

London Borough of Brent Pension Fund

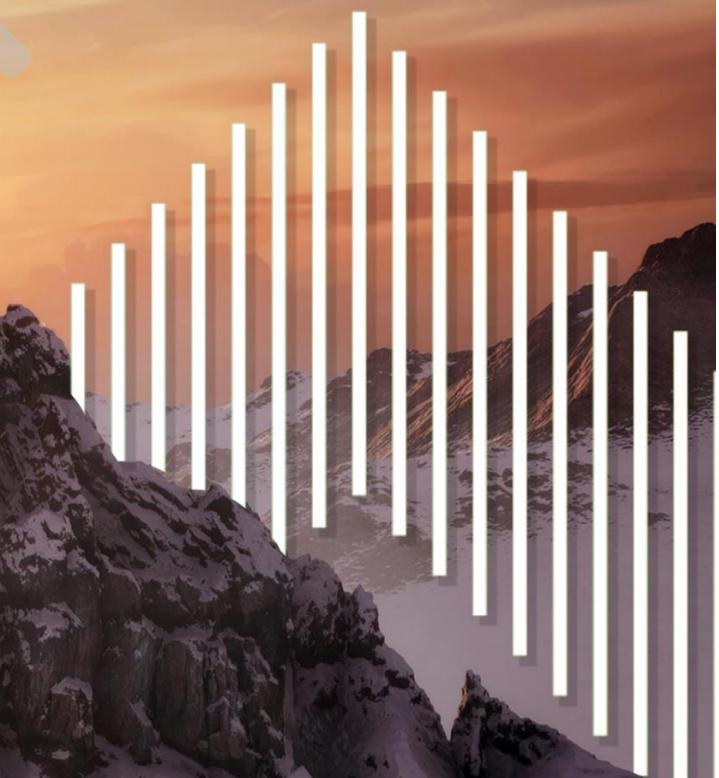
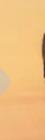
Report on the actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2025

February 2026

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Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
For and on behalf of Hymans Robertson LLP

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Executive summary

1. Executive summary

We have been commissioned by London Borough of Brent ("the Administering Authority") to carry out a valuation of the London Borough of Brent Pension Fund ("the Fund") as at 31 March 2025. This fulfils Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. This report is a summary of the valuation.

Contribution rates

The contribution rates for individual employers set at the 31 March 2025 valuation can be found in the Rates and Adjustments certificate. Table 1 shows the combined individual employer rates, compared to the last valuation in 2022.

	31 March 2025		31 March 2022	
Primary rate	18.9% of pay		21.8% of pay	
Secondary rate	2026/27	4.0%	2023/24	11.7%
	2027/28	4.0%	2024/25	10.2%
	2028/29	4.0%	2025/26	8.8%

Table 1: Combined employer contribution rates compared with previous valuation

On average, contribution rates have reduced due to higher assumed future returns at 2025, reducing the estimated cost of funding future benefit payments.

Funding position

At 31 March 2025, the funding position on the Fund's assumptions has significantly improved from the last valuation at 31 March 2022. Table 2 shows the reported funding position, compared to the last valuation in 2022.

Valuation Date	31 March 2025	31 March 2022
Assets (£m)	1,313	1,134
Liabilities (£m)	1,162	1,296
Surplus / (Deficit) (£m)	151	(162)
Funding Level	113%	87%

Table 2: Reported funding position compared with previous valuation

Similar to contribution rates, the improvement in funding level is primarily due to higher assumed future investment returns at 2025.

Comparison with other LGPS funds

The funding position and contribution rates are based on assumptions about future factors such as investment returns, inflation and life expectancy. As these are uncertain, different assumptions are used by each LGPS fund to reflect their own views, circumstances and strategic objectives. These differences (amongst other factors, including crucially the previous funding level, employer affordability and long-term contribution stability) will lead to differences in funding positions and contribution rates across the LGPS. To support comparison, LGPS funds are required to report a funding position on a consistent set of assumptions (called the "SAB funding level"). The Fund's SAB funding level at 31 March 2025 is 93%. **SAB assumptions are to allow comparison only and are not intended to be appropriate for funding or setting contribution rates. As such, this result has no impact on the Fund's funding strategy or employer contribution rates.**

Valuation
approach



2. Valuation approach

2.1 Valuation purpose

The triennial actuarial valuation is an important part of the Fund's risk management framework. Its main purpose is to ensure the Fund continues to have a funding strategy that is likely to achieve the objectives set out in the Funding Strategy Statement.

This report contains the valuation's two key outcomes:

- Employer contribution rates for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- The funding position of the whole Fund at 31 March 2025.

Further information on the process, methodology and strategy has been communicated to relevant stakeholders throughout the valuation. There is also further information publicly available in the Funding Strategy Statement and [Hymans Robertson's LGPS 2025 valuation toolkit](#).

2.2 Setting employer contribution rates

Employer contributions need to be set at a level which ensures the Fund has a reasonable likelihood of having enough money to pay members' benefits. Identifying the amount of benefits that may be paid is complex, as benefits earned today may not be paid until 50+ years has passed. Over that period, there is significant uncertainty over factors which affect the cost of benefits e.g. inflation and investment returns. These uncertainties are considered within the risk-based approach to setting employer contribution rates. This approach is built around three key funding decisions.

Key funding decisions

- **Decision 1:** What is the target funding level (how much money the Fund aims to hold) and funding basis (the set of actuarial assumptions used to value the past and future liabilities)?
- **Decision 2:** What is the funding time horizon (the time given to employers to meet the target funding level)?
- **Decision 3:** What is the likelihood of success (how likely it is that employers will meet the target funding level at the end of the funding time horizon)?

