



**Norfolk Pension Fund**

# **Governance Strategy Statement**

This document sets out the  
**governance arrangements**  
for the  
**Norfolk Pension Fund**  
as at September 2021



## Administering Authority

Norfolk County Council (NCC) is the **Administering Authority** of the Norfolk Pension Fund and administers the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) on behalf of participating employers and scheme members.

- Norfolk County Council has delegated its pensions functions to the **Pensions Committee**
- Norfolk County Council has delegated responsibility for the administration and financial accounting of the Norfolk Pension Fund to the **Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services**
- The **Norfolk Pension Fund Pensions Oversight Board** acts as the **Local Pension Board** for the Norfolk Pension Fund

## Pensions Committee

The Pensions Committee is responsible for the strategic management of the assets of the Fund and the administration of benefits. The Pensions Committee meets quarterly in order to:

- Ensure compliance with legislation and best practice
- Determine policy for the investment, funding and administration of the Fund
- Monitor performance across all aspects of the service
- Consider issues arising and make decisions to secure efficient and effective performance and service delivery
- Appoint and monitor advisors
- Ensure that arrangements are in place for consultation with stakeholders as necessary



## Pensions Committee Trustees\*

- The Pensions Committee act as Trustees and oversee the management of the Norfolk Pension Fund
- As Trustees, their overriding duty is to ensure the best possible outcomes for the Pension Fund, its participating employers and scheme members
- Their knowledge is supplemented by professional advice from Pension Fund staff, professional advisers and external experts
- To meet the requirements set out by the Pensions Regulator's Code of Practice, Trustees need a certain level of expertise. An ongoing programme of trustee training is delivered and no substitutions are allowed at Committee

## Pensions Committee Membership

There are eight members of the Pensions Committee:

<b>Chairman</b>	Norfolk County Councillor	Judy Oliver
	Norfolk County Councillor	Alison Birmingham
	Norfolk County Councillor	William Richmond
	Norfolk County Councillor	Daniel Roper
	Norfolk County Councillor	Martin Storey
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	District Councillor (elected by the Local Government Association)	Alan Waters
	District Councillor (elected by the Local Government Association)	John Fuller
	Staff Representative	Steve Aspin
	Observer**	Open to all participating employers
<b>Other attendees</b>	Administrator of the Fund (NCC Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services)	Simon George
	Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund	Glenn Cossey
	Investment Advisor to the Fund (Hymans Robertson)	David Walker

\* Pensions Committee members act as Trustees but do not have legal status as Trustees.

\*\* The observer seat is not currently part of the formal Constitution and does not have voting rights. However, the observer seat is an equal member of the Committee in all other ways, with access to all Committee papers, officers, meetings and training, along with the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process.

## Local Pension Board

In line with all public service pension schemes, each Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Fund is required to have a Local Pension Board.

The Local Pension Board for the Norfolk Pension Fund is called the **Norfolk Pension Fund Pensions Oversight Board**.

## Role of the Pensions Oversight Board

The role of the **Pensions Oversight Board**, as defined by Regulation 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, (“the Regulations”) is to:

- Assist the **Administering Authority** to secure compliance with:
  - the Regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS);
  - requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator (tPR); and
  - such other matters as the LGPS regulations may specify
- Assist the **Administering Authority** to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Norfolk Pension Fund
- Provide the **Administering Authority** with such information as it requires ensuring that any member of the **Pensions Oversight Board** or person to be appointed to the **Pensions Oversight Board** does not have a conflict of interest

The **Pensions Oversight Board** also helps ensure that the Norfolk Pension Fund is managed and administered effectively and efficiently and complies with the Code of Practice on the governance and administration of public service pension schemes issued by The Pensions Regulator.

The creation of the **Pensions Oversight Board** does not change the core role of the **Administering Authority** nor the way it delegates its pension functions to the **Pensions Committee**. The **Pensions Oversight Board** does not replace the **Administering Authority** nor make decisions which are the responsibility of the **Administering Authority** under both the Regulations and other relevant legislation.

