

Public Document Pack

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority Resources Committee

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025 in Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters,
Fulwood commencing at 10.00 am.**

If you have any queries regarding the agenda papers or require any further information, please initially contact Sam Hunter on telephone number Preston (01772) 866720 and she will be pleased to assist.

Agenda

Part 1 (open to press and public)

Chair's Announcement – Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Any persons present at the meeting may photograph, film or record the proceedings, during the public part of the agenda. Any member of the press and public who objects to being photographed, filmed or recorded should let it be known to the Chair who will then instruct that those persons are not photographed, filmed or recorded.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Members are asked to consider any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the agenda.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 10)**

4. **Year End Treasury Management Outturn 2024/25 (Pages 11 - 18)**

5. **Financial Monitoring - Provisional Outturn 2024/25 (Pages 19 - 28)**

6. **Local Pensions Board Annual Report (Pages 29 - 34)**

7. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee has been agreed for 10:00 hours on **Wednesday 24 September 2025** in the Main Conference Room, at Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

Further meetings are: scheduled for 26 November 2025
 proposed for 25 March 2026

8. **Urgent Business**

An item of business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting

is of the opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Clerk should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

9. Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee is asked to consider whether, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, they consider that the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, indicated under the heading to the item.

Part 2

10. Update from Capital Building Projects Working Group (Pages 35 - 48)

(Paragraph 3)

11. High Value Procurement Projects (Pages 49 - 52)

(Paragraph 3)

12. Urgent Business (Part 2)

An item of business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Clerk should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

**Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
Resources Committee**

**Wednesday, 26 March 2025, at 10.00 am in the Main Conference Room,
Service Headquarters, Fulwood.**

Minutes

Present:	
Councillors	
G Baker	
F De Molfetta	
Z Khan MBE	
D O'Toole	
M Pattison (Vice-Chair)	
S Serridge (Chair)	
D Smith	
R Woollam	
B Yates	

Officers
S Brown, Director of Corporate Services (LFRS) E Sandiford, Director of People and Development (LFRS) B Warren, Director of People and Development (LFRS) J Meadows, Head of Finance (LFRS)

38/24	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies were received from County Councillor T Hurn. Vice-Chair County Councillor M Pattison chaired the meeting as the Chair had been delayed.
39/24	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests
	None received.
40/24	Minutes of the Previous Meeting
	Councillor G Baker asked if the Revenue Budget section within the Financial Monitoring report could include an action column to summarise the actions taken. The Director of Corporate Services (DoCS) confirmed that this could be implemented for some points within the report and would be reviewed for future reports. Councillor G Baker asked about the accuracy of the forecast for interest rates from

	<p>Arlingclose. The DoCS confirmed that Arlingclose were professional advisors used by a number of organisations and their forecasts were generally reliable, although a number of factors could impact forecasts such as election results.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 November 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>																							
41/24	Financial Monitoring																							
	<p>The Director of Corporate Services (DoCS) advised that this report set out the current budget position in respect of the 2024/25 revenue and capital budgets.</p> <p>Revenue Budget</p> <p>In February 2024 the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) agreed the Service's 2024/25 revenue budget at £75.155m. This Financial Monitoring report was for the ten-month period to the end of January 2025. The forecast outturn was £74.066m, which was an underspend of (£1.089m). Of the forecast underspend, (£0.962m) related to non-pay costs, and (£0.127m) to pay costs.</p> <p>The year-to-date and forecast positions within all departmental budgets were set out in Appendix 1 of the report, with the major variances of note shown separately in the table below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th><th>Year to Date Variance £m</th><th>Reason</th><th>Forecast Outturn Variance £m</th><th>Reason</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Service Delivery - Pay</td><td>0.509</td><td>As previously reported the grey book pay award of 4% for 2025/26 was effective from July 2024 and was 1% higher than the services budgeted assumptions, this accounted for the majority of the overspend.</td><td>0.516</td><td>The variance was largely due to higher than budgeted pay assumptions. On call and support staff budgets were mainly within allocated budgets. The forecast had reduced by c£0.150m since the November report due to a reduction in overtime costs.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Prevention and Protection - Pay</td><td>(0.418)</td><td>The year-to-date underspend was due to vacancies within the department.</td><td>(0.550)</td><td>The variance was due to vacancies, this saving had increased by (c£0.100m) as staffing levels were anticipated to increase.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bank Interest</td><td>(0.385)</td><td>More interest had been earned because of higher</td><td>(0.552)</td><td>The forecast reflected the full year effect of slippage on the</td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Area	Year to Date Variance £m	Reason	Forecast Outturn Variance £m	Reason	Service Delivery - Pay	0.509	As previously reported the grey book pay award of 4% for 2025/26 was effective from July 2024 and was 1% higher than the services budgeted assumptions, this accounted for the majority of the overspend.	0.516	The variance was largely due to higher than budgeted pay assumptions. On call and support staff budgets were mainly within allocated budgets. The forecast had reduced by c£0.150m since the November report due to a reduction in overtime costs.	Prevention and Protection - Pay	(0.418)	The year-to-date underspend was due to vacancies within the department.	(0.550)	The variance was due to vacancies, this saving had increased by (c£0.100m) as staffing levels were anticipated to increase.	Bank Interest	(0.385)	More interest had been earned because of higher	(0.552)	The forecast reflected the full year effect of slippage on the
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		cash balances invested, due to slippage on the capital programme, and higher than budgeted interest rates. Interest earned on the Home Office pension grant received ahead of Matthews two and the McCloud remedy had been assumed to be transferred to an earmarked reserve.		capital programme and higher than budgeted interest rates. The forecast had increased by c£0.350m due to updated cash balance and interest rate assumptions.
Property – non pay	(0.394)	Utility rates had been lower than budgeted resulting in the underspend.	(0.393)	The forecast underspend largely related to lower than budgeted utility costs. The forecast also assumed any committed property work slippage would be approved to carry forward which was forecast at £0.400m.

