

Pensions UK Hertfordshire Local Group Yearbook 2025/26

CONTENTS

Chairman's report for the year ending 31 August 2025	2
Committee members	3
About the Hertfordshire Local Group	4
Relationship with Pensions UK	4
What's planned for 2025/26	5
How to get CPD for your attendance	6
Feedback from the Annual Event	6
Constitution	7

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for the year ending 31 August 2025

Welcome to the 2025/26 Yearbook of the Pensions UK Hertfordshire Local Group (previously known as the PLSA North London Group).

This report is the Group's thirty-third publication and covers the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

We held six very well-attended meetings over the year, all at the County Club St. Albans (29 Ridgmont Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3AG). The June 2025 annual event, held this year at the Verulam Golf Club, was well received. My thanks go to all the speakers who presented to the Group over the year.

In the coming 2025/26 year, we will hold six evening meetings as well as the annual event, which will be returning to Sopwell House. The Committee have been working hard behind the scenes and this year we have another excellent array of speakers.

I will continue to advertise the Pensions UK and all associated Local Group webinars as and when they are known, so that Members have opportunities to meet their CPD requirements and to keep our name out there.

During the year we welcomed two new co-opted members to the Committee, Sonya Fraser (Arc Pensions Law) and Karol Lewandowski (Capital Cranfield), who filled the remaining vacancies on the Committee. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who serve on the Committee and give their time so freely to enable the continued operation of our Group.

I would also like to thank Hillier Hopkins for reviewing our accounts this year, and once again, free of charge.

Paul Latimer

Chairman – Pensions UK Hertfordshire Local Group

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members served on the Committee during the year ending 31 August 2025:

Paul Latimer *Chairman and Membership Secretary*
Barnett Waddingham LLP Tel: 01494 788134 Email: PensionsUKHertsLG@barnett-waddingham.co.uk

Joanna Godfrey *Secretary*
Mercer Tel: 0207 178 3166 Email: jo.godfrey@mercerc.com

Matthew Preston *Treasurer*
CMS Tel: 0207 524 6102 Email: Matthew.Preston@cms-cmno.com

Michaela Berry *Local Group Liaison Representative and Publicity Secretary*
Sacker and Partners LLP Tel: 0207 239 6699 Email: michaela.berry@sackers.com

Howard Bluston
Independent Investment Advisor Tel: 07802 399850 Email: Howard_bluston@hotmail.com

Afshan Mallik
Taylor Wessing LLP Tel: 0207 300 4989 Email: A.Mallik@taylorwessing.com

Sonya Fraser
Arc Pensions Law Tel: 0333 091 2676 Email: sonya.fraser@arcpensionslaw.com

Karol Lewandowski
Capital Cranfield Tel: 07842 438281 Email: k.lewandowski@capitalcranfield.com

ABOUT THE HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL GROUP

Our aim at the Hertfordshire Local Group of Pensions UK is to provide anyone involved in the pensions industry with a forum to discuss and debate topical pension issues, to learn about new ideas or initiatives and to network with other members.

We are managed by a committee of volunteers and usually hold six business meetings during the year along with an Annual Event.

We have arranged the AGM and first Evening Meeting of the year (being held on 9 September 2025) at the County Club St. Albans and have arranged five further 'in person' events for 2025/26 as well as the Annual Event.

We have decided to continue the suspension of the membership fees for the 2025/26 programme year. The Committee will review membership fees on an annual basis and will advise you of any changes in due course.

RELATIONSHIP WITH PENSIONS UK

The Local Group Liaison Committee (LGLC) is the key communication forum between Pensions UK local groups and Pensions UK's Head Office in London. Meetings take place regularly throughout the year.

Committee members from all the Local Groups are represented at the meetings or the LGLC and during 2024/25 Paul Latimer represented the Hertfordshire Local Group. The LGLC focuses primarily on new legislation and future pension developments.

You can visit us at the Local Groups area of the Pensions UK website. Further details can be found on the Pensions UK website at <https://www.pensionsuk.org.uk/>.