The **Pensions Oversight Board** only has the power to oversee decisions made by the **Administering Authority** and to make recommendations to improve the efficient and effective administration and governance of the pensions function, including funding and investments.

The full **Terms of Reference** for the **Pensions Oversight Board** are on the Norfolk Pension Fund website at [www.norfolkpensionsfund.org](http://www.norfolkpensionsfund.org).

## Pensions Oversight Board Membership

The **Pensions Oversight Board** has an equal number of scheme member and scheme employer representatives (three of each), along with an Independent Chairman:

<b>Independent Chair</b>	Brian Wigg
<b>Scheme Member Representative</b>	John Harries Active/deferred member
<b>Scheme Member Representative</b>	Peter Baker Pensioner member
<b>Scheme Member Representative</b>	Rachel Farmer Trade union
<b>Scheme Employer Representative</b>	Cllr Chris Walker, Poringland Parish Council Levying/precepting employer
<b>Scheme Employer Representative</b>	Howard Nelson, Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust Non-levying/precepting employer
<b>Scheme Employer Representative</b>	Debbie Beck, Norfolk County Council

**Pensions Oversight Board** members comply with the Norfolk Pension Fund training policy, and training opportunities are as far as possible are shared with the **Pensions Committee**.

Each member of the **Pensions Oversight Board** is responsible for complying with the knowledge and understanding requirements of section 248A of the Pensions Act 2004.

## Pensions Oversight Board Meetings

There are at least two **Pensions Oversight Board** meetings a year and it normally meets quarterly.

Papers, agendas and minutes of these meetings are published on the Norfolk Pension Fund website at [www.norfolkpensionfund.org](http://www.norfolkpensionfund.org).

In addition, the **Pensions Oversight Board** produce an annual report in accordance with any regulatory requirements.

## Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services

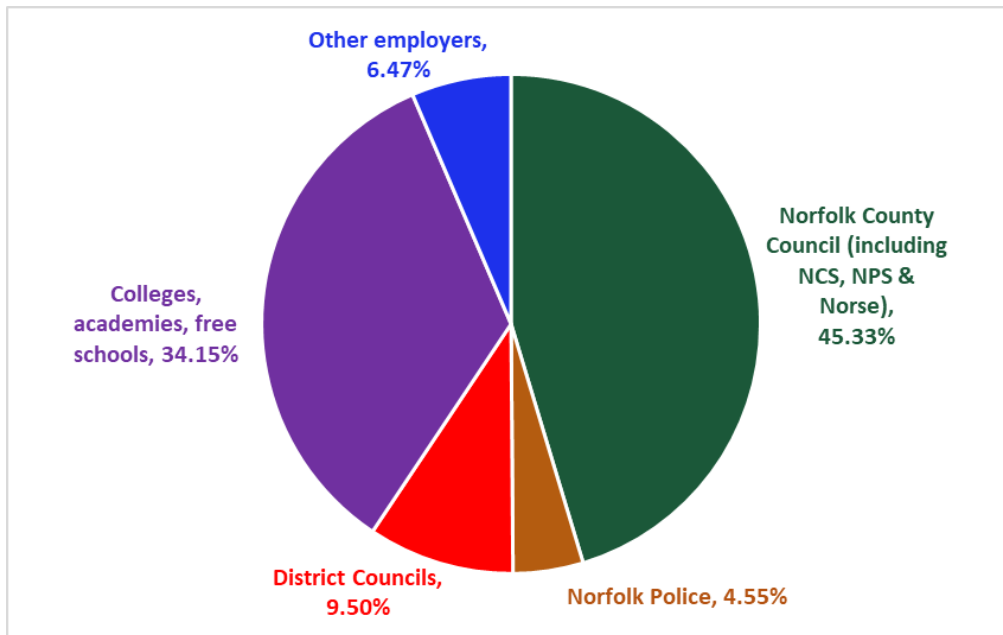
- The **Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services** is Norfolk County Council's Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer
- As Administrator of the Fund he is responsible for:
  - The administration and financial accounting of the Fund
  - The preparation of the Pension Fund Annual Statement of Accounts

