



Audit and Governance Committee

Date: Monday, 23 February 2026
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum 3)

Gary Suttle (Chair), Spencer Flower (Vice-Chair), Belinda Bawden, Neil Eysenck, Jill Haynes, Andrew Parry, Andy Todd, Beryl Ezzard, Ryan Holloway and Chris Kippax

Co-Opted Members: S Roach, R Ong

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact Louis.wicks@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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Agenda

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Grant Thornton UK LLP
2 Glass Wharf
Bristol
BS2 0EL

Date: February 2026
Ref:
Officer: David Wilkes
☎ 01305 254119
✉ investments@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

Dorset County Pension Fund: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Dorset Pension Fund ("the Fund") for the year ended 31 March 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the Fund financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, for the preparation of the Fund's financial statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Fund and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The Fund has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the valuation of level 2 and level 3 investments and directly owned properties. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
- vi. Except as disclosed in the financial statements

- a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent;
 - b. none of the assets of the Fund has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged; and
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- vii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- viii. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- ix. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report and attached to this letter. We have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements brought to our attention as they are immaterial to the results of the Fund and its financial position at the year-end. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- x. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xi. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xii. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Fund's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that that:
 - a. the nature of the Fund means that, notwithstanding any intention to liquidate the Fund or cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements;
 - b. the financial reporting framework permits the Fund to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
 - c. the Fund's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Information Provided

- xiii. We have provided you with:
 - a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - c. access to persons within the Fund from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xiv. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xv. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

- xvi. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xvii. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Fund, and involves:
 - a. management;
 - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xviii. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xix. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xx. There have been no communications with The Pensions Regulator or other regulatory bodies during the year or subsequently concerning matters of non-compliance with any legal duty.
- xxi. We are not aware of any reports having been made to The Pensions Regulator by any of our advisors.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Fund's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 23 February 2026.

Yours faithfully

<<< electronic signature >>>

Sean Cremer

Section 151 Officer

February 2026

Signed on behalf of the Fund

Summary of Unadjusted Misstatements

Detail	Pension Fund Account		Net Asset Statement £'000		Reason for not adjusting	
	Debit £'000	Credit £'000	Debit £'000	Credit £'000	Impact on total net assets £'000	
Total net assets per final accounts					£4,085,317	
We have noted variances between the Level 2 and 3 investment values stated in the financial statements and the Level 2 and 3 investment values confirmed by Fund manager. This resulted to understatement in Level 2 and 3 investments.	-	£4,108	£4,108	-	£4,108	Not material
We have identified one (1) sample in Transfers in testing that is relating to 2023/24. This caused overstatement in the Transfers in figure for 2024/25.	£4,302	-	-	£4,302	-	Not material
Note that this do not impact the total net assets as the other entry is credit to the opening balance of net assets.						
As per the Code, cash balances not forming part of investments assets should form part of current assets rather than part of investment assets. Currently, £5.2m (£2.3m in 23/24), is relating to cash used in day-to-day operations and therefore should be under current assets. The Fund recorded all their cash balances under investment assets. Due to amount being immaterial, the			Other current assets £5,195	Investment assets £5,195		Not material

Fund would leave this as unadjusted misclassification error within net asset statement. We recommend that this is considered in future period.

Total net assets – recalculated to include unadjusted misstatements

£4,089,425

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