Future Pressures

Emerging pressures to report to the Resources Committee included inflation forecasts. As reported to the CFA in February, government grants were increased by the September rate of inflation (1.7%). The latest rate of inflation was now 3% which was likely to put pressure on budgets in 2025/26.

There were no further new pressures to report since the last meeting, the green book pay award and firefighter employer pension contributions had been included in the 2025/26 budget approved by the CFA in February.

Savings Targets

A reduction in the contribution to Capital of £1.5m was agreed in the medium-term Financial Strategy resulting in a revenue contribution in 2024/25 of £2.5m. The budget had been reduced to this effect.

General Fund

The year end forecasted general fund position is summarised below:

	£'m
Opening balance of LFRS general fund	(4.987)
Forecast revenue underspend	(1.089)
Forecast closing balance of general fund	(6.076)

Capital Budget

The original Capital Programme for 2024/25 was £12m including slippage from 2023/24, this was revised to £5m by the CFA in February 2025 when they approved the updated capital strategy. To date £2.793m had been spent predominantly on fleet and operational equipment. A summary of the programme is set out in the table below and in more detail in Appendix 2 of the report.

Area	Budgeted Items	Budget (£m)	Year to Date (£m)	Slippage 2025/26 (£m)
Operational Vehicles	<p>The budget included costs of two water towers, and a prime mover. All vehicles were on target to be delivered in 2024/25. An update on items in the original budget is below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pumping appliances were in the procurement process.• Aerial ladder appliance was due for delivery in early April 2025.• Large climate change vehicle was in the procurement process and the small one was at specification stage.	1.409	0.924	(0.002)
Other vehicles	<p>This budget allowed for the replacement of various operational support vehicles including several cars, vans, and a beavertail lorry. A few vehicles had been delivered which was originally expected to be delayed to 2025/26, an update against the original budget is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four Toyota Rav4 were now delivered, and two small vans were due for delivery April 2026.• Two double cab vans were in the procurement process and delivery was expected in May 2025.• Two rescue team vans had slipped due to delivery and conversion lead times, expected May 2025.	0.529	0.710	(0.181)

	Operational Equipment	<p>This budget allowed for operational equipment purchases including CCTV cameras for appliances, body armour, and road traffic collision equipment. Slippage against the original capital programme is set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body Armour – the trial period had been completed and the procurement process was underway. • Flow meters and hose reel were on trial in Blackpool. It was anticipated there would be an additional budget requirement. • Breathing apparatus compressor was on order with an early 2025/26 lead time. • CCTV on appliances was put on hold in December pending specification requirements. • Road Traffic Collision (RTC) phase 4 was due for completion in June 2025. 	1.359	0.959	0.361
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	Building Modifications	<p>This budget included the continued programme of Drill Tower Replacements, Blackpool facilities upgrade and budget for the initial works to support the upgrade to Preston station. Slippage to date against the original capital programme had been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enhancement of facilities at Blackpool (W30) had incurred some initial costs however would see final completion in 2025/26. • Most Drill Tower replacement works had slipped due to unsuccessful initial award of the contract. • Wylfa training props programme was due to start on site April 2025. • Options appraisal was underway for suitable land acquisition. • Estates improvements would continue into 2025/26. • Elements of the Preston upgrade had been delayed to early 2025/26. 	1.066	0.153	0.266
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IT systems	<p>This budget included various projects including upgraded Firewalls, network upgrades and replacement of pooled PPE and stock management systems. Slippage to date against the original capital programme had been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The replacement systems for the management of stock, assets and pooled PPE, public switched telephone network. Existing contracts had been extended. • The incident ground radios project had also slipped to next year due to other interdependencies with the breathing apparatus project. • Firewall project was complete however delivery would slip to 2025/26. • North West Fire Control (NWFC) Computer Aided Dispatch had been extended until spring 2026. • Community Fire Risk Management System (CFRMIS) replacement was undergoing the procurement process into 2025/26. • Retained Duty System (RDS) Alerters and Officer Pagers scoping had changed and would slip to 2025/26. 	0.850	0.197	0.448
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Potential Financial Risks

There were several potential scenarios that had not been reflected in this monitoring report that, if they materialised, may give rise to an increase in revenue and capital expenditure. To provide some information about potential significant financial risks these had been quantified to provide an estimated worst-case scenario, these were set out in Appendix 3 of the report. Taking all these risks overall and adjusted for the remainder of the year, a potential worst-case scenario would impact the Revenue Budget and Capital Budget accordingly:

£m	Worst Case
Revenue Budget - unbudgeted costs	1.08
Capital Budget – Additional Expenditure	0.22

	<p>The potential worst-case scenario could be funded from available budgets but would reduce the general fund balance to below the minimum acceptable level agreed by the CFA.</p> <p>County Councillor D O'Toole and Councillor D Smith remarked that it was very difficult to forecast the budget due to a number of changing factors including central governments imminent budget announcement.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Committee;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and endorsed the financial position; and 2. Approved additional slippage in the capital programme of £0.892m to 2025/26.
42/24	Date and Time of Next Meeting
	<p>The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 1 July 2025 at 1000 hours in the Main Conference Room at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood.</p> <p>Further meeting dates were noted for 24 September 2025 and 26 November 2025.</p> <p>County Councillor S Serridge joined the meeting at 10:12.</p>
43/24	Exclusion of Press and Public
	<p>Resolved: That the press and members of the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, indicated under the heading to the item.</p>
44/24	Update from Capital Projects Working Group
	<p>(Paragraph 3)</p> <p>The DoCS presented the proceedings of the Capital Projects Working Group held on 18 November 2024 and 3 February 2025.</p> <p>Resolved: That the proceedings of the Capital Projects Working Group be noted.</p>
45/24	High Value Procurement Projects
	<p>(Paragraph 3)</p> <p>Members considered a report that provided an update on all contracts for one-off purchases valued in excess of £100,000 and high value procurement projects in excess of £100,000 including: new contract awards, progress of ongoing projects and details of new projects.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Committee noted and endorsed the report.</p>

