

LPB Chair Forum Update

Introduction

1. This paper provides an update to the Local Pension Board (LPB) Effectiveness Committee on the Local Pension Board Chair Forum, its progress, and emerging issues raised by LPB Chairs, and to seek the Committee's view on whether it can support LPBs in addressing these concerns.
2. The attached report at [Appendix A](#) was provided to the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) at their meeting on 11 December 2026. Going forward SAB agreed that this report will come to the LPB Effectiveness Committee in the first instance, and will be reported as part of the Committee's update to the SAB.

Forum Structure

3. **Frequency:** Bi-monthly meetings
4. **Total meetings to date:** 6
5. **Format:** No structured agenda; the forum acts as a safe space for Chairs to raise issues and discuss emerging topics
6. **SAB Chair and LPB Effectiveness Committee Chair attendance:** Where possible, both Chairs attend, where possible, to listen to current challenges.

Current Position

7. **Mailbox submissions:** None to date
8. **Forum as Escalation route:** Issues raised during the forum will come to the LPB Effectiveness Committee and if remained unresolved, or require SAB sign off will be taken to the SAB.
9. Following discussion with the SAB Chair, it has been agreed that a paper will now be brought to this committee in the first instance, and a summary report will be provided to SAB, with any appropriate escalations.
10. **Forum Discussions** (January meeting); two main issues were raised:
 - 10.1. **LPB Recruitment challenges**, particularly with employee representatives
 - 10.2. **Deemed elections**, particularly with regards to members where they are already passed the 12 month deadline

Immediate actions taken

11. Discussion items as part of the LPB Effectiveness Committee agenda, including updated guidance and template role descriptions and role adverts.
12. Article on deemed elections included within [FPS Bulletin 101 - January 2026](#)

Committee Actions

11. Committee members are asked to review the attached report and advise whether it can provide support to LPBs in addressing the concerns set out in paragraph 10 above and paragraph 15 in the attached report.

Scheme Advisory Board

Firefighters Pension Scheme (England)

Agenda item 9

Appendix A

Meeting of the Board: 11 December 2025

LPB Chair Forum Update

Introduction

1. This paper provides an update to the Scheme Advisory Board on the Local Pension Board (LPB) Chair Forum, its progress, and emerging issues raised by LPB Chairs, and to seek SAB's view on whether it can support LPBs in addressing these concerns.

Background

2. The LPB Chair Forum was introduced by the LGA in February 2025 to provide a networking facility for LPB Chairs. Prior to this, there was no formal networking mechanism in place, which was identified as a gap. Shared learning across LPBs is essential, and the forum was created to address this need.

Forum Structure

3. **Frequency:** Bi-monthly meetings
4. **Total meetings to date:** 5
5. **Format:** No structured agenda; the forum acts as a **safe space** for Chairs to raise issues and discuss emerging topics.
6. **SAB Chair attendance:** Where possible, the SAB Chair attends to listen to current challenges.

Strengthening communication

7. At the August meeting, the Board Secretary proposed improving communication between LPBs and SAB by issuing a **post-SAB meeting letter** from the SAB Chair to all LPB Chairs, summarising topics and decisions.
8. This suggestion was well received. However, a concern was raised that communication appeared **one-way** (SAB → LPBs). Chairs felt there should be a **clear pathway for LPBs to escalate issues** to SAB, but the process was unclear.
9. This was acknowledged as a barrier which the Secretariat agreed to review and address.

Immediate actions taken

10. **Dedicated SAB Email Inbox:** Established for LPBs to submit queries or issues for SAB consideration.
11. **Forum as Escalation Route:** Issues raised during the forum that remain unresolved will be taken to SAB.
12. This approach was cascaded to Chairs at the October forum, and there were no objections.
13. Following discussion with the SAB Chair, it was agreed a paper will be taken to future SAB meetings which will highlight issues raised by LPB Chairs, either via the forum or the dedicated mailbox. This is the first such paper.

Current Position

14. **Mailbox Submissions:** None to date.
15. **Forum Discussions** (October Meeting): Four main issues were raised:
 - 15.1 **Increasing IDR Complaints** due to administrators not complying with the Sergeant deadline.
 - 15.2 **Matthews Amendments:** Concerns about identifying eligible individuals, particularly where the eligibility stems from a person who is deceased.
 - 15.3 **Remedy Compensation:** Difficulty finding individuals with adequate FPS knowledge to support members with decision making.
 - 15.4 **Restrictions on Estimates:** Limiting requests to 6 months before retirement is causing issues for retirement and workforce planning.

Board actions

16. Board members are asked to note the progress of the LPB Chair Forum, review the issues raised, and advise whether it can provide support to LPBs in addressing these concerns set out in paragraph 15.

Board Secretary

December 2025