The funding decisions will vary between employers within the Fund and are documented in the Funding Strategy Statement.

Risk-based approach

Asset-liability modelling is used to project each employer's assets and benefit payments into the future under 5,000 different economic simulations. The resulting 5,000 projections of the employer's assets and benefits are used to quantify the likelihood of success.

The simulations are generated using Hymans Robertson's Economic Scenario Service (ESS). Further information on this can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Contribution rates are then set for each employer which achieves the employer's minimum likelihood of meeting their target funding level on their funding basis at the end of their funding time horizon.

2.3 Measuring the funding position

The funding position is measured as at the valuation date. While it is limited in providing insight into the future health of the Fund, it is a useful high-level summary statistic. A market-related approach is taken to calculate both the assets and the liabilities to ensure they are consistent with one another:

- The market value of the Fund's assets at the valuation date has been used.
- The liabilities have been valued using assumptions based on market indicators at the valuation date (these are detailed in [Appendix 2](#)).

Calculating the liabilities

The liabilities are the value of all future payments to members based on all benefits earned up to, or in payment at, the valuation date, expressed in today's money. Chart 1 shows the annual split of projected benefit payments for all members in the Fund at the valuation date.

The projections are based on the membership data provided for the valuation ([Appendix 1](#)), the assumptions ([Appendix 2](#)) and our understanding of the LGPS benefit structure as at 31 March 2025 (details at www.lgpsregs.org). There are currently sources of uncertainty and potential change related to the LGPS benefit structure and [Appendix 2](#) sets out how these have been considered.

The "spike" in year 2 reflects the anticipated retirement of a tranche of active and deferred members who are currently older than their assumed retirement age, whilst the "dip" around year 20 reflects the planned increase in State Pension Age to 68.

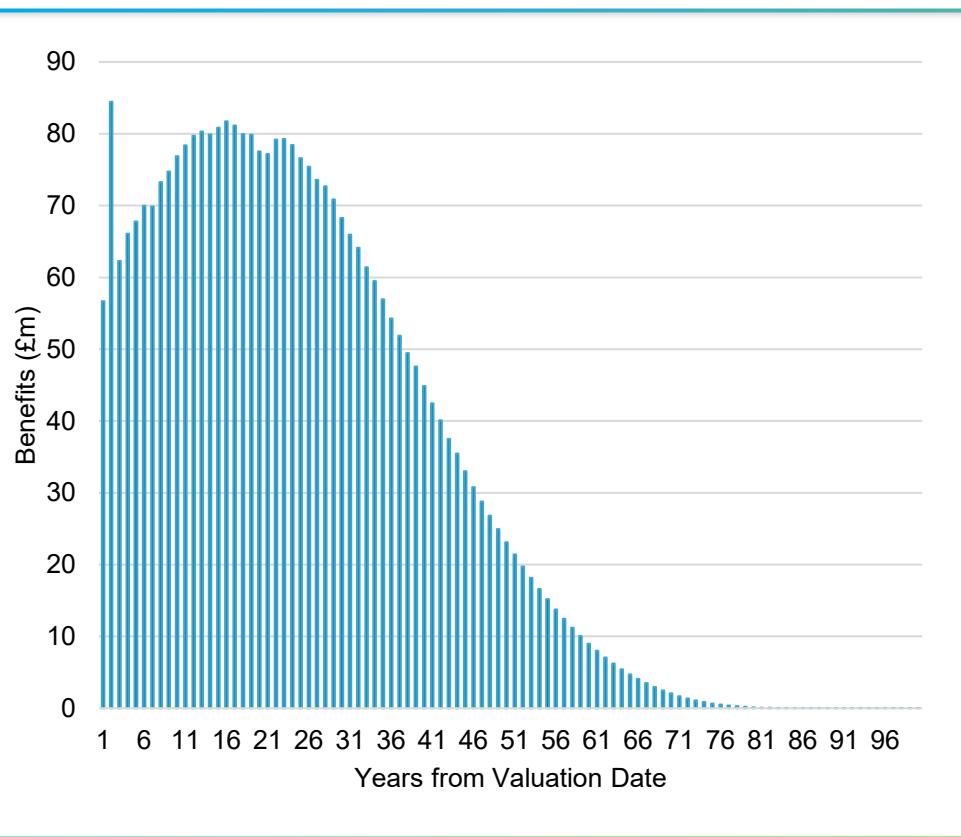


Chart 1: Projected benefit payments for all service earned up to 31 March 2025

To express the future payments in today's money, each projected payment is discounted back to the valuation date in line with an assumed rate of future investment return (known as the 'discount rate').

Valuation results



3. Valuation results

3.1 Employer contribution rates

The primary objective of the funding strategy is to set employer contribution rates that will enable it to have enough assets to pay members' benefits as they fall due. A secondary objective is to ensure the rates are as stable and affordable as possible. The risk-based approach detailed earlier is used to meet these objectives.

The employer contribution rate is made up of two components:

- **Primary rate:** the level of contributions sufficient to fund benefits that will be accrued in the future.
- **Secondary rate:** the difference between the primary rate and the total contribution rate. This may be in respect of costs associated with accrued benefits or adjustments to achieve the Fund's stability and affordability objectives.

Table 3 shows the combined individual employer contribution rates to be paid into the Fund over the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029. There is also a comparison with the contributions set at the last valuation in 2022.

	31 March 2025		31 March 2022	
Primary rate	18.9% of pay			21.8% of pay
	2026/27	4.0%	2023/24	11.7%
Secondary rate	2027/28	4.0%	2024/25	10.2%
	2028/29	4.0%	2025/26	8.8%

Table 3: Combined employer contribution rates compared with previous valuation

The primary rate includes an allowance of 1.3% of pensionable pay for the Fund's administration and governance expenses (1.3% of pay at the last valuation).