46/24	Pensions Update (Standing Item)
	<p>(Paragraphs 4 and 5)</p> <p>Members considered a report that provided an update on the various issues which had arisen in respect of the changes to the pension schemes applying to the uniformed members of the Fire Sector.</p> <p>Resolved: That the committee noted the current situation.</p>

M Nolan
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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Lancashire Combined Fire Authority Resources Committee

Meeting to be held on 8 July 2025

Year End Treasury Management Outturn 2024/25

Contact for further information:

Steven Brown - Director of Corporate Services – Telephone Number 01772 866804

Executive Summary

The report sets out the Authority's borrowing and lending activities during 2024/25. All treasury activities undertaken throughout the year are in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 approved by the CFA in February 2024.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the outturn position report.

Information

In accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management code of practice and to strengthen members' oversight of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Resources Committee receives regular updates on treasury management issues including a mid-year report and a final outturn report. Reports on treasury activity are discussed on a quarterly basis with our advisors and the Director of Corporate Services.

Investment and borrowing decisions are taken in the light of long-term borrowing requirements, the estimated level of reserves and actual and estimated cash-flow. Consideration is also given to various risks and ensuring compliance with the Prudential Indicators. Decisions are taken in the light of current and forecasted economic situation. Therefore, this report provides information on:

- An economic overview
- Borrowing position
- Investment activity
- Comparison to the Prudential Indicators

Economic Overview

UK inflation has been relatively static throughout 2024/25. Having started the financial year at 2.3% (April), the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation briefly dipped to 1.7% in September before ending the financial year at 2.8%. The latest data shows CPI is 3.4% (June 2025) and expectations are that it will average 3.2% over the financial year; this compares to the 2% budgeted figure.

Against that backdrop and the global economy, the Bank Rate reductions have been limited. Bank Rate currently stands at 4.5%, despite the Office for Budget Responsibility reducing its 2025 GDP forecast for the UK economy to only 1%

(previously 2% in October). Borrowing is currently expensive although rates are expected to reduce over the coming year or two.

Borrowing

The borrowing levels of the Fire Authority have remained unchanged at year end at £2m with no new long-term loans being taken. The existing loans were taken out with the Public Loans Works Board (PWLB) in 2007 when the base rate was 5.75%. The maturity and interest rate of the Authority's borrowing is:

Loan amount	Maturity	Interest rate
£650k	December 2035	4.49%
£650k	June 2036	4.49%
£700k	June 2037	4.48%

Total interest paid on PWLB borrowing was £90k, which equates to an average interest rate of 4.49%. The levels of borrowings for the last six financial years are shown below:-

Financial Year Ended	PWLB £	Total £
2019-2020	2,000,000	2,000,000
2020-2021	2,000,000	2,000,000
2021-2022	2,000,000	2,000,000
2022-2023	2,000,000	2,000,000
2023-2024	2,000,000	2,000,000
2024-2025	2,000,000	2,000,000

The current approved capital programme has no requirement to be financed from borrowing until 2026/27 and the debt relates to earlier years' capital programmes. While the borrowing is above its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which is the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes, this is because the Fire Authority has had a policy of setting aside monies in the form of statutory and voluntary minimum revenue provision (MRP) to repay debt as it matures or to make an early repayment.

If the loans were to be repaid early there would be an early repayment (premium) charge. Previous reports on treasury management activities have reported that the premium and the potential loss of investment income have been greater than the savings made on the interest payments therefore it has not been considered financially beneficial to repay the loans especially with the potential for increased interest rates. However, at 31 December the Authority would save £10k in interest, split over 10-years, if the loans were to be repaid early. As the Authority is budgeting a borrowing requirement to fund the capital programme from 2026/27, the additional interest on new loans would outweigh the £10k saving achieved from early repayment. This can be seen in the table below detailing PWLB rates throughout 2024/25:-

PWLB Rate	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	4.77%	4.31%	4.52%	5.08%	4.88%
Date	26/02/2025	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024

PWLB Rate	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
High	5.61%	5.34%	5.71%	6.18%	5.88%
Date	29/05/2024	13/01/2025	13/01/2025	13/01/2025	09/01/2025
Average	5.14%	4.86%	5.07%	5.56%	5.32%
Spread	0.84%	1.03%	1.19%	1.1%	1.00%

At the close of 31 March 2025, the 1-year PWLB Certainty rate was 4.82% whilst the 25-year rate was 5.98% and the 50-year rate was 5.67%.

Investments

Both the CIPFA Code and the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. Throughout the year when investing money, the key aim was to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return.

To reduce credit risk to the Authority, HM Treasury's Debt Management Office is the main counterparty for the Authority's investments via the operation of overnight deposits at 31 March 2025. This changed from the operation of a call account with Lancashire County Council from 1 October 2024.

The Treasury Management Strategy does permit investment with other high-quality counterparties including other local authorities. During the year the total cash held by the Authority has been positive with the highest balance being £60.2m and the lowest £27.0m. For the monies invested with Lancashire County Council/Debt Management Office the range was £38.1m to £3.5m. The overnight deposit with the Debt Management Office at year end was £29.5m.

