

**The Highland Council
Pensions Committee and Pension Board**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Pensions Committee and Pension Board** held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness/remotely on Thursday 18 June 2026 at 10.30am.

Present:

Pensions Committee

Mr S Coghill (remote)
Mrs J Hendry
Mr B Lobban
Mr P Logue (remote)
Mr A MacKintosh (remote)
Mr T MacLennan (remote)
Mr P Oldham
Ms C Ramsay (substitute)

Pension Board

Dr C Birt, Highland Council
Mr S Kennedy
Mr R Fea (remote)
Mr D MacDonald, Unison (remote)
Mr W Munro, Unison

Non-Member in attendance:-

Mr L Fraser

Officers in attendance:

Mr B Porter, Chief Officer Corporate Finance, Corporate Service
Ms C Strachan, Pension Fund Manager, Corporate Service
Ms L Junor, Operations Manager (Pensions), Corporate Service
Mr J Thurlbeck, Corporate Audit Manager, Corporate Service
Mrs L Dunn, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Corporate Service
Mr A MacInnes, Senior Committee Officer, Corporate Service

Also in attendance:

Ms L Rofe, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland (remote)

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.

Mr P Oldham in the Chair

Business

**1. Apologies for Absence
Leisgeulan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Christie, Mrs M Paterson, Mrs T Robertson and Mr R Boyle.

**2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/Aithris Fhollaiseachd**

There were no declarations of interest/transparency statements.

3. Pension Fund Administration Rianachd Maoin Peinnsein

There was circulated Report No. PC/07/26 by the Chief Officer Corporate Finance which provided an update on matters relating to the administration of the Highland Pension Fund (HPF).

It was highlighted that pension fund administration performance continued to improve and this was evident, for example, with improvements in the time taken to process widow and dependant benefits.

Further, reference was made to national discussions and developments regarding Scottish LGPS investments and collaboration with these matters initially being considered by the Investment Sub-Committee later this afternoon and Members of the Pensions Committee were welcomed to attend this meeting. A concern was expressed regarding developments happening on this issue which could affect the HPF.

In relation to training sessions for Pensions Committee and Pension Board Members, the Actuarial Valuation training on 29 September 2026 was highlighted in advance of the initial triennial Actuarial Valuation results being presented to Pensions Committee in October.

The Committee **NOTED** the following:-

- i. current HPF administration performance and performance updates (section 6);
- ii. update on England and Wales Pension Bill (Fit for the Future) (section 7);
- iii. update on Pension Dashboard (section 8); and
- iv. training update (section 9).

4. Conflict of Interest Policy Poileasaidh Strì Eadar Com-pàirtean

There was circulated Report No. PC/08/26 by the Chief Officer Corporate Finance which presented a Conflict of Interest Policy for approval.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Conflict of Interest Policy (Appendix 2).

5. Policy on Investment Services Appointment and Management Poileasaidh Cur an Dreuchd is Stiùireadh Sholaraichean Seirbheisean Tasgaidh

There was circulated Report No. PC/09/26 by the Chief Officer Corporate Finance which presented a policy on investment services appointment and management for approval.

The Committee **APPROVED** the investment services appointment and management policy (Appendix 2).

6. Pension Fund Internal Audit Annual Report 2025/26
Aithisg Bhliadhnail In-Sgrùdaidh Maoin Peinnsein 2025/26

There was circulated Report No. PC/10/26 by the Strategic Lead (Audit & Risk) which included an assessment of the Pension Fund's framework of governance, risk management and control, and the associated opinion which provided information for the Fund's Annual Governance Statement.

The Committee **NOTED** the content of the report and the audit opinion provided.

7. Risk Management Update 2026/27
Cunntas às Ùr air Poileasaidh Rianachd Cunnairt agus Cunnart Làithreach

There was circulated Report No. PC/11/26 by the Chief Officer Corporate Finance.

The Committee **NOTED** the updated risk register extract (Appendix 1).

8. Investment Sub Committee: Minutes of Meeting
Fo-chomataidh Tasgaidh: Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh

The Minutes of the meeting of the Investment Sub-Committee held on 16 March 2026 were circulated and **APPROVED**.

The meeting ended at 10.52am.