committee meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.</p>

## Voting

Principle	Compliance
The policy on voting rights is clear and transparent, including the justification for not extending voting rights to each body or group represented on main LGPS committees.	Compliant The policy on voting rights is clear and transparent. All elected members on the Pensions and Investments Committee have voting rights. The elected members represent employers, local taxpayers, and scheme beneficiaries.

## Training / Facility Time / Expenses

Principle	Compliance
<p>That in relation to the way in which statutory and related decisions are taken by the administering authority, there is clear policy on training, facility time and reimbursement of expenses in respect of members involved in the decision-making process.</p> <p>That where such a policy exists, it applies equally to all members of committees, sub-committees, advisory panels, or any other form of secondary forum.</p> <p>That the administering authority considers the adoption of annual training plans for committee members and maintains a log of all such training undertaken.</p>	<p>Compliant</p> <p>The Fund has a training policy which applies to all members of the Pensions and Investments Committee and the Pension Board. A training plan has been developed based on self-assessment forms completed by the members of both bodies and a log of all training is maintained.</p> <p>Newly appointed members of the Committee and Board receive induction training, which includes details of the Fund's governance, policies, and performance frameworks, to provide an understanding of its operations.</p> <p>The reimbursement of member expenses is in line with the County Council's policy of member reimbursement.</p>

## Meetings

Principle	Compliance
That an administering authority's main committee or committees meets at least quarterly.	Compliant The Pensions and Investments Committee meets eight times per year (six formal meetings and two training sessions).
That an administering authority's secondary committee or panel meets at least twice a year and is synchronised with the dates when the main committee sits.	Not applicable
That an administering authority who does not include lay members in their formal governance arrangements, must provide a forum outside of those arrangements by which the interests of key stakeholders can be represented.	Not applicable

## Access

Principle	Compliance
That subject to any rules in the Council's constitution, all members of the main and secondary committees or panels have equal access to committee papers, documents and advice that falls to be considered at meetings of the main committee.	Compliant All members of the Pensions and Investments Committee (and the Pension Board) have the same access to committee papers, documents and advice to be considered at the Pensions and Investments Committee.

## Scope

Principle	Compliance
That administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.	Compliant The Pensions Committee and the Investments Committee have been combined into the Pensions and Investments Committee which covers all aspects of investment, administration, and governance. The Committee is also supported by the Pension Board which assists with governance and administration matters.

## Publicity

Principle	Compliance
That administering authorities have published details of their governance arrangements in such a way that stakeholders with an interest in the way in which the scheme is governed can express an interest in wanting to be part of those arrangements.	Compliant The Governance Policy and Compliance Statement is published on the Pension Fund's website. Vacancies for Derbyshire Pension Board are advertised on the Fund's website, via Fund employers and via My Pension Online, the Pension Fund's member self-service system