By placing monies in longer term fixed rate investments, it is anticipated a higher level of interest will be earned. However, having fixed term deals does reduce the liquidity of the investments and therefore their use is limited. At the year-end fixed investments of £20.0m were in place. During the year seven fixed term investments had matured and six new investments were made. The table below shows the interest earned of £1.18m on fixed term investments in 2024/25:

Amount	Interest Rate	Start	Finish	2024/25 Interest	Status
5,000,000	4.80%	29/08/2024	28/08/2025	141,370	Current
5,000,000	4.70%	02/10/2024	01/10/2025	116,534	Current
5,000,000	5.65%	03/02/2025	30/09/2025	44,116	Current
5,000,000	5.50%	19/02/2025	18/02/2026	30,890	Current
5,000,000	5.60%	12/12/2023	12/09/2024	125,808	Matured
5,000,000	5.55%	17/10/2023	15/10/2024	149,774	Matured
5,000,000	5.85%	20/11/2023	18/11/2024	185,116	Matured
3,500,000	5.05%	14/12/2023	12/12/2024	123,483	Matured
5,000,000	5.50%	03/01/2025	06/01/2025	247,849	Matured
5,000,000	4.75%	19/12/2024	15/01/2025	2,260	Matured
5,000,000	5.55%	23/02/2024	21/02/2025	17,568	Matured

The call account provided by Lancashire County Council paid six base points (0.06%) below the base rate to 30 September 2024. From 1 October 2024 the overnight deposits with the Debt Management Office averaged five base points (0.05%) below the base rate. Each working day the balance on the Authority's current account is invested to ensure that the interest received on surplus balances is maximised. The average balance using these investments during the year was £22.5m earning interest of £1.08m.

The overall interest earned during this financial year was £2.27m at a rate of 5.07% which compares favourably with the backward-looking 1-month index (Sterling Overnight Index Average) which averages 4.94% over the same period. The main factor for this is fixed deposits commencing in 2024/25 with high interest rates.

All these investments are made in accordance with the current Treasury Management Strategy and the CIPFA treasury management code of practice.

Cash flow and interest rates continue to be monitored by the Director of Corporate Services and the Authority's finance team, and when rates are felt to be at appropriate levels further fixed term deposits will be placed.

The levels of investments for the last six financial years are shown below:-

Financial Year Ended	LCC Call Account/ DMO £	Local Authorities £	Total £
2019-2020	27,385,455	10,000,000	37,385,455
2020-2021	22,395,455	15,000,000	37,395,455
2021-2022	17,720,455	15,000,000	32,720,455
2022-2023	16,160,455	15,000,000	31,160,455
2023-2024	4,185,455	23,500,000	27,685,455
2024-2025	29,540,000	20,000,000	49,540,000

Prudential Indicators

To control and monitor the Authority's treasury management functions, several prudential indicators are determined against which performance may be measured. From 1 April 2024 the Fire Authority were required to implement international accounting standard IFRS 16 Leases, replacing IAS 17. The standard eliminates the distinction between finance and operating leases for lessees, requiring most leases to recognise a right of use asset and liability on the balance sheet.

IFRS 16 has an impact on the Fire Authority's private finance initiative (PFI) agreements which has resulted in an increase of the Authority's other long-term liabilities, which has been included in the actual totals in the table below. The Fire Authority has identified several property leases which are impacted. The liability for these properties is not included in the table below however, the impact is expected to be within the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt.

The indicators for 2024/25 are shown in the table below alongside the actual outturn position.

	Indicators £000	Actual £000
Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management	Adopted	Adopted
Authorised limit for external debt		
A prudent estimate of total external debt, which does not reflect the worst-case scenario, but allows sufficient headroom for unusual cash movements		
Borrowing	4,000	2,000
Other long-term liabilities – these relate to leases and the PFI agreements	30,000	12,444
Total	34,000	14,444
Operational boundary for external debt		
A prudent estimate of debt, but no provision for unusual cash movements. It represents the estimated maximum external debt arising because of the Authority's current plans		
Borrowing	3,000	2,000
Other long-term liabilities – these relate to leases and the PFI agreements	16,000	12,444
Total	19,000	14,444
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure		
Borrowing	100%	100%
Investments	100%	100%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure		
Borrowing	25%	0%
Investments	100%	0%
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 365 days (per maturity date)	25.000	0
Maturity structure of debt	Upper/ Lower Limits	Actual
Under 12 months	100%/nil	-
12 months and within 24 months	50%/nil	-
24 months and within 5 years	50%/nil	-
5 years and within 10 years	50%/nil	-
10 years and above	100%/nil	100%
Ratio of financing costs to revenue stream (%)	Budget	Actuals
Ratio of financing costs to revenue stream (%)	-1.3%	-3.0%

Financial Implications

The following table summarises the Financing costs for the Authority, comparing actual with budget:-

	Revised Budget £m	Actual £m	Reason for variance
Interest Payable on PWLB loans	0.09	0.09	
Interest Receivable on call account and fixed term investments	(1.05)	(2.27)	Largely due increase in call account rate in year along with new investments taken out with local authorities for the last quarter of the financial year at higher rates than anticipated when setting the budget
Minimum Revenue Provision re PWLB loans	0.00	0.00	
Net financing income from Treasury Management activities*	(0.96)	(2.18)	

* There are financing costs associated with leases and the PFI agreements, which are not included in the balances above as they are not the result of Treasury Management activities.

Legal Implications

None.

Human Resource Implications

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None.

Business Risk Implications

The Treasury Management Strategy is designed to maximise interest earned, minimise interest paid whilst maintaining an acceptable level of risk. The reviews of performance provide members with an assurance that this has been complied with.

Environmental Impact

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper: Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25

Date: February 2024

Contact: Steven Brown, Director of Corporate Services

Paper: Treasury Management Guidance

Date: February 2017

Contact: Steven Brown, Director of Corporate Services

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Lancashire Combined Fire Authority Resources Committee

Meeting to be held on 8 July 2025

Financial Monitoring - Provisional Outturn 2024/25

(Appendices A - D refers)

Contact for further information: Steven Brown - Director of Corporate Services
Tel: 01772 866804

Executive Summary

This report presents the financial outturn position for 2024/25, and the impact of this on usable reserves. The revenue outturn position shows an underspend of £0.569m after proposed transfers to earmarked reserves. The Capital outturn expenditure for the year is £4.091m which is also in line with the previous forecast.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the Revenue Budget provisional revenue outturn set out in paragraph 2.
- Note the Capital Budget provisional outturn set out in paragraph 10.
- Note and endorse the revised Capital Budget for 2024/25 set out in paragraph 11.
- Approve the transfer of 2024/25 slippage to the 2025/26 capital budget set out in paragraph 11.
- Note and endorse the transfer to earmarked reserves set out in paragraph 9 and year end reserve levels.