Employees pay contributions to the Fund in addition to these rates. The employee contribution rates are set by the LGPS Regulations.

On average, employer total contribution rates (ie Primary plus Secondary) have reduced mainly due to higher assumed future investment returns at 2025 compared to 2022. This reduces the estimated cost of funding future benefit payments.

Each employer has a contribution rate which is appropriate to their circumstances, and these can be found in the Rates & Adjustments Certificate ([Appendix 8](#)).

3.2 Funding position as at 31 March 2025

Table 4 sets out the assets and liabilities at the valuation date. The results at the 2022 valuation are shown for comparison.

The funding position provides a high-level snapshot as at 31 March 2025, but there are limitations:

- The liabilities are very sensitive to the choice of assumptions about the future
- The market value of assets held by the Fund will change daily.

Employer contribution rates are not set using the reported funding position above. The contribution rates take into consideration how assets and liabilities will evolve over time in different economic scenarios. They also reflect each employer's funding profile and covenant.

The funding position and contribution rates are based on assumptions about future factors such as investment returns, inflation and life expectancy. As these are uncertain, different assumptions are used by each LGPS fund to reflect their own views, circumstances and strategic objectives. These differences (amongst other factors, including crucially the previous funding level and employer affordability and long-term contribution stability) will lead to differences in funding positions and contribution rates across the LGPS. To support comparison, LGPS funds are required to report a funding position on a consistent set of assumptions (called the "SAB funding level"). The Fund's SAB funding level at 31 March 2025 is 93%. **SAB assumptions are to allow comparison only and are not intended to be appropriate for funding or setting contribution rates. As such, this result has no impact on the Fund's funding strategy or employer contribution rates.**

Valuation date	31 March 2025	31 March 2022
Assets	1,313	1,134
	Actives (£m)	291
Liabilities	Deferreds (£m)	278
	Pensioners (£m)	593
Surplus / (Deficit) (£m)	151	(162)
Funding Level	113%	87%

Table 4: Single reported funding position compared with the previous valuation

The improvement in funding level is primarily due to higher assumed future investment returns at 2025. Chart 2 on the next page provides further information on what's caused the funding position to change since 2022.

3.3 Other funding metrics

The future investment return required to be 100% funded at this valuation is 5.3% p.a. which has increased from the previous valuation (5.1% p.a.). This means, at 31 March 2025, the Fund needed to earn 5.3% p.a. to have enough money to meet accrued benefits at that date. The estimated likelihood of the Fund's investment strategy achieving the required return is 86% at 31 March 2025 (62% at 2022).

Changes since the last valuation – funding position

The factors that have caused the funding position to change since the last valuation are split between:

- actual experience being different from expectations at the last valuation (**known events**)
- changes in assumptions about the future (**future expectations**).

Chart 2 details these factors and their magnitude.

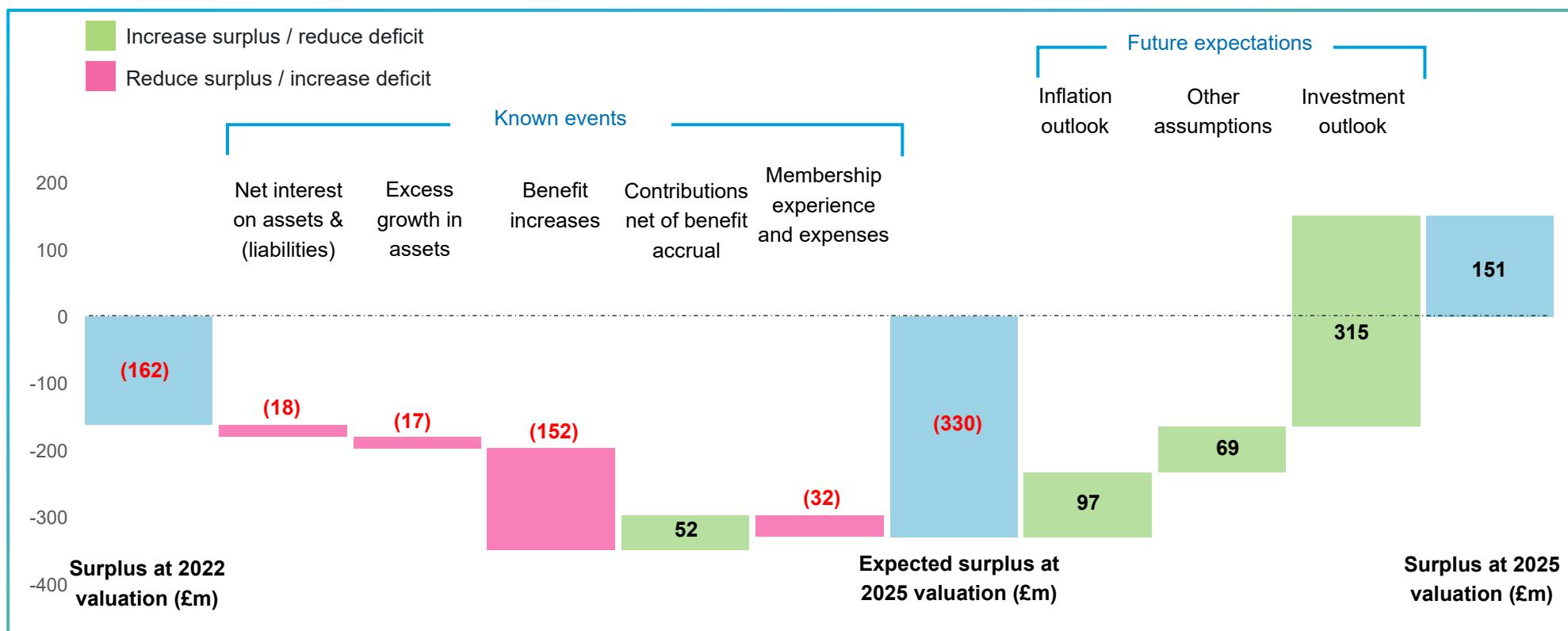


Chart 2: Change in funding position since last valuation

Risks and
sensitivities

4. Risks and sensitivities

4.1 Background

If all future experience is in line with expectations and there are no changes in the financial or demographic environment, it's projected that the funding level at the next valuation (31 March 2028) would be 110%.

