

**Embargo: Not for release
before 00.01 am on
Thursday 30th November 2006**

Minister Speaks at LAPFF Conference: Future of LGPS governance at stake

1. Phil Woolas MP, Minister for local government and community cohesion will today speak at the annual conference of the Local Authority Pension Fund (LAPF) Forum on the future governance of the local government pension scheme (LGPS).
2. The Minister has recently confirmed the future basis of the LGPS must be 'affordable, viable and fair to local taxpayers'. His recent statement to Parliament (23rd November 06) began formal consultation on the new look LGPS, pending publication of the draft statutory instrument bringing in the changes.
3. Local government pension scheme trustees will gather in Bournemouth (30th Nov/1st Dec) at the LAPF Forum annual conference to receive the Minister and debate his plans.
4. The Forum represents 39 local authority pension schemes, combining assets of over £70 billion, and includes the largest schemes in the UK.
5. The chair of the Forum, Cllr Darrell Pulk (Nottinghamshire CC pension fund) said, "The Forum has recently proposed to the Government that it should consider a 'comply or explain' regime for LGPS governance improvements, and the Forum has offered to help draft best practice governance guidance for all funds."
6. Cllr Pulk continued, "Our members anticipate a statement from the Minister reflecting his views on the recent scheme governance consultation and hope that he announces the development of best practice guidance on improving the governance of all 100 UK schemes in the LGPS".

A full programme for the annual conference is attached.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The **Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF)**, which was set up in 1991, is a voluntary association of 39 local government pension funds based in the UK. It exists 'to promote the investment interests of local authority pension funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate social responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.' The Forum's members have combined assets of over £70 billion.

www.lapfforum.org

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(Conference programme attached)