1. This report presents the financial outturn position for 2024/25, and the impact of this on usable reserves. The draft 2024/25 financial statements have been prepared using this provisional information and presented to the External Auditors following by the Audit Committee.

Revenue Provisional Outturn

2. The annual budget for the year was set at £75.155m. The provisional outturn position shows net expenditure of £74.586m, giving a total underspend for the financial year of £0.569m. The total underspend is made up of a (£0.774m) underspend relating to non-pay costs, and a £0.205m overspend relating to pay costs.
3. The detailed provisional revenue outturn is set out in Appendix A the major variances of note shown separately in the table below:

Area	Overspend/ (Underspend) £m	Reason and Action
Service Delivery - Pay	0.648	As reported previously to the Committee the variance is largely due to higher than budgeted pay assumptions. On call and support staff budgets are mainly within allocated budgets. The budget for 2025/26 has taken account of the higher than budgeted pay award therefore no further action taken.

Area	Overspend/ (Underspend) £m	Reason and Action
Prevention and Protection - Pay	(0.509)	The outturn variance is due to vacancies as reported through the year, this underspend has increased further as efforts to reduce the number of vacancies continue. The budget for 2025/26 has been adjusted for expected vacancies, no further action taken.
Training Centre – non pay	(0.111)	A number of budgets were slightly underspent at the end of the year resulting in the underspend of just over £0.1m, no further action taken.
Property – non pay	(0.168)	The underspend relates to a number of factors including lower than budgeted utility costs and maintenance costs.
Bank Interest	(0.449)	The underspend reflects slippage on the capital programme, higher than budgeted interest rates and additional returns from a more proactive investment strategy. The underspend is presented after a £0.5m transfer to the capital reserve reflecting additional returns on grants received.

Future Pressures

4. Emerging pressures to report to the Resources Committee include inflation forecasts. As reported to the CFA in February, government grants were increased by the September rate of inflation (1.7%) whereas the latest rate of inflation is now 3.5%, which will put pressure on budgets in 2025/26.
5. The grey book pay award has also been agreed at 3.2% effective from July, this compares to the budgeted assumption of 3%, at the time of writing the green book pay award has not been agreed.
6. Finally, the Spending Review was announced on 11 June which sets out the future departmental spending plans. All fire functions and associated budgets have transferred from the Home Office to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as of 1 April 2025 which means fire funding is now embedded within MHCLG's departmental totals which has increased by 1.2% in real terms over the period of the Spending Review. The impact on the fire service will emerge later in the year and with certainty for Lancashire in the Provisional Settlement that is traditionally announced in December.

Savings Targets

7. A reduction in the Contribution to Capital of £1.5m was agreed in the medium-term Financial Strategy resulting in a revenue contribution in 2024/25 of £2.5m. The budget has been reduced to this effect.

General Reserve

8. The General Reserve exists to cover unforeseen risks and expenditure that may be incurred outside of planned budgets. In February the Authority approved the minimum level of General Reserve as advised by the Treasurer at £3.85m. Following the provisional outturn the level of the General Reserve at 31 March 2025 is

£5.556m as set out in the table below, this is above the minimum level of General Reserve set by the Authority.

	£'m
Opening balance of LFRS general fund 1 April 2024	(4.987)
Forecast revenue underspend	(0.569)
Forecast closing balance of general fund 31 March 2025	(5.556)

Earmarked Reserves

9. Earmarked reserves are all funds that have been identified for a specific purpose. Appendix B sets out the proposed transfers to earmarked reserves not previously approved of £1.677m. The balance of all the earmarked reserves is £28.926m as at the 31 March 2025; this includes the Capital Reserve of £18.501m and private finance initiative (PFI) reserves of £5.036m.

Capital Budget Provisional Outturn

10. The revised Capital Budget for 2025/26 approved by the CFA in February 2025 was £5.213m. Total capital expenditure for the year was £4.091m, with slippage of (£1.123m) proposed to be transferred to the 2025/26 Capital Budget and a net overspend of £0.070m. The table below sets out the provisional outturn for the main programmes and projects and Appendix C sets out the detailed provisional outturn.

Area	Budgeted Items	Revised Budget (£m)	Year to Date (£m)	Slippage / (accelerated) spend 2025/26 (£m)
Operational Vehicles	The budget includes costs of two water towers, and a prime mover. All vehicles are on target to be delivered in 2024/25. An update on items in the original budget is below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumping appliances are in the procurement process. • Aerial ladder appliance – delivery due early April 2025. • Large climate change vehicle in the procurement process and the small one at specification stage. 	1.409	1.649	(0.240)
Other vehicles	This budget allows for the replacement of various operational support vehicles including several cars, vans and a beavertail lorry. A few vehicles have been delivered which was originally expected to be delayed to 2025/26, an update against the original budget is provided below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Toyota Rav4 are now delivered and two small vans are due for delivery April 2026. • Two double cab vans are in the procurement process and delivery expected May 2025. • Two rescue team vans have slipped due to delivery and conversion lead times, expected May 2025. 	0.529	0.597	(0.068)