However, the funding position, and the Fund's funding strategy, are sensitive to various sources of risks. These funding risks broadly fall into categories of economic, demographic, regulatory and other.

Identifying and specifying these risks, including analysis of their potential impact, is an important part of the risk management cycle.

4.2 Economic risks

Impact of known events

The main economic risks are in relation to investment returns, benefit increases (ie Consumer Price Index inflation) and salary increases.

For all three sources of risk, the table below details the actual experience since the last valuation compared to 2022 expectations, and the impact on funding.

Source	Expected	Actual	Funding impact
Investment returns	4.3% p.a.	3.8% p.a.	(£17m)
Benefit increases	2.7% p.a.	6.1% p.a.	(£152m)
Salary increases	3.0% p.a.	8.1% p.a.	(£22m)

Table 5: Impact of known economic events since 2022

Impact of changes in future outcomes

The results in this report are based on a set of assumptions about the future outcomes for these economic risks. If the future differs from the assumptions used at this valuation, the Fund's liabilities may be higher (or lower) than the current estimate.

Investment returns: Chart 3 below shows how the funding level at 31 March 2025 changes depending on the level of assumed future investment returns. Each point on the line denotes the estimated likelihood of achieving the level of future return at the valuation date. This indicates that the best estimate (return with an estimated 50% likelihood) funding level at 31 March 2025 is 155%. The Fund's assumption at this valuation is summarised in [Appendix 2](#) and is illustrated by the solid blue diamond.

- **Benefit increases:** if future inflation was 0.1% pa higher than assumed at this valuation, then the funding level would reduce by c2% (with a c£16m fall in the surplus).
- **Salary increases:** if salary increases were 0.5% pa higher than assumed at this valuation then the funding level would reduce by less than 1% (with a c£4m fall in the surplus).

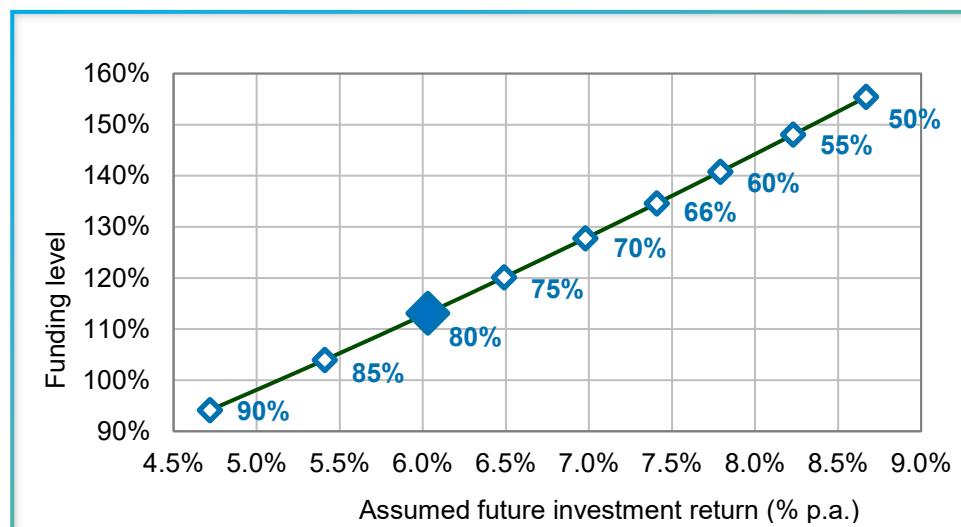


Chart 3: Impact of future return assumption on funding level

Prudence within assumptions

Reflecting the sharp change in the economic environment since the last valuation in 2022, the Fund has made allowance for higher assumed future investment returns (compared to the 2022 valuation). However, there is also increased uncertainty within the wider environment due to ongoing geo-political tensions and financial market volatility, alongside additional uncertainty about future long-term UK inflation levels and global financial markets. Therefore, the Fund has increased the level of prudence within funding strategies and contribution rates at the 2025 valuation*. The overall outcome of higher assumed future investment returns, even when combined with higher prudence is, on average, a reduction in employer total contribution rates (ie Primary plus Secondary) at the 2025 valuation.

The Fund believes this approach balances the key objectives of **affordability** and **stability** of employer contribution rates, whilst ensuring the Fund is **solvent** over the long-term.

- **Affordability:** the Fund has taken into account, and given credit for, higher expected future investment returns which reduces the cost to employers of providing LGPS benefits (all other things being equal).
- **Stability:** if the Fund doesn't achieve the higher level of assumed returns, or future returns expectations reduce, then it doesn't necessarily mean immediate increases in employer contribution rates in the future. Prudence levels will remain under review and part of the Fund's wider governance and risk management framework and, given different economic or funding conditions, it may be appropriate to reduce prudence at future valuations to support the Fund's longer-term aims of stable (and affordable) contributions for employers.

