

	Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee 9 th July 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Brent Pension Fund: Draft Annual Accounts 2025/26	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
List of Appendices:	Two 1. Appendix 1 – Draft Brent Pension Fund Accounts 2025/26 2. Appendix 2 - Brent Pension Fund Indicative Audit Plan - 31 March 2026
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s):	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director, Finance and Resources (minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk ; 020 8937 4043) Amanda Healy, Deputy Director of Finance (amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk ; 020 8937 5912) Sawan Shah, Head of Finance (sawan.shah@brent.gov.uk ; 020 8937 1955) Manish Shah, Senior Finance Analyst (manish.shah@brent.gov.uk ; 020 8937 1444)

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Pension Fund Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to note this report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 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.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The Brent Pension Fund is administered by Brent Council and the pension fund's accounts form part of the Council's financial statements. Therefore, formal approval of the pension fund accounts rests with the Council's Audit and Standards Advisory Committee and the Pension Sub-Committee are presented with the accounts for noting.
- 4.2 The statutory deadline to publish the draft accounts, including the pension fund accounts on 30 June 2026, as confirmed to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 16 June 2026, was successfully met. Additionally, the Pension Fund audit commenced earlier on 15 June.
- 4.3 Grant Thornton presented the indicative draft audit plan for the 2025/26 accounts at the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee meeting of 16 June 2026. The audit plan covers the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to be performed by the engagement team. This is attached to this report in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 Fund officers will now prepare the Pension Fund annual report which will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.
- 4.5 Attached as Appendix 1 are the Draft Pension Fund Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.
- 4.6 The accounts have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 (the Code) governing the preparation of the 2025/26 financial statements for Local Government Pension Scheme funds. The accounts (which are unaudited) aim to give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2026 and the amount and disposition of the Fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2026.
- 4.7 With the commencement of the audit currently underway, there have not been any significant issues raised by the auditors so far.
- 4.8 The main items to note are as follows:
- During 2025/26, the value of the Pension Fund's investments increased to £1,482m (2024/25 £1,310m). Growth assets continued to be main driver of positive returns both in absolute and in relative terms over the past 12 months, with investments held within the Emerging Markets equities being the star performer. The overweight position in this asset class has benefited fund performance. The UK housing market has for the quarter remained flat but has

underperformed the bench over the same period as rising gilts yields triggered by the war in Iran hurt demand. Further detail on investment performance is available in the regular monitoring reports.

- Total contributions received from employers and employees were £70m for the year, a decrease on the previous year's £73m.
- Total benefits paid to scheme beneficiaries, in the form of pensions or other benefits, were £62m, an increase on the previous year's £60m.
- As in 2024/25, the pension fund is in a positive cash-flow position because its contributions exceed its outgoings to members.

5.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

5.1 There are no direct considerations arising out of this report.

6.0 Financial Considerations

6.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising out of this report.

7.0 Legal Considerations

7.1 There are no legal considerations arising out of this report.

8.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

8.1 There are no equality considerations arising out of this report.

9.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

9.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations arising out of this report.

10.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

10.1 There are no HR or property considerations arising out of this report.

11.0 Communication Considerations

11.1 There are no communication considerations arising out of this report.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel

Corporate Director of Finance and Resources