	Bath & North East Somerset Council
MEETING:	**LOCAL PENSION BOARD OF AVON PENSION FUND**
MEETING DATE:	11th March 2026
TITLE:	Governance Update
WARD:	**ALL**
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – Pension Board Workplan 2026 Appendix 2 – Pension Board Training Plan 2025/2026 Appendix 3 – TPR's General Code of Practice Action Plan 2025/26 Appendix 4 – TPR's General Code of Practice Action Plan 2026/27	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the workplan and training plan for Pension Board members plus provide governance updates as necessary.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to;

2.1 Notes the workplan & training plan for 2025/2026

2.2 Notes the action plan to meet compliance with TPR GCOP

2.3 Notes the dates for future meetings

3 THE REPORT

3.1 **Workplan**

3.2 The workplan is agreed annually with the Chair of the pension board and includes the delivery of all statutory obligations of the Board.

3.3 The workplan is attached at Appendix 1 and has been updated for 2026. It will be presented and discussed at each meeting as the year progresses using the comments and feedback of the Board, Officers and other stakeholders such as the Pension Fund Committee to inform its contents.

3.4 **Modern Gov**

3.5 All Pension Board members have been asked to access meeting papers via Modern Gov.

3.6 If any member requires assistance with access to Modern Gov, the Governance Team (APF_Governance@bathnes.gov.uk) is able to provide support & training.

3.7 Future Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for 2026 are as follows:

2026
11th March
10th June
9th September
2nd December

3.9 Training

3.10 Board Members should have a breadth of knowledge and understanding that is sufficient to allow them to understand fully any professional advice the Board is given. They should also be able to challenge any information or advice they are given and understand how that information or advice impacts on any decision relating to the Board's duty to assist the Avon Pension Fund.

3.11 Appendix 2 contains the training programme for the year ahead. The Hymans Online Learning Academy timetable will be refreshed in April 2026. The workshops will be held jointly with the APF Pension Committee.

3.12 Members are asked to consider any other training needs through the rest of 2025 to fit into the working cycle of the Board.

3.13 Hyman's LGPS Online Learning Academy (LOLA)

3.14 The SAB's Good Governance Review & TPR's General Code of Practice include additional knowledge and skills requirements for Committee, Pension Board and Officers. Hymans Robertson have been working with the SAB to develop these requirements and have produced an LGPS Online Learning Academy (LOLA).

3.15 The training is split into a number of modules covering the CIPFA Knowledge & Skills Framework.

3.16 The modules are set out below:

1. Committee Role & Pensions Legislation
2. Pensions Governance
3. Pensions Administration
4. Pensions Accounting and Audit Standards
5. Procurement & relationship Management
6. Investment Performance & Risk Management
7. Financial Markets & Products
8. Actuarial Methods, Standards & Practices

9. Current Issues

3.17 The full timetable for completion of all modules is contained in Appendix 2.

3.18 **The Pension Regulator's General Code of Practice – Action Plan**

3.19 In March 2024 The Pensions Regulator combined various codes of practice into a single General Code of Practice which is applicable to most public and private occupational pension schemes, including the LGPS

3.20 The Fund conducted an assessment against the requirements of the code and presented an action plan to the Board in March 2025, with the aim of reaching compliance with the code over the next year.

3.21 Appendix 3 sets out the updated action plan with progress up to March 2026.

3.22 Appendix 4 is the Fund's new plan for 2026 setting out a few actions which were not able to be completed in 2025.

3.23 The full GCOP can be found by visiting TPR website https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/en/document-library/code-of-practice

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Bath and North East Somerset Council, in its role as administering authority, has executive responsibility for the Avon Pension Fund. The Council delegates its responsibility for administering the Fund to the Avon Pension Fund Committee which is the formal decision-making body for the Fund.

4.2 The Pension Board has an advisory role in assisting the administering authority by making recommendations about compliance, process and governance. The Board does not have a decision-making role.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 Within the planned budget for the operation of the pension board.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 An effective governance structure, defining clear responsibilities, and ensuring that the decision making body has an adequate level of knowledge and access to expert advice, is a key aspect of the risk management process.

7 EQUALITIES STATEMENT

7.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out using corporate guidelines and no significant issues have been identified.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The Fund is implementing a digital strategy across all its operations and communications with stakeholders to reduce its internal carbon footprint in line with the Council's Climate Strategy. The Fund acknowledges the financial risk to

its assets from climate change and addresses this through its strategic asset allocation to Paris Aligned Global Equities, Sustainable Equities and renewable energy opportunities. The strategy is monitored and reviewed by the Committee.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The Report and its contents have been discussed with the Head of Pensions representing the Avon Pension Fund and the Director of Financial Services, Assurance & Pensions representing the administering authority.

Contact person	Carolyn Morgan, Governance & Risk Advisor 01225 395240
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format.	