* Prudence levels are set out in the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement and the governance audit trail of these key decisions is documented in [Appendix 3](#).

4.3 Demographic risks

Impact of known events

The main demographic risk is in relation to life expectancy. The Fund's mortality experience between the 2022 and 2025 valuations has resulted in the following impact on the funding position, as shown in Table 6.

Mortality experience	
Actual amount of annual pension ceased	£3.2m
Expected amount of annual pension ceased	£3.5m
Difference	£0.3m
Impact on liabilities	(£0.4m)

Table 6: Impact of member mortality experience since 2022

Impact of changes in future outcomes

The results in this report are based on an assumption that in the long-term, the rate of mortality reduces at a rate of 1.5% p.a. If this rate of reduction turned out to be stronger (1.75% p.a. instead of 1.5% p.a.), then members would live longer than expected. In this scenario, the funding level would fall by around 1% (with a c£6m fall in the surplus).

4.4 Other risks

Regulatory

Changes in central government legislation may affect the future cost of the LGPS. For example, the cost to rectify the McCloud discrimination is estimated to be an increase in liabilities of £1m at this valuation. [Appendix 2](#) sets out potential regulatory changes which may impact future pension costs.

Climate change

Climate change has the potential to make extreme outcomes more likely which could in turn have a significant impact on the funding position. The Fund has carried out modelling to assess the potential impact of extreme outcomes on longer term funding. Further details on this are presented in [Appendix 4](#).

Post-valuation events

The results in this report are as at 31 March 2025. Since this date, asset performance has been positive and the funding position is likely to have improved as a result. However, short-term volatility in the funding position is to be expected due to the Fund's growth-orientated investment strategy. Given that the Fund aims to set long-term, stable funding strategies and contribution rates, and experience since 31 March 2025 is not abnormal, no allowance has been made for post-valuation events in setting employer contribution rates or the funding position at this valuation.

The Fund will continue to monitor the environment in which it participates to understand and manage the impact of any changes.

Final
comments



5. Final comments

The Fund's valuation operates within a broader framework, and this document should be considered alongside the following:

- The Funding Strategy Statement which (in particular) highlights how different employers in different circumstances have their contributions calculated.
- The Investment Strategy Statement, which sets out the investment strategy for the Fund.
- The Fund's risk register.
- The general governance of the Fund, including meetings of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee and Local Pensions Board, decisions delegated to officers, the Fund's business plan, etc.

Throughout the valuation, relevant stakeholders in the Fund have been engaged, consulted and communicated with as appropriate. Details of the governance process followed during the valuation are set out in [Appendix 3](#).

Under the LGPS regulations, the next formal valuation of the Fund is due to be carried out as at 31 March 2028 where contribution rates payable from 1 April 2029 will be set.

February 26
For and on behalf of Hymans Robertson

Craig Alexander FFA C.Act



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Appendices

London Borough of Brent Pension Fund

Appendices

Appendix 1: Data

Appendix 2: Assumptions

Appendix 3: Governance audit trail

Appendix 4: Climate change scenario analysis

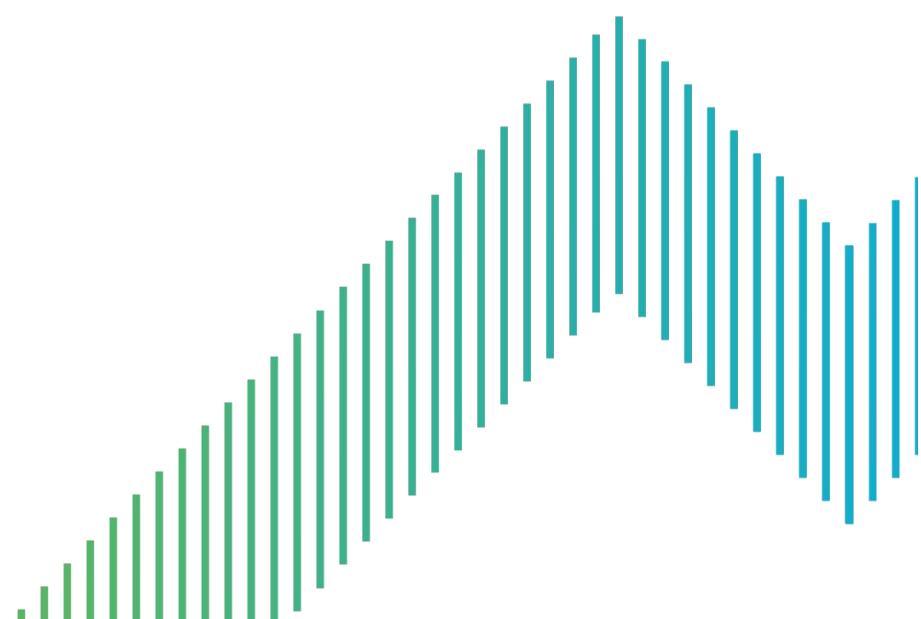
Appendix 5: Section 13 dashboard

Appendix 6: Reliances & limitations

Appendix 7: Glossary

Appendix 8: Rates and Adjustments Certificate

Appendix 9: Gender pensions gap



Appendix 1: Data

Membership data

The membership data used for the purposes of this valuation was provided by the Administering Authority on 25 July 2025.

A summary of the membership data used for this valuation is set out in Table 7, alongside corresponding data from the previous valuation for comparison. The membership numbers in the table relate to the total number of records.

The results of this valuation are dependent on the quality of the underlying data used. We have relied on information supplied by the Administering Authority and their administrator as being accurate. We have carried out a series of reasonableness validation checks on the supplied membership data and compared against the Fund's (unaudited) accounts to confirm its suitability for the purposes of this valuation.