Pensions UK is always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions on ways that it may better represent members' interests. These can be channelled through the Hertfordshire Local Group Committee or directly to Pensions UK:

Switchboard: 020 7601 1700

Web address: <https://www.pensionsuk.org.uk/About-us/Contact-us#/>

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR 2025/26

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 9 September 2025 at 5:00pm at the County Club St. Albans. This will be followed by an update from Pensions UK on latest developments.

The schedule of speaker meetings for the business year is as follows:

9 September 2025	AGM Topic: Latest issues for Pensions UK especially commenting on various aspects of the Pension Schemes Bill Speaker: Olivia Sizeland (Pensions UK)
21 October 2025	Topic: Sole Trustee Landscape Speaker: Shani McKenzie (Hymans Robertson)
25 November 2025	Topic: Latest issues in the pensions investment space Speaker: Piers Lowson (Independent Advisor for Local Pensions Partnership Investments)
27 January 2026	Topic: How it is going with ORA as an assessment of how well a scheme's "effective system of governance" is working, and related matters Speaker: From Zedra
10 March 2026	Topic: CDC – the future of UK pensions? Speakers: Mark Williams (Gallagher) and Andre Clarke (Redington)
21 April 2026	Topic: Update on legal issues affecting pension schemes Speaker: Georgina Jones (Sackers)
23 June 2026	Annual Event

If you know of any speakers you would like to hear from at one of the meetings or would like a topic covered, please contact any of the Committee members.

HOW TO GET CPD FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE

We recognise that Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is an important way for pension professionals to continue broadening their knowledge and skills in the ever-changing world of pensions. We therefore keep a record of all the attendees at each of our face-to-face business meetings. You will be able to obtain CPD for attending these meetings. Please ensure you sign the CPD form made available at each meeting. We are registered with the Pensions Management Institute for the purpose of CPD and, if you are a Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and require evidence of attendance, please contact the Membership Secretary who keeps an electronic copy of all the attendees over the past year.

For webinars please follow the guidance provided by the local organising group for each event.

FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL EVENT

This year's Annual Event at Verulam Golf Club was well attended. We had a varied programme throughout the day which included sessions on member options and long-term strategy, a Pensions Ombudsman update, covenant matters, great pension communication, the use of AI in pensions and effective decision making.

The feedback from attendees was and overwhelmingly positive and we received some suggestions for future sessions but would always welcome more suggestions as we build up to the 2026 Annual Event.

CONSTITUTION

The full Constitution (rules by which the Group operates) is available for members through the Group Secretary. A summary is as follows:

- The Pensions UK Hertfordshire Local Group (the “Group”) is a local group of Pensions UK.
- The Group’s objectives are to support and promote the objectives of Pensions UK.
- Membership of the Group is open both to members and non-members of Pensions UK, particularly in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and those for whom Group meetings are convenient by virtue of their place of business.
- Membership is normally in the name of organisations, but individuals who do not belong to organisations can also be admitted to membership. Attendance at meetings of the Group is open to any representatives of a member. Membership subscription is determined annually and may be suspended by the Committee.
- Voting at General Meetings and the Annual General Meeting is by show of hands, unless a secret ballot is demanded by 50% or more of the members present. Each member (company or individual) present is entitled to one vote (cast by a representative).
- The Group is administered by an elected Committee consisting of not less than four and not more than eight persons, who are each elected for a two-year term.
- Three members of the Committee constitute a quorum.
- Approximately half of the Committee retires by rotation at each AGM, being those who have served the longest time on the Committee since their last appointment. The Committee can appoint (and replace) casual vacancies.
- The officers consist of a Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and individuals serving such other roles as the Committee considers necessary and are appointed from among their number by the Committee annually.
- Members will receive the Chairman’s report for the previous year before the AGM.
- The constitution may be amended by simple resolution at a General Meeting provided that not less than 14 days’ notice of the proposed change has been given to all members.
- The financial year ends on 31 July and accounts must be prepared and approved by the Honorary Accountants within three months of the financial year-end.