GREATER MANCHESTER PENSION FUND
ADVISORY PANEL

2 December 2022

Commenced:	**10.00am**	**Terminated: 12.25pm**
Present:	**Councillor Cooney (Chair)** **Councillors: Barnes (Salford), Butt (Trafford), Cowen (Bolton), Cunliffe (Wigan), Grimshaw (Bury), Jabbar (Oldham), Massey (Rochdale), and Smart (Stockport)** **Employee Representatives:** **Ms Blackburn (UNISON), Mr Caplan (UNISON), Mr Drury (UNITE), Mr Llewellyn (UNITE) and Mr Thompson (UNITE)** **Fund Observers:** **Councillor Taylor (Stockport)** **John Pantall – Independent Observer** **Local Pensions Board Member (in attendance as observer):** **Councillor Fairfoull** **Advisors:** **Mr Bowie, Mr Moizer and Mr Powers**	
Apologies for absence:	**Councillor Andrews (Manchester) and Mr Flatley (GMB)**	

44. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair, Councillor Cooney welcomed everyone to the meeting and began by highlighting a number of recent key events including the mini-budget followed by massive volatility in the markets and intervention from the Bank of England. There was also a new Prime Minister and a new minister responsible for the LGPS, Lee Rowley MP.

He made reference to closed private sector pension schemes, which were in the headlines as they sought to raise cash, however reminded Members that, as an open, long term pension scheme, the LGPS was not impacted. A statement had been added to the GMPF website to reassure members that their pensions were not affected by stock market performance. GMPF members did not bear any financial market risks, their pension promise was set out in legislation and was calculated based on pay and service.

The Chair was delighted to announce that, the previous evening, the Fund won the Investment and Pensions Europe 2022 Pension Fund UK award and were also shortlisted for the Public Sector Pension Fund award.

He detailed the notable achievements of the Fund as follows:

- On a cumulative basis, the Fund had outperformed the average Local Authority Fund by over £5.1 billion;
- The Fund investments already produced more power through renewables than they did from coal and oil;
- The Fund's active equity holdings were 20% less carbon intensive than the average pension fund so the Fund was both moving and leading in the right direction to becoming carbon neutral;
- The Fund was also the biggest direct local government pensioner investor in renewable energy and energy efficiency, with nearly a billion pounds allocated in a number of areas

including biomass and wind farm assets;
- Government recognition that GMPF were the only Fund to have invested 5% of its assets in local projects across Greater Manchester – it had invested nearly a billion pound alone in just property infrastructure in Greater Manchester;
- The government's levelling up paper also cited the influence of the GLIL Infrastructure platform, which GMPF established together with a small number of like-minded funds. GLIL had invested around £2.5billion, which included £800 million of GMPF's commitments. Investments included Anglian Water, Forth Ports and Clyde Wind Farm;
- Last year GMPF was one of the first UK funds to be approved as a signatory to the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code. The stewardship code was a code requiring institutional investors to be transparent about their investment processes, engage with investee companies and vote at shareholders' meetings**.** The Fund was successful in being approved again this year following a rigorous process;
- In December last year, the 2021 Responsible Asset Allocator Initiative Leaders List of the 30 most responsible asset allocators ranked GMPF as 35 in the world of most responsible investors. This was out of a group of the top 634 asset allocators across 98 countries with 36 trillion US dollars in assets. The Fund scored an impressive 96 out of a potential 100 to achieve this rating;
- Earlier this year the Fund set a 2030 interim emissions reduction target in line with the IPCC's (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) 1.5 degree pathway and reported these publicly:
    1. reduce carbon intensity by 50% by 2030 versus 2019 benchmark; and
    2. Between 2021 and 2030, an additional $2 billion investment in climate solutions, on top of the $1 billion already invested through its Northern LGPS infrastructure.

In particular, the Fund was recognised in receiving the Investment and Pensions Europe 2022 Pension Fund UK award for updating social responsibility and its commitment to homeless charities and social housing sectors.

The Chair was also proud to announce that in the last few weeks, GMPF had allocated another £10 million to the National Homelessness Property Fund 2 bringing the impact fund investments to £465 million.

He added that such awards recognised pension providers that had set the professional standards in order to best serve European pension funds. The Chair congratulated everyone at the Fund for the significant achievement and reflection of the important contribution of all trustees.

