



North Yorkshire Pension Fund

Business Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27



Local Government
Pension Scheme

If you require this information in an alternative language or another format such as large type, audio cassette or Braille, please contact the Pensions Help & Information Line on 01609 536335

OFFICIAL

Contents

1. About the NYPF	3
2. How the fund is run.....	3
3. Principal responsibilities.....	4
4. Purpose of the business plan.....	4
5. Overall goal.....	4
6. Objectives.....	5
7. Resources	5
8. Key Activities	6

This business plan explains how North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF, the Fund) intends to develop and improve its services.

It enables the Fund to focus on achieving agreed targets and helps staff see how they contribute to its overall success.

1. About NYPF

NYPF is one of 86 funds that make up the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

North Yorkshire Council (NYC) is the statutory administering authority for NYPF; it administers the benefits and manages the investments of the Fund.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide retirement benefits specified by the LGPS regulations for staff working for local authority employers, and other employers admitted by agreement, in the North Yorkshire area.

Scheme membership as of 31 March 2023

Active Members (Contributors)	30,948
Deferred Members	40,160
Pensioners	28,702
Total Membership	99,810

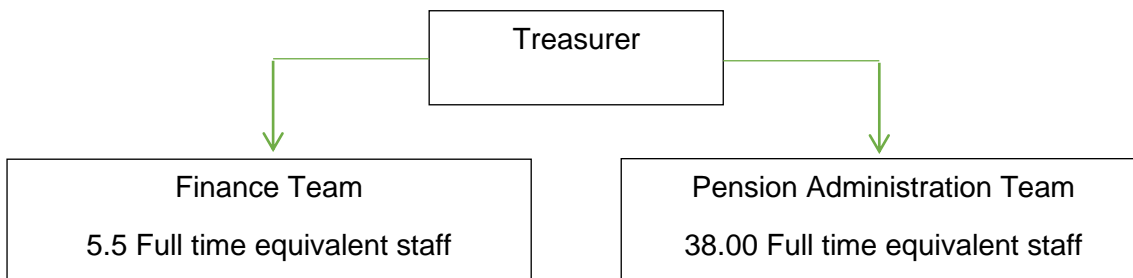
2. How the fund is run

All aspects of the Fund’s management and administration, including investment matters, are overseen by the Pension Fund Committee (PFC), which is a committee of NYC.

The day to day running of the Fund is delegated to the Treasurer who is the Corporate Director - Resources of NYC and is responsible for implementing the decisions made by the PFC.

Supporting the Treasurer is a team of staff split into two sections. The Pension Administration team administers all aspects of member records, pension benefits etc. and the Finance team looks after the investment, accounting and management information requirements of the Fund. All aspects of the day-to-day management of investments are undertaken by external investment managers.

Current structure:



The Local Pension Board was established on 1 April 2015 under the requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. It has an oversight and assisting role within NYC to ensure compliance with regulations and ensure effective and efficient governance and administration of NYPF.

The Scheme is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- LGPS Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016

The main systems used in the running of the Fund are Oracle, a third-party finance and accounting system provided by the Oracle Corporation, Altair a third party pensions administration system provided by Heywood, and i-Connect a third party online employer portal, also provided by Heywood.

This business plan should be read in conjunction with the Administration Strategy and the Investment Strategy Statement; these are the key documents that set out the principles of the running of the Fund. These documents can be found on [NYPF's website](#).

3. Principal responsibilities

These responsibilities include:

- Meeting all statutory requirements in the running and operation of the Fund
- Pension administration services including calculating and paying benefits
- Ensuring the accuracy of the member database in partnership with all stakeholders
- Providing information and guidance on pension issues to members, employers and others
- Implementation of the funding strategy to ensure the Fund assets are sufficient to meet the pension liabilities as they fall due
- Implementing the investment strategy, overseeing external investment managers and promoting responsible investment
- Efficient management of the Fund's cash investments and cashflow requirements
- Safekeeping and accounting of Fund assets
- Preparing the Fund's annual report and accounts

4. Purpose of the business plan

As part of its programme of improving the standards of governance across all pension schemes, the Pensions Regulator recommends that each scheme should have a business plan in place which sets out a clear purpose and strategy.

This plan will be used to manage the delivery of the key activities that have been identified to deliver continuous service improvement, whilst ensuring due regard is given to the delivery of the day-to-day business as usual activities. Having a business plan helps the PFC to plan ahead and supports compliance with legal requirements.

