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| Brent | **Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee**<br>7 October 2026 |
| | **Report from the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources** |

# Brent Pension Fund: Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26

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| **Wards Affected:** | All |
| **Key or Non-Key Decision:** | Not Applicable |
| **Open or Part/Fully Exempt:** | Open |
| **List of Appendices:** | Two:<br>Appendix 1: Draft Brent Pension Fund Annual Report 2025/26<br>Appendix 2: Audit Findings Report |
| **Background Papers:** | None |
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## 1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is recommended to note the draft Brent Pension Fund Annual Report 2025/26.

## 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.

### Statement of Accounts

3.3 Included in the Brent Pension Fund Annual Report 2025/26 attached in Appendix 1 are the latest version of the Pension Fund Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

3.4 At the time of writing, the audit fieldwork is complete in line with timelines as set out in the audit plan, with the auditors, Grant Thornton, now working on the review of the annual report.

3.5 The audit findings report from Grant Thornton, attached in Appendix 2, provided positive feedback as the auditors identified no adjustments to the financial statements, that have resulted in an adjustment to the Pension Funds reported financial position. Grant Thornton intends to give an unmodified opinion on the Pension Fund accounts.

3.6 The responsibility for approving the statement of accounts resides with the Audit and Standards Committee which noted the audit findings report on 23rd September 2026. The sign-off of the Pension Fund accounts is dependent on progress on the Council's audit, which is the process of being finalised.

3.7 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 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.

3.8 The main items to note are as follows:

- During 2025/26, the value of the Pension Fund's investments increased to £1,482.4m (2024/25 £1,310.3m). Further detail on investment performance is available in the regular monitoring reports.
- Total contributions received from employers and employees were £69.6m for the year, an increase on the previous year's £73.2m.
- Total benefits paid to scheme beneficiaries, in the form of pensions or other benefits, were £61.6m, an increase on the previous year's £59.9m.

- As in 2025/26, the pension fund is in a positive cash-flow position because its contributions exceed its outgoings to members.

**Pension Fund Annual Report**

3.9 The draft Pension Fund annual report has been sent to Grant Thornton for review. Regulations require the annual report to be published on or before 1st December. The Fund will publish the report on completion of the audit process and before the required deadline.

3.10 The Annual Report for 2025/26 has been updated to reflect the latest guidance from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), which sets out the required structure and content for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Annual Reports. The report is divided into several sections:

- **Overall Fund management** - which explains the management arrangements for the Fund and the Fund's approach to risk management.
- **Governance & Training** – details the Fund's governance structure and how the Fund has complied with its Governance Compliance Statement
- **Financial Performance** – which considers financial performance excluding investments focused on income, expenditure, and cash flows.
- **Investments & Funding** - which details the Fund's investment strategy, arrangements, and performance.
- **Scheme Administration** - which sets out how the scheme is administered including a summary of some key administration statistics
- **Actuarial report** - which provides an update on the Fund's Funding Position including a statement from the Fund Actuary.

3.11 Also included are the Investment Strategy Statement, Pensions Administration Strategy, Funding Strategy Statement and Communications Policy Statement which have been approved by the Committee at previous meetings.

## 4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 Not applicable.

## 5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 Not applicable.

## 6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 Not applicable.

## 7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 Not applicable.

## 8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 Not applicable.

## 9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations

9.1 Not applicable.

## 10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 Not applicable.

***Report sign off:***

***Minesh Patel***
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
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