The Chair advised that, later on the agenda, a presentation would be delivered by John Simmonds from CEM Benchmarking, who measured the performance of over 400 pension funds globally and would feedback favourably on how the Fund performed globally, especially following a very challenging two year pandemic.

The actuarial valuation would also be discussed, where contribution rates were set for employers. At its meeting on 10 October 2022, the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board discussed emerging results from the current round of triennial local fund valuations, with calculations being made "as at" 31 March 2022. It was noted that as a result of general market performance over the three-year period to 31 March 2022, it was expected that a good proportion of funds were likely to move into surplus. In the context of extreme financial pressures being faced in local government by all types of LGPS employers, it was understandable that the need to find cost savings was paramount. However, since 31 March 2022, the Board also noted the impact of the war in Ukraine, increasing rates of inflation and wider global economic uncertainty as well as changes in interest rates in the G7 countries, which had resulted in greater financial market turmoil.

Thus, the Scheme Advisory Board warned that while LGPS funds may show a degree of surplus "as at" 31 March 2022, the Board agreed that, notwithstanding the current economic and wider funding pressures, they would require contribution rates to be set at a prudent level and one which recognised the uncertainty. The Board acknowledged that this may mean increases rather than decreases in contribution rates for employers. In light of this discussion, whilst understanding and recognising the extremely challenging position for local government finance, the Board recommended that administering authorities and other fund employers had regard to the desirability for long term stability in pension contributions given the lower growth outlook for many investment markets and the increasing cost of accruing benefits.

Notwithstanding this, the Chair was pleased to say that, owing to the long term approach that the fund has taken to achieving low cost sustainable pensions, and the £620 million achieved through not disinvesting, it was possible for the Actuary to propose sustainable cuts to contribution rates. All local authority pools stood to benefit from contribution rate reductions, with the typical reduction somewhere between 1.0% and 2.0%, this was the equivalent for most GM authorities of 1 to 2% of Council tax. This was a significant contribution by the Funds to keep costs down at a time of high inflation of 10.1%.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest submitted by Members.

46. MINUTES

(a) The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Pension Fund Advisory Panel held on 16 September 2022 were signed as a correct record.

(b) The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Pension Fund Management Panel held on 16 September 2022 were noted.

47. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

(a) Urgent Items

The Chair announced that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

(b) Exempt Items

RESOLVED
That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that:
(i) they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the act specified below; and
(ii) in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for reasons specified below:

Items	Paragraphs	Justification
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	**3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10, 3&10**	**Disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Fund and/or its agents, which could in turn affect the interests of the stakeholders and/or tax payers.**

48. LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Local Pensions Board held on 6 October 2022 were received.

The Chair of the Local Pensions Board, Councillor Fairfoull, advised that at its last meeting the Board reviewed the work carried out by the Administration teams during 2021/22. The changes to membership over the previous year and some of the work undertaken by the various administration teams, were discussed. Overall, the Administration section was in a much stronger position than ever before. Many of the changes implemented had strengthened the team's resilience and standards of services, and had created opportunities for further improvements and developments to be made. There were several significant projects on the horizon, and all the changes made over the last twelve months would put all administration teams in a good position to meet those challenges.

Some of the developments with the Pensions Regulator (TPR) were also discussed. On 3 August 2022, TPR unveiled its new strategy to combat pension scams. The strategy was released in light of the ongoing cost of living crisis which may make members more susceptible to pension scams. The strategy aimed to work with pension schemes to ensure they had the necessary controls in place to minimise members falling prey to scammers. It was vital that members' benefits were safeguarded and everything possible was done to ward off attempted scams.

As at each meeting, the monitoring of late payment of contributions or late submissions of data from employers was reviewed. The Board were encouraged to hear that the timeliness of contribution payments and receipt of data from employers had been good over the last quarter.

The Board discussed the findings of recent internal audit reports and the current version of the Fund's risk register.

RECOMMENDED
That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Local Pensions Board held on 6 October 2022 be noted.

49. INVESTMENT MONITORING AND ESG WORKING GROUP

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Investment Monitoring and ESG Working Group held on 7 October 2022 were considered.

The Chair of the Working Group, Councillor Ryan, advised that the Fund's responsible investment advisor, PIRC, attended the meeting and discussed the recent political backlash against Environmental, Social and Governance investing. They also presented background to the use of Shareholder Resolutions as a stewardship tool, with a focus on resolutions that the Fund had been actively involved in over the last year. These covered issues ranging from water use, to public health, tax and workforces.

