

MEETING: **PENSIONS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **9 FEBRUARY 2026**

TITLE: **BUDGET APPROVAL FOR 2026/27**

PURPOSE: **To approve the 2026/27 financial year budget for the Pensions Administration and Investment sections.**

RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE THE BUDGET**

AUTHOR: **DELYTH JONES-THOMAS, INVESTMENT MANAGER**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the 2026/27 financial year budget for the Pensions Administration and Investment sections.

2. PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION SECTION

	Final 2025/26 £	Inflation £	Adjustments £	Budget 2026/27 £
Employees	1,024,730	33,400	(1,380)	1,056,750
Travel and Subsistence	1,440	0	1,000	2,440
Supplies and Services	304,180	9,180	185,500	498,860
Central Services	138,810	4,160	0	142,970
Total	1,469,160	46,740	185,120	1,701,020

2.1 Employees, travel and subsistence

The budget for this section consists of 23 full time posts (4 of which are temporary) and 2 part time posts.

2.2 Supplies and Services

This budget includes printing costs, office supplies, and software costs.

The budget for these elements has increased over recent years due to the rise in the cost of posting letters imposed by the postal services. Although we have tried to increase the use of our online portal to send documents electronically and reduce the number of items sent physically through the post, postal costs have continued to rise. We will continue to increase the use of electronic communication during 2026/27 and in the years ahead.

There is a requirement to increase this budget permanently. This is mainly because the Fund needs to purchase additional elements within existing software, such as an ISP for the Pension Dashboard and development fees for the McCloud solution.

2.3 Central Services

Central services comprise an element of the Head of Finance and ancillary staff costs, and support from Council services such as information technology, corporate and legal.

3. **INVESTMENT SECTION**

	Final 2025/26 £	Inflation £	Adjustments £	Budget 2026/27 £
Employees	138,870	4,330	(7,970)	140,800

3.1 Employees

This section is located within the main Central Finance department and therefore only an element of the posts is funded by the Pension Fund.

There are 3 full time posts with officer time divided between the Gwynedd Pension Fund and Cyngor Gwynedd. The following percentages of posts are funded by the Pension Fund:

- Investment Manager (90%)
- Pensions and Investment Officer (85%)
- Pensions and Treasury Management Assistant Accountant (40%)

4. **WALES PENSION PARTNERSHIP, FUND MANAGER AND CONSULTANCY FEES**

- 4.1 There is no budget set at this stage as the expenditure can vary significantly, but the expenditure is reported fully in the Fund's financial statements and Annual Report.

5. **FIT FOR THE FUTURE**

- 5.1 In line with the Fit for the Future regulations, there will be a statutory requirement to appoint a Senior LGPS Officer by 1 October 2026. This new role will carry significant responsibilities in relation to scheme governance, compliance, and oversight.

Alongside this, the ongoing increase in governance requirements and the need to provide enhanced training for officers and Board and Committee members is expected to place additional demands on staffing resources. As a result, it is anticipated that staffing costs will need to rise during the 2026/27 financial year in order to ensure that the Fund can meet these obligations effectively and maintain compliance with regulatory standards.

Further detail on the precise impact of these requirements, including the scope of the Senior LGPS Officer role and the associated resource implications, will be provided to the Committee as more information becomes available. Regular updates will be shared to ensure transparency and to support informed decision-making in relation to budget planning.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to approve the 2026/27 financial year budget for the Pensions Administration and Investment sections.