More information on how we verify the quality of the data used in the valuation has been shared with the Administering Authority in our report 'Data Report for the 2025 Valuation'.

Whole Fund Membership Data	This Valuation 31 March 2025	Last Valuation 31 March 2022
Employee members		
Number	5,622	5,720
Total actual pay (£000)	179,107	148,740
Total accrued pension (£000)	29,383	22,170
Average age (liability weighted)	56	53
Deferred pensioners (including undecideds)		
Number	11,398	10,377
Total accrued pension (£000)	24,435	20,303
Average age (liability weighted)	56	54
Pensioners and dependants		
Number	7,581	6,695
Total pensions in payment (£000)	49,048	36,780
Average age (liability weighted)	71	71

Table 7: Membership data summary

Asset data

To check the membership data and derive employer asset values, we have used asset and accounting data and employer-level cash flow data provided by the Fund.

Investment strategy

A summary of the investment strategy allocation used to derive the future assumed investment return is set out in Table 8.

This strategy was confirmed by the Administering Authority as appropriate for the purposes of the valuation.

Asset class	Allocation
UK Equity	5.0%
Global Equity	40.0%
Emerging Market Equity	5.0%
Property	10.0%
Infrastructure Equity	15.0%
Fixed Interest Gilts	10.0%
Multi Asset Credit	5.0%
Private lending	5.0%
Diversified Growth Funds	5.0%
Total	100.00%

Table 8: Investment strategy allocation used for the calculation of employer contribution rates.

Appendix 2: Assumptions

To set and agree assumptions for the valuation, the Fund carried out an in-depth analysis and review in May 2025 with the final set noted by the Pension Fund Sub-Committee in June 2025.

Summary of assumptions

.	31 March 2025	31 March 2022
Financial assumptions		
Discount rate	6.0% p.a. (80% likelihood of success)	4.3% p.a. (70% likelihood of success)
Benefit increases (CPI inflation)	2.3% p.a.	2.7% p.a.
Salary increases	2.6% p.a.	3.0% p.a.
Demographic assumptions		
Baseline longevity	VitaCurves	VitaCurves
Longevity future improvements	CMI 2024 model with core parameterisation except: Initial addition = 0.25% (Male & Female) Long-term rate of improvement 1.5% p.a.	CMI 2021 model Initial addition, A = 0.25% (both Male and Female) Smoothing factor, Sk = 7.0 Long-term rate of improvement = 1.5% p.a.
Commutation	80% of maximum under HMRC limits	50% of maximum under HMRC limits
50:50 scheme	0% of members elect to change scheme	1% of members
Retirement age	Earliest age at which members can retire with unreduced benefits	
Family statistics	Varying proportion have dependant at death Dependant of a male is 3.5 years younger than him Dependant of a female is 0.6 year older than her	Varying proportion have dependant at death Dependant of a male is 3 years younger than him Dependant of a female is 3 year older than her

Table 9: Summary of assumptions

Deriving future investment return likelihoods

To derive the distribution of future investment returns and obtain associated estimated likelihoods, we use the Fund's long-term investment strategy and our Economic Scenario Service (ESS) model. The ESS uses statistical models to generate a future distribution of year-on-year returns for each asset class, eg UK equities. The ESS reflects correlations between asset classes and wider economic variables (eg inflation). In the short-term (first few years), the models are fitted with current financial market expectations. Over the longer-term, models are built around our views of fundamental economic parameters, for example equity risk premium, credit-spreads and long-term inflation. Table 10 sets out the individual asset class return distribution of the ESS model at 31 March 2025.

Time period	Percentile	Annualised total returns								Inflation/Yields		
		UK Equities	Global Equities (unhedged)	EM equities (unhedged)	Property	Infrastructure equity (unlisted)	Fixed interest gilt (24 yr maturity)	Multi Asset Credit (sub investment grade)	Private Lending	Inflation (CPI)	17 year real yield (CPI)	17 year yield
5 years	16 th	0.1%	-0.5%	-3.2%	0.2%	1.1%	1.7%	4.1%	4.5%	1.2%	1.5%	4.8%
	50 th	8.2%	8.2%	8.5%	6.8%	8.1%	4.2%	6.7%	8.2%	2.8%	2.4%	5.8%
	84 th	16.4%	16.9%	20.9%	14.1%	15.5%	6.7%	8.8%	11.4%	4.3%	3.3%	7.1%
10 years	16 th	2.5%	2.1%	0.2%	2.3%	3.1%	3.9%	5.8%	6.4%	0.8%	0.8%	3.9%
	50 th	8.6%	8.5%	8.8%	7.3%	8.4%	5.5%	7.4%	8.8%	2.5%	2.1%	5.3%
	84 th	14.6%	14.8%	17.5%	12.7%	13.8%	7.0%	8.9%	10.9%	4.1%	3.3%	7.1%
20 years	16 th	3.8%	3.7%	2.2%	3.5%	4.2%	5.0%	6.1%	7.0%	0.7%	-0.5%	1.6%
	50 th	8.4%	8.3%	8.5%	7.3%	8.3%	6.1%	7.6%	8.8%	2.3%	1.3%	3.6%
	84 th	12.9%	13.1%	15.1%	11.3%	12.4%	7.1%	9.1%	10.7%	3.9%	3.0%	6.2%
Volatility (1 yr)		16.3%	18.6%	24.3%	15.2%	14.5%	6.6%	6.3%	9.3%	1.4%	-	-

Table 10: ESS individual asset class return distributions at 31 March 2025

Demographic assumptions

The tables below set out sample rates for demographic assumptions at 5-year age intervals. All figures are incidence rates per 1,000 members except salary scale. FT and PT denote full-time and part-time active membership respectively.