Avison Young also attended the meeting and gave an informative overview of the Property Venture Fund portfolio. There was a focus on Climate Resilience in relation to new developments.

RECOMMENDED
That the Minutes be received as a correct record;

50. ADMINISTRATION AND EMPLOYER FUNDING VIABILITY WORKING GROUP

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Administration and Employer Funding

Viability Working Group held on 7 October 2022 were considered.

Councillor Ryan, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor North, advised that discussion had taken place in respect of one of GMPF's business plan objectives, which was to work to achieve the Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA) accreditation. PASA aimed to promote and improve the quality of pensions' administration services for UK pension schemes. PASA had a set of standards that it believed defined high-quality administration. If an organisation could demonstrate that it met those standards, it could apply to undertake PASA's independently-assessed accreditation programme. If accredited, the Fund would be able to show it was a high-quality administrator.

Overpayments of pensions to members over the previous 12-month period were reviewed. Members were interested to learn about how overpayments occur and the steps taken to collect monies paid in error to members. Overpayments occurred for various reasons such as not being informed of a member's death and overpaying their pension, and benefits being recalculated. Most overpayments were recovered within three months but sometimes recovery could take several years where there were complex circumstances such as a member dying abroad. For the 2021/22 period 79% of overpayments were recovered as at the report date, and further recoveries had probably been made since then.

As usual, the administration strategic service update and updates relating to member services, employer services, developments and technologies, and communication and engagement was also reviewed.

RECOMMENDED
(i) That the Minutes be received as a correct record;
(ii) In terms of Member Overpayments Review:
- **That the changes to the policies and procedures identified during the review to improve the process and recovery success rate, be approved;**
- **That the recommendations for the individual cases where an overpayment remains unrecovered be agreed**
- **That the intention to report individual cases to the Working Group on a quarterly basis as part of the Member Services update report going forward, be noted; and**
- **It be noted that officers intend to continue work on improving other aspects of the process once the relevant procedures have been changed in line with the recommendations.**

51. POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy and Development Working Group held on 24 November 2022 were considered.

The Chair of the Working Group, Councillor Cooney, advised that representatives of both Ninety One and Stone Harbor presented on their respective performance since inception, and in particular over the last 12 months. This gave Members and Advisors an opportunity to probe both managers' underlying process and philosophy. An update on the managers was included later in the agenda within the Performance Dashboard.

Members also considered details of further due diligence that had been carried out in relation to the proposed pilot of a Global Equity Value allocation to be run by UBS. Members were satisfied with the additional work and recommended that the pilot allocation be approved.

RECOMMENDED
(i) That the Minutes be received as a correct record;
(ii) In terms of UBS Global (Developed) Equity Value Allocation:
- **That approval be given for a Global (Developed) Equity Value allocation within the**

UBS Portfolio with an initial quantum of assets as set out in the report; and
- **That the rules pertaining to the Main Fund public equity allocation be updated as set out in the report.**

52. NORTHERN LGPS JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Northern LGPS Joint Oversight Committee held on 7 July 2022 were received.

RECOMMENDED
That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Northern LGPS Joint Oversight Committee held on 7 July 2022, be noted.

53. RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT UPDATE

The Assistant Director of Pensions Investments, submitted a report and delivered a presentation providing Members with an update on the Fund's responsible investment activity during the quarter.

It was explained that the Fund was a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). As a signatory to the PRI, the Fund was required to report publicly its responsible investment activity through the PRI's 'Reporting Framework'.

Upon becoming a PRI signatory, the Fund committed to the following six principles:
1. We will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision making processes.
2. We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.
3. We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.
4. We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.
5. We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.
6. We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles

A summary of the Fund's Responsible Investment activity for the quarter against the six PRI principles was detailed in the report.

The Assistant Director gave details of deployment of capital as follows of the Impact Portfolio - £100m commitment to support sustainable infrastructure in the UK

He further made reference to the Northern LGPS Stewardship quarterly report, which explored Brazil, Water Stewardship, Ford, National Grid and Uyghurs.

The Assistant Director further commented on the DLUHC consultation with regard to assessing, managing and reporting climate-related risks in line with Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), and advised that GMPF had been reporting voluntarily in line with TCFD for over 5 years.