## Legislation and Regulations

- The Norfolk Pension Fund administers the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in Norfolk and is governed by the:
  - Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013
  - Local Government Pension Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2014
  - Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014
  - Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015
  - Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of funds) Regulations 2009, and subsequent amendments
- **Pensions Committee** is governed by Norfolk County Council's procedural rules under the Council's Constitution. The Committee's **Terms of Reference** are:
  - "To administer all aspects of the Norfolk Pension Fund on behalf of Norfolk County Council as Administering Authority of the Local Government Pension Scheme, and on behalf of Norfolk County Council as an employer within the scheme alongside all other contributing employers, and on behalf of all scheme beneficiaries (scheme members) including:
    - Functions relating to local government pensions etc under regulations made under Sections 7, 12 and 24 of the Superannuation Act 1972
    - To receive and consider the draft Financial Statements for the Norfolk Pension Fund
    - To comment on the draft Financial Statements and make a recommendation to the Audit Committee that they be approved/not approved"
- Financial affairs are conducted in compliance with Norfolk County Council's Financial Regulations
- Funds are invested in compliance with the Norfolk Pension Fund's Investment Strategy Statement

# Membership of the Fund and Local Accountability

Active Membership Breakdown by Employer as at 31 March 2021



## Local Accountability - Representation

### Employers

- Employers are directly represented on Pensions Committee and the Pensions Oversight Board
- All employers are invited to regular Employer Forums and the Annual Meeting

### Scheme Members

- Scheme Members are directly represented on Pensions Committee and the Pensions Oversight Board
- All active and deferred scheme members are invited to the Annual Meeting and Pensions Clinics; retired members receive two annual newsletters and are directly represented on the Pensions Oversight Board

## Membership as at 31 March 2021

**425 Contributing Employers**

**27,370 Pensioners**

(members in receipt of a pension from the Fund)

**30,257 Active Members**

(members who are currently in the employment of a participating employer)

**37,106 Deferred members**

(members who have left the employment of a participating employer, but who are not yet in receipt of their pension)

## Local Accountability - Transparency

- The Fund is committed to providing clear, relevant, accessible and timely information to all stakeholders
- How it does this is set out in the annually updated Customer Care and Communication Strategy Statement. This is on our website at [www.norfolkpensionfund.org](http://www.norfolkpensionfund.org)
- Pensions Committee reports, agendas and minutes are published on the Norfolk County Council website at [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk)
- Pensions Committee meetings are open to the public
- Pensions Oversight Board reports, agendas and minutes are published on the Norfolk Pension Fund website at [www.norfolkpensionfund.org](http://www.norfolkpensionfund.org)
- The Annual Pension Fund Report and Accounts, reporting on the activities and investment performance of the Fund, and including the Pensions Oversight Board annual report, are on our website at [www.norfolkpensionfund.org](http://www.norfolkpensionfund.org)
- Payments over £500 are published on the Norfolk County Council website at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/open-data-fois-and-data-protection/open-data/payments-to-suppliers>
- Extracts from the Annual Report and a signpost to the whole document are included in the Annual Benefit Statement sent to all scheme members, and in Primetime, the annual magazine sent to all retired members
- All scheme members and employers are invited to an Annual Meeting
- All employers and members of the Pensions Committee and Pensions Oversight Board are invited to our Employer Forums. These are an opportunity for employers to discuss matters of interest to their organisations with officers and members

## ACCESS Investment Pool

The Norfolk Pension Fund participates in ACCESS (A Collaboration of Central, Eastern and Southern Shires), an investment asset pool of eleven Administering Authorities within the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The ACCESS authorities have signed an Inter Authority Agreement which established a Joint Committee at which the Chair from each Administering Authority Section 101 Committee ('Pensions Committee') is represented.

The Norfolk Pension Fund Pensions Committee and Pensions Oversight Board are regularly updated and review the work of the Joint Committee and the Operator, and ACCESS investment performance.

More information can be found on the ACCESS website at [www.accesspool.org](http://www.accesspool.org).



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**Norfolk Pension Fund**



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