Area	Budgeted Items	Revised Budget (£m)	Year to Date (£m)	Slippage / (accelerated) spend 2025/26 (£m)
Operational Equipment	<p>This budget allows for operational equipment purchases including CCTV cameras for appliances, body armour, and road traffic collision equipment. Slippage against the original capital programme is set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body Armour – the trial period has been completed and procurement process underway. • Flow meters and hose reel are on trial in Blackpool. It is anticipated there will be an additional budget requirement. • Breathing apparatus compressor is on order with an early 2025/26 lead time. • CCTV on appliances was put on hold in December pending specification requirements. • RTC phase 4 is due for completion in June 2025. 	1.359	0.975	0.384
Building Modifications	<p>This budget includes the continued programme of Drill Tower Replacements, Blackpool facilities upgrade and budget for the initial works to support the upgrade to Preston station. Slippage to date against the original capital programme has been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enhancement of facilities at Blackpool (W30) has incurred some initial costs however will see final completion in 2025/26. • Most Drill Tower replacement works have slipped due to unsuccessful initial award of the contract. • Wylfra training props programme is due to start on site April 2024. • Options appraisal is underway for suitable land acquisition. • Estates improvements will continue into 2025/26. • Elements of the Preston upgrade have been delayed to early 2025/26. 	1.066	0.580	0.487

Area	Budgeted Items	Revised Budget (£m)	Year to Date (£m)	Slippage / (accelerated) spend 2025/26 (£m)
IT systems	<p>This budget includes various projects including upgraded Firewalls, network upgrades and replacement of pooled PPE and stock management systems. Slippage to date against the original capital programme has been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The replacement systems for the management of stock, assets and pooled PPE, public switched telephone network. Existing contracts have been extended. • The incident ground radios project has also slipped to next year due to other interdependencies with the breathing apparatus project. • Firewall project is complete however delivery will slip to 2025/26. • North West Fire Control (NWFC) Computer Aided Dispatch has been extended until spring 2026. • Community Fire Risk Management Information System (CFRMIS) replacement is undergoing the procurement process into 2025/26. • Retained duty system (RDS) alerters and Officer Pagers scoping has changed and will slip to 2025/26. 	0.850	0.290	0.561
		5.213	4.091	1.123

11. The original approved capital programme for 2025/26 was £12.761m. This has been updated for £1.123 of slippage outlined previously giving a revised Capital Budget for 2024/25 of £13.884m. The revised 2024/25 Capital Budget and funding is set out in Appendix D.

Potential Financial Risks

12. Throughout the year some sensitivity analysis was undertaken of several potential scenarios that have not been reflected in the monitoring report that, if they materialise, may give rise to an increase in revenue and capital expenditure. As this is the outturn report there are no risks to this position report however, this is subject to audit therefore may change following completion of the audit. Any material changes will be reported back to the Resources Committee.

Financial Implications

13. As outlined in the report.

Legal Implications

14. None.

Business Risk Implications

15. None.

Environmental Impact

16. None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. None.

Human Resource Implications

18. None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers NA

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: N/A

Appendix A: Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement

Appendix B: Transfers to Earmarked Reserves

Appendix C: Capital Budget Monitoring Statement

Appendix D: Revised Capital Budget 2025/26

Revenue Budget Provisional Outturn

Budget Monitoring Statement 31 March 2025 Outturn (£m)	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Variance	Year to Date Variance Pay	Year to Date Variance Non-Pay
Service Delivery					
Service Delivery	42.495	43.124	0.628	0.648	(0.019)
Prevention & Protection	3.744	3.294	(0.450)	(0.509)	0.059
Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Control	2.168	2.176	0.008	0.000	0.008
Youth Engagement (inc Princes Trust)	0.016	0.009	(0.007)	0.004	(0.011)
Special Projects (ISAR)	0.002	(0.012)	(0.014)	0.000	(0.014)
Strategy & Planning					
Service Development	2.412	2.413	0.000	(0.009)	0.009
Training & Operational Review	4.293	4.227	(0.067)	0.044	(0.111)
Fleet & Technical Services	3.442	3.517	0.075	0.092	(0.018)
Information Technology	3.397	3.266	(0.131)	(0.030)	(0.101)
Digital Transformation	0.897	0.841	(0.057)	(0.035)	(0.022)
People & Development					
Human Resources	0.966	0.972	0.006	0.002	0.004
Occupational Health Unit	0.310	0.355	0.046	0.016	0.030
Corporate Communications	0.414	0.424	0.010	0.045	(0.035)
Safety Health & Environment	0.320	0.336	0.016	0.007	0.009
Corporate Services					
Executive Board	1.262	1.245	(0.017)	(0.032)	0.015
Central Admin Office	0.651	0.625	(0.025)	(0.014)	(0.011)
Finance	0.229	0.276	0.047	0.045	0.002
Procurement	0.892	0.927	0.035	0.037	(0.002)
Property	3.970	3.774	(0.196)	(0.028)	(0.168)
External Funding	(0.002)	0.000	0.002	(0.053)	0.055
Subtotal	71.878	71.787	(0.091)	0.230	(0.321)
Pensions Expenditure	1.432	1.428	(0.004)	0.000	(0.004)
Other Non-DFM Expenditure	1.845	1.371	(0.474)	(0.025)	(0.449)
Subtotal	3.277	2.799	(0.478)	(0.025)	(0.453)
Grand Total	75.155	74.586	(0.569)	0.205	(0.774)

Transfers to Earmarked Reserves

Year End Transfers to Earmarked Reserves:

Transfers to Budget Holders Earmarked Reserves	£m
Property – delay in committed planned maintenance works.	0.551
Property – Utility volatility reserve.	0.395
ICT – delay in committed equipment planned for replacement in 2025/26.	0.231
Interest - capital reserve reflecting additional returns on grants received.	0.500
	1.677