It was also reported that more than 600 investors including GMPF managing almost $42 trillion in assets, co-signed the 2022 Global Investor Statement to Governments on the Climate Crisis. The statement called on governments to take a number of actions including:
- Ensuring that the 2030 targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions aligned with the goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5ºC
- Implementation of domestic policies to deliver these targets
- Contribute to the reduction of non-carbon greenhouse gas emissions
- Build upon the agreed outcomes of COP26

- Strengthen climate disclosures across the financial system

Information was also given with regard to the Principles of Responsible Investment and Fund's requirement to publicly report annually on its responsible investment activities via the PRI's reporting framework.

Details of GMPF's Responsible Investment partners and collaborations were appended to the report.

Discussion ensued in respect of the content of the report and presentation, with the Advisors commenting on the need to demonstrate why active engagement was more effective than divestment.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for the comprehensive and informative presentation.

RECOMMENDED
That the content of the report and presentation be noted.

54. CEM BENCHMARKING

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director of Pensions Investments and the Assistant Director of Pensions Administration, providing Members with an update on investment management cost benchmarking for the Fund over 2021/22. In addition, CEM provided a report analysing and benchmarking the Fund's administration costs and member services, an update on which was provided in the report. John Simmonds, David Jennings and Hannah Blomfield of CEM Benchmarking also delivered a presentation.

In respect of CEM Investment Cost Analysis, it was reported that GMPF had generated significant underlying savings in 2021/22.

CEM had also benchmarked GMPF's costs against a peer group of 17 relatively similar sized global funds (including LGPS funds and non-LGPS funds) and GMPF was lower cost than the benchmark.

With regard to GMPF CEM Administration costs and service score analysis 2021/22, it was reported that GMPF was a high service, low cost provider relative to its peers.

The key outcomes from the 2021/22 benchmarking were highlighted. GMPF's total cost per member was £16.91, being £9.91 lower than the adjusted peer average of £26.82. GMPF's service score was 71 out of 100, being 3 points above the peer median of 68.

It was explained that CEM had made some changes to the service model this year, many of which were to measure the improvements that schemes had made to service delivery in response to the pandemic. Therefore, the scores for previous years had been adjusted to enable a like-for-like comparison to be made.

The total cost per member was slightly lower than last year (by 10p) and the service score was 4 points higher.

Changes that had a positive impact on the service score included the improvements in responding to telephone calls, mainly driven by the new contact centre functionality GMPF had deployed, and the expansion of the online events programme for members.

It was further explained that work towards the administration sections' achievement of business plan objectives and key projects should lead to further improvements to the service score in future years. Further work on expanding the use of the new contact centre functionality was already underway and would facilitate a better service score for several aspects of customer service going forward. Officers would be using the analysis within the CEM report to identify other areas where changes could be made to the way services were provided or measured, to further enhance member experience.

Discussion ensued with regard to the content of the report and presentation and, in response to a query from Advisors regarding training costs, the Assistant Director of Pensions Administration explained that there was a lot of training delivered by the in-house team.

The Director of Pensions further commented on project costs and the need to look at how training and project costs were recorded going forward.

The Chair thanked Mr Simmonds, Mr Jennings and Ms Blomfield for a very interesting presentation.

RECOMMENDED
That the content of the presentation be noted.

55. 2022 ACTUARIAL VALUATION

Steven law, Hymans Robertson, Actuary to the Fund, then presented before Members in respect of the 2022 Actuarial Valuation.

He gave details of the whole-fund results and explained a funding level of 104% with £1bn in surplus in the Fund.

A variety of funding levels amongst employers was highlighted and it was reported that, over last three year period there had been a big improvement in funding levels of big employers (which included MBC's and MoJ). The setting of employer contribution rates and the two key goals of sustainability and stability was also discussed.

Mr Law further gave information on contribution rate changes and advised of a general trend of contribution rates reducing.

In response to a query, the Director of Pensions gave information in respect of the communications exercise underway with employers in respect of contribution rates.

Discussion ensued with regard to the content of the presentation, including the as yet to be determined increase in pension increase rates and how the impact of this could be mitigated.

The Head of Pensions Administration then gave information in respect of the draft Funding Strategy Statement as circulated with the agenda.

