2026-11
ITEM 03

Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board

Wednesday, 26 August 2026, 10:30 – 12:30

Verity House and MS Teams

Attendees

SAB Members	
Cllr David Parker (Chair)	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Simon Mountford	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Vaughan Moody	East Dunbartonshire Council
Cllr David Richardson	East Ayrshire Council
Cllr Mandy Watt	Edinburgh City Council
Simon Watson (Joint Secretary)	UNISON
Arthur Nicoll	UNISON
Davena Rankin	UNISON
David Bell (Vice Chair)	UNITE
Graham McNab	UNITE
Brian Robertson	UNITE
Advisers and Observers	
Gareth Dixon (Joint Secretary)	Employer Side Secretary - COSLA
Clive Gee	SAB Policy Officer
Amanda Templeman	Finance Adviser - Falkirk
Victoria Rogers	HR Adviser – West Dunbartonshire
Catherine McFadyen	Actuarial Adviser – Hymans Robertson
Albert Chen	Fund Adviser – Lothian Pension Fund
Richard McIndoe	Fund Adviser – Strathclyde Pension Fund
Iain Coltman	SPPA
Annette Greenslade	SPPA

Apologies

SAB Members	
Andy Thompson (Chair)	GMB
Annette Drylie	GMB

Advisers and Observers	
Mirren Kelly	COSLA
Laura Colliss	Fund Advisor - NESPF

Discussion

1. Election of Chair
   The Employee's Side nominated David Bell as joint (Vice) Chair, and the Employer Side nominated Cllr David Parker as joint Chair.

   Cllr David Parker was appointed Chair and David Bell as Vice Chair. The new Chair thanked the previous Chair for all the work they had undertaken in the role over the previous year.

2. Welcome, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest declarations
   The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

   It was noted that there are currently two vacancies for SAB Members following the stepping down of Kirsty Robb (Borders College) and Kenny Dick at the Care Inspectorate in July.

   No conflicts of interest were advised.

   Action: SAB Secretariat to contact Funds to seek nominations from Scheduled Bodies and Admitted Bodies.

3. Minute of Last Meeting and Matters Arising
   The minute of the previous meeting of 27 May 2026 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

   In terms of the actions of the previous meeting, it was noted that under Item 6 of the Minutes that feedback would be sought from the Funds on the Fit for the Future recommendations. Feedback has been sought via the SAB Bulletin, however this remains to be collated and fed into Working Groups.

   Action: SAB to collate feedback from Funds on implementation and brief the Invest Local and Good Governance Working Groups.

4. GAD Update
   SPPA provided a verbal update on behalf of GAD. Ongoing work on quadrennial scheme valuation were noted. The SAB's support for the Scottish-level assumptions was noted, with reference now going to Scottish Ministers. It was reported that a cost cap breach was considered extremely unlikely at this stage. GAD also reported ongoing work on section 13 assessments. It was further reported that following the changes to SCAPE discount rate, most of the new scheme factors have been issued to Funds, with the last few to be done across the autumn.

5. SPPA Update
   SPPA gave a verbal update focusing on ongoing work and resumption of various projects now that the new Minister is settled in post. This includes a forthcoming consultation on changes to the normal minimum pension age and work on the Gender Pensions Gap. The consultation is expected to be issued in September.

6. Ministerial Correspondence to the Fit for the Future Recommendations
   The Chair invited discussion on the letter from the Deputy First Minister and the accompanying paper. The difficulties in defining "local" and the desire for positive impact on the Scottish economy were noted.

   It was noted that the DFM's reply did not address some of the points the SAB has raised in its correspondence out with those specific to local investment in the Fit for the Future recommendations. It was suggested that these be included in a briefing produced for a potential meeting with the DFM.

   Discussion focused on whether the SAB should receive a briefing on the Vision Statement referenced in the DFM's letter and/or add it to the remit of the Invest Local Working Group or to discuss at a future SAB meeting. There were concerns expressed relating to whether this statement could be held to be the view of all or some of the Funds and its potential for a lack of clarity regarding the SAB's position if work continued on two unrelated tracks. The meeting was not able to reach consensus on this issue and it was therefore not progressed.

   The meeting also heard points tabled with apologies from the GMB representatives, restating the importance of maintaining the Funds' focus on members' pensions and discharging fiduciary duty.

   The recommendations in the paper were accepted for action.

   Actions:
   1. ***SAB to arrange a meeting with the Minister as requested. The suggested attendees are: Chair and Vice Chair; Invest Local Working Group Chair and Vice Chair; SAB Joint Secretaries and SAB Policy Officer.***
   2. ***SAB Invest Local Working Group to discuss and recommend options for supporting local investment work and reporting.***
   3. ***SAB Invest Local Working Group to continue work on standard reporting template to provide requested measurable reporting.***
   4. ***SAB to add a standing agenda item to agree quarterly report to be submitted after each SAB meeting.***

7. Report on SAB Attendance at Scottish & NI LGPS Funds Meeting

The Joint Secretary (Employers) referred to the paper and further reflections were provided from the previous Vice Chair who had also attended the recent meeting in Shetland.

8. SAB Working Groups update

The Joint Secretaries referred to the paper on the work of the Working Groups.

It was noted that whilst progress was being made on the definition of "local" for local investment, that quantifying this will be a challenge for the body or bodies tasked with accomplishing this.

A question was raised on how GAD would be supporting the Invest Local Working Group and Funds' actions on reporting local investment. SPPA responded that they had commissioned GAD to undertake complimentary work for the Scottish Government and identifying overlap with the Invest Local WG had linked up the relevant people at GAD with Laura Colliss (NESPF Fund Manager) who is leading on gathering data for the invest local template

The recommendations were accepted for action.

Actions:
Good Governance WG:

1. ***Issue 2026 Good Governance Survey in accordance with agreed timeline.***

Invest Local WG:

2. ***Undertake the actions recommended under Item 06.***

Board References WG:

3. ***SAB to issue good practice advice to Scheme Managers and Pension Boards that:***
   a. ***Pension Boards have an oversight function to ensure pension committee and funds comply with regulations and legislation.***
   b. ***A Pension Board can request a review of a decision by the Pension Committee***
   c. ***The grounds for review should be within s.9 (2) of the governance regulations***
   d. ***Administering Authorities should have a process in place to ensure any reviews are undertaken in a timely way***
   e. ***If a Pension Board wishes to meet to consider a request for a review, this should be facilitated.***
   f. ***Specific investment decisions are ordinarily the responsibility of the Pension Committee.***

g. A request for a review may not always prevent that decision from being enacted.

9. SAB Annual Report
   The Joint Secretary (Employees) presented the Annual Report, thanking Funds and others for their input. It was noted that no other document draws together this information from across the Funds. SPPA confirmed that the Report would be provided to the Minister ahead of the meeting proposed in Item 06 by way of background.

   It was noted that the report arrives comparatively late in the cycle, however there are requirements for auditing and then collation by outside bodies (including those working with the England and Wales SAB) which make it difficult to advance the timetable.

10. AOB
    No AOB was noted.

Future Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday 25 November (online)