Capital Budget Monitoring Statement

Capital Budget 2024/25	Revised	Actual	Variance	Year End Slippage	Outturn (savings) / overspend
Vehicles					
Operational Vehicles	1.409	1.649	(0.240)	1.436	0.027
Support Vehicles	0.529	0.597	(0.068)	0.736	0.024
Subtotal	1.938	2.246	(0.308)	2.172	0.051
Operational Equipment					
Operational Equipment	1.359	0.975	0.384	1.023	0.025
Subtotal	1.359	0.975	0.384	1.023	0.025
Buildings Modifications					
Update Preston Facilities	0.250	0.067	0.183	0.150	0.000
Development & Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-
Blackpool Dormitory	0.435	0.337	0.098	0.435	0.001
Drill tower replacements	0.125	0.077	0.048	0.085	(0.000)
Wylfa Prop	0.025	-	(0.003)	0.029	-
STC Props	-	0.028	0.000	(0.000)	(0.000)
Estate Improvement Provision	0.232	0.071	0.160	0.105	0.003
Subtotal	1.066	0.580	0.487	0.804	0.004
ICT					
IT Systems	0.850	0.290	0.561	0.393	(0.009)
Subtotal	0.850	0.290	0.561	0.393	(0.009)
Total Capital Requirement	5.213	4.091	1.123	4.391	0.070
Funding					
Capital Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue Contributions	2.500	2.500	-	2.500	-
Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Reserves	2.713	1.591	1.123	1.891	0.070
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Funding	5.213	4.091	1.123	4.391	0.070

Revised Capital Budget 2025/26

(£m)	2025/26 Original Budget	Slippage from 2024/25	2025/26 Revised Budget
Operational Vehicles	4.452	(0.309)	4.143
Operational Equipment	1.588	0.384	1.972
Buildings	3.948	0.487	4.435
ICT	2.774	0.561	3.335
Total Capital Requirement	12.761	1.123	13.884
Funding			
Revenue Contributions	2.500	0.000	2.500
Capital Reserves	10.261	1.123	11.384
Total Capital Funding	12.761	1.123	13.884

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Resources Committee

Meeting to be held on 8 July 2025

Local Pension Board (LPB) Annual Report 2024-25

Contact for further information – Bob Warren, Pension Scheme Manager

Tel: 07867802756

Executive Summary

The report presents an update on the Lancashire Fire Local Pension Board (LPB) for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025.

Recommendation(s)

The committee are asked to note the report.

Information

The Public Service Pensions Act (PSPA) 2013 introduced the requirement to have a Local Pension Board (LPB) to assist in the governance of the Scheme. The Board has no remit as a decision-making body but is established to assist Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) as the Scheme Manager to fulfil its functions which cover all aspects of governance and administration of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS). The Combined Fire Authority delegated its functions to Bob Warren, then Director of People and Development. Although he has retired from that role due to the current complexity and pension agenda relating to the Age Discrimination and Part Time Workers remedies which has resulted in the implementation of new pension and HMRC legislation and the development of new policy, he has continued assisting in the pension's activity for an interim period.

The Board's Terms of Reference requires that the Board meet approximately twice a year and that the Chair of the Board may call additional meetings. Due to the complexities and workloads around the implementation of the age discrimination and retained duty system (RDS) modified scheme remedies four meetings were held per year during the period.

Membership

One new employer representative was appointed to the Board during the year 2024/25. This appointment was carried out in accordance with the Board's Terms of Reference.

Work Programme during 2024/25

The focus of pension workload during this year has been reported to the Local Pension Scheme Board and is primarily a continuation of the work on the implementation of the following major projects:

- The Sargeant/McCloud judgement relating to age discrimination, this arose after the implementation of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 and followed a

successful challenge by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) of age discrimination in relation to the protections put in place for existing members.

- Matthews's judgement affecting on-call members commonly referred to as the 'Second Options Exercise'. This arose following a legal challenge around on-call firefighters who were eligible to join the pension scheme from the start of employment.

Sargeant/McCloud Age Discrimination Remedy

During the first quarter of 2024/25 LFRS completed the pay, tax and contribution data for almost 1,000 members affected by the age discrimination remedy. This allowed our pension administrator, the Local Pensions Partnership Administration (LPPA) to issue Annual Benefit Statement – Remediable Service Statements (ABS-RSS) to active employees. 50 active employees did not receive ABS-RSS due to a number of reasons principally caused by late or non-receipt of Government guidance. As a result of this it was necessary for the Scheme Manager to report a breach of statutory duties to The Pensions Regulator (TPR).

Following the issue of the ABS-RSS's in August/September 2024, the service issued a number of internal communications via the intranet and delivered an on-line meeting to explain the ABS-RSS, contribution adjustments as a result of 'roll back' to the legacy scheme.

As a result of the 'roll-back' into the legacy scheme, approximately 80 members were notified that they had exceeded annual allowance thresholds in one of the remedy years. In October 2024, these members were issued a Remediable Pension Saving Statement (RPSS). LPPA ran two on-line workshops to assist members in completing this process. This was in addition to four workshops held internally by LFRS.

The firefighter remedy regulations provide for some decisions made by members during the remedy period to be revisited. This includes decisions to opt out of the pension scheme and whether a firefighter would have purchased additional years in their legacy scheme had they been allowed to remain in it.

LFRS has received 7 contingent decisions opt-out claims, which have been accepted by the Scheme Manager. A contingent decision is a decision taken by a member who may have taken a different decision if there had been no changes to the pension scheme. 1 contingent decision was in respect of an additional years claim from an individual who claims they would have purchased these had they been able to remain in their legacy scheme. This claim is pending a decision by the Scheme Manager. These individuals are due to be issued with a Contingent Decision Remediable Service Statement (CD-RSS) so that they can decide whether to make an election to opt back into their legacy scheme for the remedy period. These are yet to be issued as the Contingent Decision guidance from the LGA has been withdrawn. Questions raised by the LGA, trade unions and employers in relation to the contingent decision provisions in remedy legislation are yet to be resolved. The Home Office has taken legal advice to provide clarity over which pension schemes are available for individuals to opt back into. Further guidance from the LGA to scheme managers will allow these cases to proceed.

368 Immediate Choice members (retired before 1 October 2023 with legacy scheme service) were due to receive an Immediate Choice Remediable Service Statement (IC-

RSS) before 31 March 2025. 54 individuals did not receive the IC- RSS due to data processing difficulties and late notification of government guidance and the Scheme Manager notified the Pensions Regulator of this breach in statutory procedures as required. The Pension Scheme Manager in accordance with the legislative procedures also notified the Pensions Regulator that due to the necessary government guidance not being issued it was necessary to defer the deadline for the issuing of the IC-RSS for 64 individuals. The reasons for many of the delays was due to the need for the Matthews remedy to be enacted and resolved before the McCloud correction could be progressed.