The statement set out how the Administering Authority balanced the conflicting aims of affordability of contributions, transparency of processes, stability of employers' contributions, and prudence in the approach to funding the liabilities across the range of employers participating in GMPF.

RECOMMENDED
(i) That the content of the presentation be noted; and
(ii) That the draft Funding Strategy Statement, as circulated with the agenda, be agreed.

56. REVIEW OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Assistant Director of Pensions Investments delivered a presentation in relation to the Fund's consideration of Investment Management arrangements, focussing on Benchmark Indices.

It was explained that a benchmark index was a standard or measure that could be used to analyse the allocation, risk, and return of a given portfolio. There were a number of criteria a "good" benchmark index should fulfil. GMPF most recently affirmed the benchmark indices for the Main Fund at the July 2022 meeting of the Panel. As part of the 2021/22 Review of Investment Strategy, GMPF's Managers were consulted as to whether the benchmark indices used were appropriate.

The main fund benchmark indices by asset class were provided and benchmark indices in practice by strategic asset allocation and performance measurement, were detailed and discussed.

Discussion ensued and the Advisors commented on the importance of getting the right balances, going forward.

RECOMMENDED
That the presentation be noted.

57. PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director of Pensions Investments, providing high level, investment performance information, including the value of the Pension Fund Investment Portfolio, the performance of the Main Fund, and the over/under performance of the external Fund Managers against benchmark.

Key information from the Quarter 3 2022 Performance Dashboard was summarised. It was explained that, equities and bonds continued to fall in tandem in September, amid persistent concern that stubbornly high inflation would lead central banks to continue raising rates at a rapid pace. In fact, except for commodities, all primary listed asset classes (in local currencies) had negative returns in the quarter.

At the end of August 2022, year-on-year headline CPI inflation was 9.9%, 8.3%, and 9.1%, in the UK, Eurozone, and US, respectively. Of more concern to central bankers, core measures were also well above target, at 6.3% in the UK and US, and 4.3% in the Eurozone. Furthermore, year-on-year wage growth in excess of 5% in the US and UK was adding to core inflation pressures. Energy price interventions by European governments would limit the near-term peak in headline inflation, but would also support aggregate demand, potentially generating greater medium-term inflation pressure. Inflation was forecast to moderate in 2023 but remained well above target in most major economies.

Growing concerns about sustained high inflation were met with aggressive messaging and action by central banks. The Fed raised interest rates by a cumulative 1.5% p.a. in Q3, while the Bank of England and the ECB raised rates by a total of 1% p.a. and 1.25% p.a., respectively. Markets had also moved to price in a much more aggressive path for interest rates, with rates expected to reach 4.5% p.a., 3.5% p.a. and 5.8% p.a. by next year in the US, Europe, and UK, respectively. UK 10-year implied inflation, rose 0.4% p.a. to 4.0% p.a. Equivalent US implied inflation fell 0.2% p.a., to 2.2% p.a. One of the primary trends had been the strength of the dollar over the year especially versus sterling which had been weak; however, against a wider basket of currencies sterling had not depreciated as much.

UK government bonds and sterling underperformed as markets questioned the credibility of the government's unfunded fiscal package. Bond yields also rose across the world resulting in negative returns, which were particularly notable for longer maturity bonds. Although of limited impact on LGPS, some pension funds had been impacted by increasing yields requiring LDI portfolio margin accounts to require significant funding; this in some instances was requiring selling other portfolio assets and the Bank of England had to assist this part of the market in early October. Despite a rally in July, global equities fell sharply (in local currency terms) in the second half of the quarter as high inflation, and subsequent higher interest rate expectations, weighed on both equity valuations and the fundamental outlook. However, depreciation of sterling over the period benefitted unhedged UK investors.

It was looking increasingly likely that there would be a global recession and a soft landing in 2023 may be hard to achieve. Over the quarter total Main Fund assets decreased by £128 million to £27.5 billion. With the exception of private equity, allocations to alternative assets, whilst increasing, remained below their long-term targets. Funding continued apace with allocations expected to increase further over the coming years. Following the 2022/23 review of Investment Strategy, further changes to the 'realistic' strategic allocations to alternatives were made in Q3 2022.

