Advance Copy: The Pensions Committee need to agree these minutes are accurate but cannot do this until its next meeting on 12 June 2026

South Tyneside Council

item 2

Pensions Committee
12 June 2026

Pensions Committee Minutes
11 March 2026

Present: Councillors: Dawes (in the Chair), Coombes, Francis & Lamonte

Co-Opted Members:

Councillor David FitzGerald (Northumberland)
Councillor Ged Bell (Newcastle)
Councillor John O'Shea (North Tyneside)

Trade Union Representative:

Janet Green
Janice Liepins Hall

Employer Representatives:

Gareth Hall
Tessa Assadian

Advisers: Russell Chapman (Hyman Robertson), Chris King (Hyman Robertson)

Officers: Paul McCann (Head of Pensions), Neil Sellstrom (Principal Investment Manager), Helen Wilson (Acting Development Manager), and Sean Allen (Democratic Support Officer).

Apologies: Councillors: Cllrs Foreman, Herbert, Welsh, Owens-Palmer, Haley, Samuel & Dodd.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Francis, Lamonte, O'Shea, and Bell, and Mrs J Liepins Hall, Mr

N Sellstrom, Mr P McCann, Mrs H Wilson, Mr G Hall, Ms Assadian & Mr Sean Allen all declared non-pecuniary interests in all agenda items as members of the Pension Fund. They remained in the meeting for the discussion and determination of all matters.

2. Minutes of 27 January 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2026 be agreed.

3. Meeting dates for 2026/2027

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report set out the provisional dates for the Pensions Committee, Local Pension Board and Investment Panel for the municipal year 2026/2027.

It was noted that all dates were subject to final approval.

Resolved: That the Committee note the proposed dates.

4. Training for Committee Members

Submitted: Report of Head of Pensions

The report provided an overview of the training programme.

Feedback on the recent training event was provided by Members who noted the training and organisation were excellent.

It was requested that with the upcoming elections in different boroughs, which may result in a turnover in committee members, that information be provided to prospective members in advance to help inform understanding on attendance and knowledge requirements. The Head of Pensions acknowledged this request and advised that steps were already being taken to communicate with the local authorities, and other employers, in the Fund.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

5. LGPS and Industry Developments

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report provided an update on recent industry developments, including:

- LGPS Fit for the Future
- TPR Data Guidance
- PASA AI Guidance.
- TPR Administration Guidance.
- MHCLG response to the LGPS (Access and Fairness) Consultation.

A Member queried the process for onboarding Councillors into the LGPS, if they were already receiving or had a pension set up. It was noted that while the details were not confirmed, it was expected that a separate member record would be created.

The Head of Pensions advised that Fund Officers would communicate with relevant employers about the changes.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

6. Analysis of the Fund

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report set out information on the construction of the investment portfolio. It was noted that the value of the Fund at the quarter end was £14.564 billion.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report

7. Stewardship Quarterly Update

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report provided a summary of actions undertaken in the last quarter as part of the Fund's commitment to being a responsible investor and a good steward of capital.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

8. Market Returns

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report provided information on the performance of financial markets generally over the last quarter, year and five years, to assist with the Committee's understanding.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report

9. Chair's Urgent Items

There were no Chair's urgent items.

Resolution to exclude the public.

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the agenda items as they involve exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

Minute no.	Item	Exempt category nos.	"Public interest" test - reason for exempting
13-19	13-19	3	The reports contain information which if published could affect the business affairs of persons named in the report."

10. 2025 Valuation Update

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report updated the Committee on the progress of the 2025 Valuation, explaining that all valuation results had been sent to employers. The results had generally been well received.

The Committee was informed that the Valuation has been delivered on schedule and that the process will soon complete with the new employer contribution rates becoming payable with effect from 1 April 2026.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report

Reason for recommendation: To progress with the Valuation in line with statutory requirements.

11. Service Plan and Budget Update

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report provided an update on progress against key actions identified in the Service Plan.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

12. Pensions Administration Update

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report provided an update on material matters in pensions administration and informed Committee on performance for Quarter 3 up to 31st December 2025.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

Reason for recommendation: To allow the Fund to monitor its compliance with statutory requirements and indicators and to benchmark its performance.

13. Meeting of Investment Panel

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report set out details from the Investment Panel that met on the 10th February 2026.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

14. Tactical Asset Allocation

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report set out the current position on the tactical asset allocation mechanism that had previously been agreed by the Committee.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure that the Fund's asset allocation is appropriate in the light of market conditions.

15. Implementation of Investment Strategy

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report updated the Committee on progress towards the implementation of the investment strategy as approved in November 2025.
Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure the Fund is appropriately invested, and performance appropriately measured.

16. Border to Coast – UK Equity Alpha Mandate

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report advised the Committee on the UK Equity Alpha mandate. It was explained that this mandate has performed poorly and that neither Fund Officers nor Border to Coast had confidence in this mandate delivering in the long term.

It was recommended that Committee agrees to terminate the Fund's participation in this mandate and to undertake due diligence on the Border to Coast internally managed mandate as a suitable alternative.

Resolved: The Committee agreed: (a) in principle, to terminate the UK Equity Alpha fund, and (b) for Fund Officers to commence due diligence on the Border to Coast internally managed UK Equity fund.

17. Private Market Commitments

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report informed the Committee on the private market programme and recommended annual commitments to ensure strategic allocations are met over the long term.

Resolved: The Committee approved the commitments to Private Equity, Infrastructure, Private Debt and Global Property as set out in the report.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure the Fund has made appropriate commitments to achieve the target levels of investment as set out in the investment strategy.

18. North East Real Estate Fund

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report updated the Committee on the work undertaken to date on local investment with a particular focus on the development of a North East Real Estate Fund. The report set out the request for Committee approval to commit to the mandate ahead of the process of an appointment of an investment manager.

Resolved: The Committee: (a) agreed to an initial commitment of up to £150 million to the North East Real Estate Fund, (b) agreed in principle to an additional commitment of £150 million, subject to the satisfactory progress of the fund, and (c) noted the report.

Reason for recommendation: To help the Fund in fulfilling its strategic objectives as set out in the Investment Strategy Statement.

19. Border to Coast: Fit for the Future

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report provided an update on the Fit for the Future proposals, noting that the Committee's approval was required to enter into an Investment Management Agreement with Border to Coast in respect of additional services.

Resolved: The Committee: (a) granted delegated approval to the Head of Pensions, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, to agree the final form of the Investment Management Agreement; and (b) noted the report.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure the funding and operating model for Border to Coast is appropriate and meets the needs of Partner Funds.

20. Summary of Investment Performance

Submitted: Report of the Head of Pensions

The report summarised the Fund's investment performance for periods up to 31st December 2025.

Resolved: That the Committee note the report.

Reason for recommendation: To monitor the performance of the Fund's investments.