

12 February 2026

Agenda Item: 7

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT**

LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUND FORUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

Purpose of the Report

1. To report on the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) Conference 2025.

Information & Advice

2. The 2025 LAPFF Conference entitled 'Responsible Investing in an Uncertain World' was held between 3 and 5 December 2025 in Bournemouth. It was attended by Mr Everton Lewis-Gordon. Details of some of the main sessions are set out below.

Day One

3. *Fit for the future: how can housebuilders deliver net zero?*

Moderator: Councillor Doug McMurdo, Chair, LAPFF

Rose Sandell, Group Communities Director, Taylor Wimpey

Taylor Wimpey is committed to being Net Zero Carbon by 2045, and is intending to reduce diesel-engined earth-movers on site. Furthermore, their typical new house in future will include photovoltaic panels, triple glazing, thermal break lintels, better insulated walls, underfloor heating, smart heating controls, heat pumps, EV chargers, wastewater heat recovery systems and airtightness.

4. *Climate tipping points: Are investors getting the right advice?*

Moderator: Councillor Paul Convery, Chair LB Islington Pension Fund and LAPFF Executive Jesse Abrams, University of Exeter;

Andrew Hartley, Senior Scientist, the Met Office;

Joel Benjamin, Financial Policy & Advocacy Manager, Carbon Tracker

Panellists discussed the latest science on 'Earth system' irreversible tipping points. Overshooting 1.5°C increases the risk of crossing multiple climate tipping points. Peak warming and time above 1.5°C must be minimised to limit tipping risks. New risk assessment approaches, looking at regional vulnerabilities (eg. coral reefs, food systems), are therefore needed.

5. *Mitigating climate risk: An Asian perspective*

Moderator: Councillor Doug McMurdo, Chair, LAPFF

Ben McCarron, Managing Director, Asia Research and Engagement (ARE)

ARE's aim is to catalyse corporate change through investor backed engagement for a sustainable and compassionate Asia. Company engagement in Asia requires a different approach, due to the different operating culture. Engagement focus in China is to push for alternative forms of protein.

Day Two

6. Exile Economics: What happens if globalisation fails?

Moderator: Councillor Doug McMurdo

Ben Chu, Policy and Analysis Correspondent, BBC Verify

Exile Economics relates to the rejection of interdependence, the downgrading of multilateral collaboration, and a striving for greater national self-sufficiency. Does not just relate to American trade tariffs – many major economies are now pursuing the path to some extent. UK is more dependent on global trade, so has more to lose. Chu's belief is that security can be maintained without going down the 'exile' route.

7. Reducing risks and impacts in conflict areas: what can investors do?

Moderator: Councillor George Jabbour, LAPFF Executive

Sam Jones, President & Co-founder, Heartland Initiative;

Josie Lianna Kaye, CEO & Founder, TrustWorks Global;

Camille Bisconte de Saint Julien, Human Rights & Social Lead, LBP Asset Management

There is more conflict in the world than at any point since World War II, including an increase of over 40% between 2020 and 2023. Over 147,000 conflict events and at least 167,800 fatalities took place in 2023. Raising this issue is often seen as too political, but needs to feature more centrally in engagement work.

8. What a Tangled Web: How have pension fund structures become so complex?

Moderator: Jeremy Hughes, LGA

Karen Thrumble, Head of Local Authority Pension Performance Analytics, PIRC Ltd

In recent years as funds have diversified, they have reduced equity exposure and given up some return. Bonds have had a dramatic drag on performance for most funds. But diversification may be unnecessary. Small (less than 5% of a fund's value) portfolios are statistically unlikely to have a meaningful impact on either overall return or on the overall risk profile. Diversification also adds to the burden of pension fund committees.

9. Biodiversity and business: Managing risks, unlocking opportunities

Moderator: Councillor Rob Chapman, Vice Chair, LB Hackney Pension Fund and LAPFF Executive

Peter Elwin, Director of Engagement & Research, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation

Nature decline in last 50 years is significant, e.g. freshwater populations declined by an average of 85%. But investment opportunities exist that might help reverse this.

10. Scaling-up Local investing for place-based impact

Moderator: Paddy Dowdall, Asst Executive Director, GMPF

Sam Monger, Head of Place-Based Impact Investing, The Good Economy

There is a positive correlation between poverty and regional disparity of per capita GDP.

Solution is to invest locally but the challenge is how to define and how to measure impact?

No matter the solutions to these questions, consistency between pools is key.

Day Three

11. AI governance: What should investors expect of companies?

Moderator: Councillor Toby Simon, Chair, Avon Pension Fund and LAPFF Executive Fund and LAPFF Executive

Katie Fowler, Director of Responsible Business, Thomson Reuters Foundation Partnership

How should the use of AI by companies be governed, especially when so many major decisions hinge on AI-based inputs? Thomson Reuters is developing, by means of a survey, a Responsible AI index.

12. Social capital: What social and inequality disclosures do we need?

Moderator: Councillor John Gray, Chair, LB Newham Pension Fund and, Vice-Chair, LAPFF Madeleine Evans, Director, Generation Investment Management (Taskforce on Inequality and Social-related Financial Disclosures Steering Committee Delegate & Working Group Member)

Globally, about 60% of workers are currently operating in informal employment. This threatens long-term growth by constraining consumer demand. The Taskforce has set about trying to implement a global disclosure framework so that the extent of the problem can be grasped.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Pension Fund Committee members and/or its officer representatives continue to attend appropriate conferences to enable the Committee to be kept up to date with the main national topics relating to investments.
- 2) That Members consider if there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within the report

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director – Finance, Infrastructure, and Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Ciaran Guilfoyle

Constitutional Comments (KK 20/01/2026)

14. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee.

Financial Comments (TMR 21/01/2026)

15. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None