

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Pensions Committee
DATE	12 December 2025
EXEMPT	No, with the exception of Appendix III which is exempt under paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as it contains information about the financial affairs of a particular person
CONFIDENTIAL	No, with the exception of Appendix III which contains data protected information
REPORT TITLE	Strategy
REPORT NUMBER	PC/DEC25/STRAT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford
REPORT AUTHOR	Laura Colliss & Mairi Suttie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.4, 4-5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee and provide recommendations (if applicable) to changes to the North East Scotland Pension Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the final outcome of the annual benefit statement project, which was completed successfully, for assurance (item 4.1 of the main report);
- 2.2. Approve the recommendation to write-off the amount of overpaid pension benefits as detailed in the confidential Appendix III (item 4.3 of the main report);
- 2.3 Approve the updates to the Fund policy documents as set out in 6.2 of the main report;
- 2.4 Approve the travel for one Advisory Committee Officer (Pension Fund Manager or suitable Officer substitute) to attend the following Advisory Committee meetings (item 6.3 of the main report):
- Partners Group, 14-17 May 2026 – Abu Dhabi
 - HarbourVest, 11-13 May 2026 – Boston
 - RCP, 13 May 2026 – Chicago
 - Blackrock, June 2026 – New York
 - Unigestion, 24-26 June 2026 – Zurich
 - Blackrock, September 2026 - Europe
 - IFM, 19-21 October 2026 – Houston;

2.5 Delegate authority to the Chief Officer – Finance, following consultation with the Convener of the Pensions Committee, to approve travel for one Advisory Committee Officer (Pension Fund Manager or Suitable Officer Substitute) to attend the following Advisory Committee meetings once locations and times have been confirmed:

- Capital Dynamics, Date and Location – TBC; and

2.6 Note the remainder of the report for reassurance.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 See attached main report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The performance of the Fund over the long term can impact on the Fund's funding level and therefore the ability to meet its long-term liabilities.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are a number of legal implications arising from the implementation of the strategy which have been identified and addressed as set out in this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

7.1 The Pension Fund maintains its own Risk Management Policy and regularly updates its Risk Register in line with change. This is reported quarterly to the Pensions Committee.

Appendix I, Copy of Risk Register (November 2025)

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Lack of effective risk controls in relation to	The Fund maintains its own Risk Management Policy and regularly updates its Risk Register in line with change. This	L	Yes

	the Fund Strategy.	is reported quarterly to the Pensions Committee.		
Compliance	No significant risks identified.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Operational	No significant risks identified.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial	Financial loss for the Pension Fund where incorrect pension benefits are paid.	Write-off requests are managed in line with the NESPF Overpayments Policy and ACC Financial Regulations. Overpayments over a set limit require approval of the Pensions Committee.	N/A	Yes
Reputational	No significant risks identified.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified.	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I can confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Jonathan Belford, Chief Officer-Finance on 2 nd December 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix I Copy of Risk Register (November 2025)
Appendix II, Consultation Response
Appendix III, Overpayment Request for Write-Off – Exempt/Confidential
Appendix IV, Data Quality Improvement Plan
Appendix V, PAS Q2 Report

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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