This plan will be reviewed annually, and objectives and key actions revised accordingly. Progress reviews will be undertaken every six months and will be reported to the PFC.

5. Overall goal

To continuously develop and improve our services, to put our customers at the heart of everything that we do, and to ensure that sufficient assets and resources are available to pay pension benefits when they fall due.

6. Objectives

The objectives set out below will enable the Fund to achieve its long-term vision.

The Fund will aim to:

- Maximise investment returns
- Manage scheme funding
- Provide excellent customer care
- Ensure effective fund governance

7. Resources

The following resources have been identified as key to ensuring delivery of the objectives identified:

- Systems and technology which are fit for purpose
- People
 - Focussed on customers' needs
 - Highly skilled and knowledgeable
 - Committed and engaged
- The right information and data
 - Financial
 - Performance
 - Benchmarking
 - Membership
- Third party service providers
 - Actuary
 - Legal Advisers
 - Custodian
 - Fund Managers
 - Investment Consultant and Independent Adviser
 - Software providers
 - Borders to Coast Pensions Partnership (BCPP)

These key activities are recorded and scheduled to ensure that the appropriate actions are taken to deliver the business plan.

8. Key Activities

The following key activities have been identified:

			2024/2025				2025/2026				2026/2027			
Key Activity	Responsible Officer	Action Plan	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Funding														
2025 Valuation	Head of Investments / Head of Pensions Administration / Senior Accountant	Agree assumptions and approach					●							
		Provide membership, employer & cashflow data						●						
		Respond to actuarial queries						●						
		Distribute results to employers							●	●				
		Organise valuation sessions for PFC and employers						●						
Funding Strategy Statement		Review and update the Funding Strategy Statement alongside the 2025 triennial valuation						●						
Income Monitoring		Expand the use of employer online portal for monthly contribution returns				●								
Investment														
Investment strategy review	Head of Investments	Detailed review alongside the 2025 triennial valuation							●	●				
Responsible Investment		Commence TCFD (Task Force for Climate related Financial Disclosures) reporting							●					
		Obtain FRC approval of the new Stewardship Code				●								
Pooling and implementation of investment strategy		Consider the suitability of opportunities including UK property, green bonds, income generation options	●			●				●				●
Automation of reporting of accounting and other financial information		Develop automated reporting using the custodian's platform tools, to streamline the year end accounts and the quarterly and annual data submission processes			●				●			●		

			2024/2025				2025/2026				2026/2027			
Key Activity	Responsible Officer	Action Plan	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Governance														
SAB Good Governance project	Head of Investments / Head of Pensions Administration	Await publication of SAB's action plan Gap analysis of the action plan against existing policies and procedures Update existing or draft new policies and procedures Implement the new requirements				●								
TPR new General Code of Practice		Gap analysis of the draft new code (specific to the LGPS) against existing policies and procedures Create a checklist of policies, practices and procedures required by the new code Draft new policies and procedures Ensure compliance against the new code	●											
Business Continuity		Create and test updated disaster recovery plan Create and test updated business continuity plan Ensure pensions is included in wider NYC planning			●									

			2024/2025				2025/2026				2026/2027				
Key Activity	Responsible Officer	Action Plan	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Administration															
McCloud remedy	Head of Pensions Administration	Recalculate benefits for affected members Implement uplifts across all affected members Implement an industry recommended solution where data not obtained Communicate changes to affected members				●									
Pensions Dashboard		Engage with pensions dashboard process Ensure data requirements are met Ensure data ready for on-boarding Connect to dashboard					●		●						
Data quality monitoring		Develop suite of data validation reports to identify issues Develop program of regular intervention and correction				●									
2025 valuation preparatory work		Pre valuation data extract Pre valuation data cleanse		●	●										

			2024/2025				2025/2026				2026/2027			
Key Activity	Responsible Officer	Action Plan	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Business Improvement														
Business process improvement	Head of Pensions Administration	Deliver process improvements, fully utilising system capabilities					●							
		Deliver employer form submissions via i-Connect							●					
Complete rollout of employer portal		On-board all outstanding employers to portal for monthly returns Improve data controls and validations Implement new functionality as it's released by the supplier Provide training and support to employers				●								
Improve self-service functionality		Migrate to new TME software package Issue targeted communications to promote take up Implement new functionality as it's released by the supplier											●	
Process automation		Develop and roll out refund online functionality Develop and roll out retire online functionality									●		●	