



**Pension Board**  
23 March 2026

**Report from the Corporate Director  
of Finance and Resources**

## **Training Update - Members' Learning and Development**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	Three: Appendix 1: Brent Pension Fund Training Plan Appendix 2: Brent Pension Fund Training Strategy Appendix 3: Training Content and Learning Schedule
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	<p>Minesh Patel, Corporate Director, Finance and Resources (<a href="mailto:minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk">minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk</a>) 020 8937 4043</p> <p>Amanda Healy, Deputy Director of Finance (<a href="mailto:amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk">amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk</a>) 020 8937 5912</p> <p>Sawan Shah, Head of Finance (<a href="mailto:sawan.shah@brent.gov.uk">sawan.shah@brent.gov.uk</a>) 020 8937 1955</p> <p>Ludmila Pshenichnikova, Finance Analyst (<a href="mailto:ludmila.pshenichnikova@brent.gov.uk">ludmila.pshenichnikova@brent.gov.uk</a>)</p>

### **1.0 Executive Summary**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Pension Board and provide an update on the provision of the LGPS Online Learning Facility.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 The Pension Board is recommended to note the report and continue the learning programme as outlined in the training timetable.

### **3.0 Detail**

#### **3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context**

3.2 The work of the Pension Fund is critical in ensuring that it undertakes statutory functions on behalf of the Local Government Pension Scheme and complying with legislation and best practice. Efficient and effective performance and service delivery of the Pension Fund underpins all Borough Plan priorities.

#### **3.3 Background**

3.4 In November 2024, the government published their Fit for the Future consultation, which proposes several new measures to enhance governance, particularly the training of members involved in overall strategic direction of local authority pension funds. A key proposal is the requirement for administering authorities to publish a governance and training strategy, which would replace the Governance and Compliance statement.

3.5 There is a statutory requirement for committee members and officers to maintain appropriate knowledge and skills specific to the LGPS or to undertake training of any kind.

3.6 The Fund's training strategy will set out how knowledge will be acquired, assessed, maintained, and developed. In relation to the Government's Fit for the Future proposal, MHCLG consulted on updated guidance in December 2025. The Fund will review its current training strategy once the final guidance is received. Given the high expectations placed upon Board members, it is essential that members clearly understand what their role requires.

3.7 To work towards this, the Fund has subscribed to the LGPS Online Learning Academy (LOLA) which is a service launched by our actuaries, Hymans Robertson. This is an online platform designed to support the training needs of Pension Fund Sub-committee, Board and other responsible officers in the Council.

3.8 The course includes eight training modules and covers all the key areas to successfully manage the running of the Fund, including:

- Introduction to the LGPS and role of elected members
- Governance & Regulators and Business Planning
- LGPS administration, including policies and procedures, accounting and audit
- LGPS valuations, funding strategy and LGPS employers
- Investment Strategy, pooling, responsible investment, and performance monitoring
- Current issues in the LGPS

3.9 As well as delivering training support, the LOLA platform tracks the progress of users and provides a record of activity, which will be included as a standing

item in each Committee and Board meeting. The table below shows module progress for each member of the Pension Board, **as at 1 March 2026**:

Title of Module	Module completed by
Introduction	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Module 1 – Committee Role and Pensions Legislation	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Module 2 – Pensions Governance	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Module 3 – Pensions Administration	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Module 5 – Procurement and Relationship Management	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Module 6 – Investment Performance and Risk Management	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Module 7 – Financial Markets and Product Knowledge	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith

Module 4 – Pensions Accounting and Audit Standards	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Module 8 – Actuarial Methods, Standards and Current Practices	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith
Current Issues	B George C Bala D Ewart R Wheeler S Kabir T Smith

3.10 All Board members have now completed the required mandatory training. To maintain awareness of emerging developments, members should be encouraged to periodically revisit the “Current Issues” module, as this is updated over time to reflect changes in legislation, governance expectations, and best practice.

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

4.1 This is not applicable for this report.

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **6.0 Legal Considerations**

6.1 There are no legal considerations arising directly from this report.

#### **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

## **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**Report sign off:**

***Minesh Patel***

Corporate Director of Finance and Resources