Males

Age	Salary Scale	Death Before Retirement	Withdrawals		III Health Tier 1		III Health Tier 2	
			FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
20	105	0.17	355.79	487.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	117	0.17	235.01	322.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	131	0.20	166.75	228.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	144	0.24	130.28	178.58	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.01
40	151	0.41	104.89	143.73	0.16	0.12	0.03	0.02
45	159	0.68	98.53	134.98	0.35	0.27	0.07	0.05
50	167	1.09	81.22	111.14	0.90	0.68	0.23	0.17
55	173	1.70	63.96	87.56	3.54	2.65	0.51	0.38
60	174	3.06	57.00	78.01	6.23	4.67	0.44	0.33
65	174	5.10	34.99	47.88	11.83	8.87	0.00	0.00

Table 11: Sample rates for demographic assumptions – Males

Females

Age	Salary Scale	Death Before Retirement	Withdrawals		III Health Tier 1		III Health Tier 2	
			FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
20	105	0.10	281.94	299.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	117	0.10	189.71	201.24	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.01
30	131	0.14	159.02	168.67	0.13	0.10	0.03	0.02
35	144	0.24	137.25	145.52	0.26	0.19	0.05	0.04
40	151	0.38	114.23	121.07	0.39	0.29	0.08	0.06
45	159	0.62	106.60	112.97	0.52	0.39	0.10	0.08
50	167	0.90	89.87	95.14	0.97	0.73	0.24	0.18
55	173	1.19	67.06	71.06	3.59	2.69	0.52	0.39
60	174	1.52	54.04	57.20	5.71	4.28	0.54	0.40
65	174	1.95	25.76	27.25	10.26	7.69	0.00	0.00

Table 12: Sample rates for demographic assumptions - Females

Average life expectancies

Based on the longevity assumptions used for the 2025 valuation, Table 13 details the average life expectancy for the Fund's membership.

Average life expectancy	31 March 2025	31 March 2022
Male pensioner	22.2 years	22.1 years
Male non-pensioner	23.1 years	23.4 years
Female pensioner	24.8 years	24.8 years
Female non-pensioner	26.0 years	26.3 years

Table 13: Average life expectancies

The average life expectancies are from the age of 65. They assume that pensioners are aged 65 at the respective valuation date and non-pensioners are aged 45.

Benefit structure

Results are based on our understanding of the benefit structure of the LGPS in England and Wales on 31 March 2025 – see www.lgpsregs.org. However, there are areas of uncertainty and potential change.

- **McCloud:** in line with the 2022 valuation, we have made an allowance for the cost of these potential improvements, including McCloud data (where available). Further detail on the assumption is available on request.
- **Cost sharing mechanism:** we have assumed that there will be no changes required to the LGPS benefit structure due to this mechanism.
- **Guaranteed Minimum Pension equalisation and revaluation:** in line with the 2022 valuation, we have assumed that all increases on GMP for members with a State Pension Age after 5 April 2016 will be funded by the Fund.
- **Virgin Media case:** we have made no allowance for any impact that the Virgin Media case may have on the LGPS benefit structure.
- **Other benefit changes:** there may be benefit changes due to the current “Access and Fairness” consultation. We have not made any allowance for any changes to the benefit structure proposed in this consultation as we would not expect them to be material if implemented.

Local Government re-organisation: there may be a change in administering authority and participating employers due to Local-Government re-organisation. Consideration has been given to this potential transition when setting contribution rates for councils, however, final proposals for re-organisation are still under consideration.

Appendix 3: Governance audit trail

The triennial actuarial valuation is a significant exercise carried out by the Fund. This report is a summary of the main outputs from the triennial actuarial valuation. The outputs are the result of funding strategy analysis, discussions and Fund decisions throughout the valuation process. A high-level audit trail of the key funding strategy decisions is set out below.

Funding strategy

The **actuarial assumptions** were reviewed by the Fund in May 2025, supported by analytics and other information from the Fund Actuary. The assumptions were agreed by the Fund at the Pension Fund Sub-Committee meeting in June 2025.

The funding strategy parameters, which feed into the setting of employer contribution rates, were considered in stages.

- **Local authorities and academies:** review carried out by officers in the first half of 2025, including consideration of funding target, funding time horizon, likelihood of success, contribution stability mechanism and interaction with the Fund's investment strategy. The outcomes were discussed at the September 2025 Pension Fund Sub-Committee meeting.
- **Other employers:** the funding strategy for the remaining employers in the Fund was reviewed by the Fund's Officers alongside the above with the outcomes discussed at the September 2025 Pension Fund Sub-Committee meeting. Other aspects of the funding strategy, including the approach to cessation valuations and exit credits were reviewed in October 2025.

The outcomes of these decisions was collated and documented in an updated copy of the Funding Strategy Statement. The draft FSS was discussed at the October 2025 Pension Fund Sub-Committee meeting. The final version of the FSS is effective from 1 April 2026.

Stakeholder engagement

In addition, the Fund has engaged with employers and the Local Pensions Board throughout the valuation exercise. A summary of the engagement is detailed below.

- **Employer forums:** the employers forum on 18 November 2025 discussed the key themes of the 2025 valuation.
- **Employer results:** a results schedule setting out their 2025 valuation funding position and contribution rate was issued to relevant employers in November 2025. Employers were then offered the opportunity to engage with the Fund to discuss their results.
- **Funding Strategy Statement consultation:** an updated version of the FSS was issued to employers in November 2025 with the opportunity to feed back comments or ask questions to the Fund by January 2026.