Individuals who were not going to receive their RSS statement were individually notified before the deadline.

The Pensions Regulator has acknowledged the breaches and deferment and currently has not requested any further information.

The failure to issue both the ABS- RSSs and the IC- RSSs applied across all Fire Authorities in respect of the Firefighter pension schemes. Lancashire's performance in conjunction with our close liaison with our pension provider was significantly better than most Fire Services.

Understandably ex-firefighters wish the pension position to be rectified as soon as possible, and the Service understands these concerns and is not complacent and is endeavouring to progress the outstanding IC-RSSs as soon as possible. It is anticipated that all the IC-RSSs will be issued by 31.7.25.

During the year, the Local Pension Board have received and considered update reports on these matters including at key project milestones.

Matthews Second Options Exercise

The Service have identified over 600 existing and former members of staff who are eligible to express an interest in the exercise to allow members to join or purchase additional pension under the Modified Pension Scheme. The Service have made reasonable endeavours to contact all eligible members, this has involved sending several follow-up letters to each individual where necessary using their last known address. As many individuals left LFRS employment over 20 years ago this has also involved the use of a tracing service to 'track down' individuals at their current address. To date 400 individuals have responded, and the Service continues to make repeated attempts to contact individuals.

Calculations for the exercise are complicated and, in a small number of cases, require data going back as far as the 1960's and 1970's. To date approximately 270 calculations/options packs have been sent to members. This work will continue into 2025/26.

Measures are currently being explored to reduce the timeframe of putting the resulting pensions into payment.

The challenge of implementing two significant, complex pieces of pension legislation, affecting large numbers of individuals concurrently is not to be under-estimated.

An area that remains of some concern is no mechanism has been finalised to deal with aggregation. This is where an on-call employee subsequently achieves a wholetime role and would wish to combine both pension scheme benefits.

In order to create capacity sufficient for the implementation of the above two projects, the Temporary Pensions Coordinator role is currently filled on a casual basis and the postholder is predominantly supporting the administration of the Matthews Second Modified Pension Scheme exercise. This temporary post continues until 31 March 2026.

Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure and Pensions Ombudsman

In 2020/21, the Service implemented the pensionable allowances project, retrospectively applying backdated pensionable allowances for six years to existing and former employees who have worked a range of duty systems where allowances were previously non-pensionable. As a result of this, the Service has received a number of Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures (Appeals) from employees and former employees. All applications are from members who are dissatisfied that they are not included in the pensionable allowances exercise due to the backdating period or the non pensionability of their pay associated with the temporary nature of their role. The Board have also been informed about a number of complex cases that have been dealt with at Stage 1 and Stage 2 over this period, including through the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (Appeals). The Service has now been contacted from the Pensions Ombudsman regarding a number of cases, information has been provided but no Pensions Ombudsman outcome has yet been advised.

Pensions Dashboard

The Pensions Dashboard Programme continues to publish regular updates and newsletters in the leadup to the pension schemes beginning their connections in April 2025. Our connection date has been advised as 31.10.2025.

The Board continued to focus on key areas identified by the Pensions Regulator and maintain an oversight of the key risks to the fund. The Risk Register has continued to be reviewed at Board meetings. The service is involved in the LPPA project plan for implementation that is on track.

LPPA Pensions Administration

The Board have also received reports on how the designated Pension Scheme Manager manages the LPPA Pension Administration contract and reviews the administration performance.

Communications

In this difficult time for firefighters in respect of their pension entitlements the LPB oversee and provide suggestions in respect of staff communications.

Risk Register

A key activity of the LPB during the year was monitoring and reviewing the Firefighter Pensions Risk Register.

Training

To support their work on the Fire Local Pension Board, members continued to maintain and develop their knowledge and skills. External training opportunities continued to be

available, and members of the Board had access to the regular LGA monthly bulletins and website and have utilised The Pension Regulators Public Service toolkit to develop their knowledge. It is anticipated that the Local Government Association will be providing remote training to Board members nationally over the next year.

Looking forward to 2025/26:

The Work Plan of the Board will focus on the principal activities of the Scheme as currently anticipated, including:

- Implementing the requirements of the Sargeant/McCloud age discrimination legislation.
- Implementing the requirements of the Matthew's Second Options exercise.
- Continuing to improve pension administration arrangements for the benefit of all members and employers of the Scheme including the continual improvement programme for the quality of data held by the Scheme.
- Assessing the impact of and responding to consultations that will have an impact on the Lancashire Firefighters Pension Schemes.
- Appraising the impact of the implementation of the Pensions Dashboard; and
- Enhancing Board knowledge and skills.

The Plan will be reviewed and amended where appropriate to ensure it addresses any relevant issues arising.

Business risk

The situation in relation to pension changes has a potential to cause adverse reactions both to employees internal and external to the Service.

Sustainability or Environmental Impact

Nil.

Equality and Diversity Implications

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this report is not associated with a policy, function or decision.

Data Protection (GDPR)

Will the proposal(s) involve the processing of personal data? Y in line with working practices.

HR implications

There are no human resources implications arising directly from this report as the report is for information only.

Financial implications

The training of Board members is largely carried out in house at no direct cost, and national events such as the LGA conference have been free of charge so far.

The Authority continues to pay a levy to the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB), and this will cover the cost of the national fire pensions technical advisor post and support the work

of the SAB. The aim of the SAB in setting the levy is to help fire authorities to achieve cost savings by producing guidance and communications centrally for authorities to share. The cost in 2024-25 was £9,868, this has been provided for within the revenue budget.

Out of pocket expenses have not been paid to members.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: Insert Exemption Clause

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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