Within the Main Fund, there was an overweight position in private equity and cash (of around 5% in aggregate). Allocations to Private Debt, Infrastructure and GLIL were also overweight relative to their respective (realistic) benchmarks. The overweight positions were offset by underweight positions in bonds, equities and property. The property allocation continued to be underweight (by around 0.9%) versus its benchmark. On a cumulative basis, over the period since September 1987, the Main Fund had outperformed the average LGPS, equating to over £5.1 billion of additional assets. The Main Fund outperformed its benchmark over Q3 2022. Relative performance over 1 year and 3 years was positive. The Main Fund was also ahead of its benchmark over 5 and 10 years and performance since inception remained strong. Over Q3 2022, 1 year active risk fell having already increased dramatically over recent quarters. Active risk remained elevated relative to recent history – 1 year active risk was now around 3 times the levels reached 10 years ago. This had resulted in a marked increase in active risk over 3 and 5 year periods. However, over longer time periods, active risk of the Main Fund remained more stable at around 1.5% pa. Risk in absolute terms (for both portfolio and benchmark) increased in Q3 2022. The uncertainty surrounding the macro economic outlook remained high; in particular, future inflation levels, the war in Ukraine, supply chain disruptions and the future impact of the pandemic on economic output remained unclear.

As at the end of Quarter 3; three of the Fund's active securities managers outperformed their respective benchmarks whilst one underperformed its benchmark. Over a 3 year period, two managers underperformed their respective benchmarks whilst two had outperformed their respective benchmarks. The long-term performance of one of the managers remained strong. The performance history of the Factor Based Investing portfolio was relatively short (around 3 years), so at this very early stage no conclusions could be drawn with regard to performance

RECOMMENDED
That the content of the report be noted.

58. BUSINESS PLANNING, BUDGET AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Pensions providing an update on the current business plan and highlighted the current key risks being monitored.

Progress being made on the six key strategic projects set out in the 2022/23 business plan was detailed in the report.

Overall, progress was generally in line with the timescales. All business plan tasks continued to be monitored and reviewed each month by the Director of Pensions with the senior leadership team.

In terms of risk management, Members were advised that the overarching risk register was reviewed and updated at least once each quarter and the latest version was appended to the report. Specific risks being monitored closely by officers were highlighted and included issues relating to high inflation, assessing the impact of the McCloud changes, and cyber security work.

Discussion ensued with regard to the report and in particular, to inflation risk and how it could impact the Fund's ability to pay pensions.

RECOMMENDED
(i) That the progress on the current key business plan tasks be noted; and
(ii) That the risk register and the controls in place to mitigate each risk, be noted.

59. ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

The Assistant Director of Pensions Administration submitted a report providing an update on the following key items:
- Performance and engagement activities;
- Compliance activities; and
- Key projects updates.

RECOMMENDED
That the content of the report be noted.

60. LGPS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Pensions providing the Panel with an update on the latest developments regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme, as follows:
- Education sector and the LGPS;
- MAPS Pension Dashboard update; and
- The Pensions Regulator.

RECOMMENDED
That the content of the report be noted, including the potential impact and implications for the LGPS and GMPF.

61. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Trustee development opportunities were noted as follows:

LAPFF Annual Conference - Bournemouth	**7-9 December 2022**
LGA Fundamentals Day 3 - Virtual	**20 December 2022**
LGPS Governance Conference - Bournemouth	**20-21 January 2023**
PLSA Investment Conference - Edinburgh	**6-8 June 2023**
PLSA Local Authority Conference - Gloucestershire	**26-28 June 2023**
PLSA Annual Conference - Manchester	**17-19 October 2023**

62. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It be noted that the date of future meetings be held as follows:

Management/Advisory Panel	24 March 2023 14 July 2023 15 Sept 2023 1 Dec 2023 8 March 2024
Local Pensions Board	26 Jan 2023 13 April 2023

	27 July 2023 28 Sept 2023 25 Jan 2024 11 April 2024
Policy & Development Wrk Grp	2 March 2023 22 June 2023 7 Sept 2023 23 Nov 2023 22 Feb 2024
Investment Monitoring & ESG Wrk Grp	20 Jan 2023 14 April 2023 28 July 2023 29 Sept 2023 26 Jan 2024 12 April 2024
Administration & Employer Funding Viability Wrk Grp	20 Jan 2023 14 April 2023 28 July 2023 29 Sept 2023 26 Jan 2024 12 April 2024

CHAIR