Appendix 4: Climate change scenario analysis

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Appendix 5: Section 13 dashboard

tbc

Appendix 6: Reliances & limitations

We have been commissioned by London Borough of Brent ('the Administering Authority') to carry out a full actuarial valuation of London Borough of Brent Pension Fund ('the Fund') at 31 March 2025, as required under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 ('the Regulations').

This report is addressed to the Administering Authority. It has been prepared by us as actuaries to the Fund and is solely for the purpose of summarising the main outcomes of the 2025 actuarial valuation. It has not been prepared for any other third party or for any other purpose. We make no representation or warranties to any third party as to the accuracy or completeness of this report, no reliance should be placed on this report by any third party and we accept no responsibility or liability to any third party in respect of it.

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This summary report is the culmination of other communications in relation to the valuation, in particular our:

- [2025 valuation toolkit](#) which sets out the methodology used when reviewing funding plans
- contribution rate modelling, including climate risk analysis, dated September 2025 which discusses the contribution, funding and investment strategy for the Fund's stabilised employers
- paper dated 29 May 2025 which discusses the valuation assumptions

- initial results report dated 22 September 2025 which outlines the whole Fund results and inter-valuation experience
- data report dated tbc which summarises the data used for the valuation, the approach to ensuring it is fit for purpose and any adjustments made to it during the course of the valuation

The totality of our advice complies with the Regulations as they relate to actuarial valuations.

We have also prepared the valuation with regard to the Funding Strategy Statement which details the approach taken by the Fund to fund the current and future benefits due to members.

The following Technical Actuarial Standards apply to this advice and have been complied with where material and to a proportionate degree. They are:

- **TAS100** – Principles for technical actuarial work
- **TAS300** – Pensions

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Appendix 7: Glossary

➤ 50:50 option

An option for LGPS members to pay half employee contributions and earn half the retirement benefit (pre-retirement protection benefits are unreduced).

➤ Asset-liability modelling

An approach to modelling and understanding risk for a pension fund. The assets and liabilities are projected forwards into the future under many different future scenarios of inflation, investment returns and interest rates. The future scenarios are then analysed to understand the risk associated with a particular combination of contribution rates and investment strategy. Different combinations of contribution rates and/or investment strategies may be tested.

➤ Baseline longevity

The rates of death (by age and sex) in a given group of people based on current observed data.

➤ VitaCurves

The assumptions used for baseline longevity. These assumptions are provided by Club Vita, a firm of longevity experts we partner with for longevity analysis. They combine data from thousands of pension schemes and use it to create detailed longevity assumptions at member-level, as well as insight on general longevity trends and future improvements.

➤ Commutation

The option for members to exchange part of their annual pension for a one-off lump sum at retirement. In the LGPS, every £1 of pension exchanged gives the member £12 of lump sum. The amounts that members commute is heavily influenced by tax rules which set an upper limit on how much lump sum can be taken tax-free.

➤ CPI inflation

The annual rate of change of the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The CPI is the UK government's preferred measure of inflation and is the measure used to increase LGPS (and all other public sector pension scheme) benefits each year.

➤ Deferred pensioner

A former employee who has left employment (or opted out of the pension fund) but is not yet in receipt of their benefits from the fund.

➤ Demographic assumptions

Assumptions concerned with member and employer choices rather than macroeconomic or financial factors. For example, retirement age or promotional salary scales. Demographic assumptions typically determine the timing of benefit payments.

➤ Discount rate

A number used to place a single value on a stream of future payments, allowing for expected future investment returns.

➤ Employee (or active) members

Members who are currently employed by employers who participate in the Fund and are paying contributions into the Fund.

➤ ESS

Economic Scenario Service - Hymans Robertson's proprietary economic scenario generator used to create thousands of simulations of future inflation, asset class returns and interest rates.

➤ **Funding position**

The extent to which the assets held by the Fund at 31 March 2025 cover the accrued benefits ie the liabilities.

The two measures of the funding position are:

- the funding level - the ratio of assets to liabilities; and
- the funding surplus/deficit - the difference between the asset and liabilities values.

➤ **Inflation**

Prices tend to increase over time, which is called inflation. Inflation is measured in different ways, using a different 'basket' of goods and mathematical formulas.

➤ **Liabilities**

An employer's liability value is the single value at a given point in time of all the benefit payments expected to be made in future to all members.

Benefit payments are projected using demographic and financial assumptions and the liability is calculated using a discount rate.

➤ **Longevity improvements**

An assumption about how rates of death will change in future. Typically, we assume that death rates will fall and life expectancies will improve over time, continuing the long-running trend.

➤ **Pensioner**

A former employee who is in receipt of their benefits from the fund. This category includes eligible dependants of the former employee.

➤ **Primary rate**

The estimated cost of future benefits, expressed in percentage of pay terms. The primary rate will include an allowance to cover the Fund's expenses.

➤ **Prudence**

To be prudent means to err on the side of caution in the overall set of assumptions. We build prudence into the choice of discount rate by choosing an assumption with a prudence level of more than 50%. All other assumptions aim to be best estimate.

➤ **Prudence level**

A percentage indicating the likelihood that the assumed rate of investment return will be achieved in practice, based on the ESS model.

The higher the prudence level, the more prudent the assumed rate of investment return.

➤ **Secondary rate**

An adjustment to the primary rate, generally to reflect costs associated with benefits that have already been earned up to the valuation date. This may be expressed as a percentage of pay and/or monetary amount.

➤ **Withdrawal**

Refers to members leaving the scheme before retirement. These members retain an entitlement to an LGPS pension when they retire but are no longer earning new benefits.

Appendix 8: Rates and Adjustments Certificate

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Appendix 9: Gender pensions gap

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