

## **MOTION TO EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL**

### **23 August 2022**

#### **Democratic Oversight of Any Merged Pension Fund to Replace the Lothian Pension Fund**

*A proposal emerged in May of this year for the merging of the Lothian Pension Fund with the Falkirk Council Pension Fund. This will be voted on solely by members of City of Edinburgh Council and Falkirk Council. The dates of the votes have not yet been publicly confirmed. If the merger goes ahead, both committees would cease to have oversight over the new fund, and be replaced by a body currently referred to as a 'Company Board'. It is unclear what the makeup of this proposed 'Company Board' would be, but there are concerns that it would not have the same level of elected member, trade union, and employer representation. It is also noted that there is an existing democratic deficit in the Lothian Pension Fund which means that despite the Fund being administered for four local authorities in the region, only one of these has representation on the Pension Committee.*

The council therefore instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Lothian Pension Fund Committee, and to the Leaders of Edinburgh and Falkirk councils:

- a) Expressing concern at the possibility of any loss of democratic oversight over the local government pension fund for our area, if elected members were to be omitted from the new Board;
- and
- b) Urging them to take this opportunity to instead strengthen democratic oversight, by ensuring that any new Board has broad representation from trade unions and employers, and also contains elected members drawn proportionately from *all* participating Local Authorities areas.

Proposed by: Councillor Shona McIntosh  
Date: 8 August 2022

Seconded by: Councillor Lee-Anne Menzies  
Date: 8 August 2022

Received by (officer): Lel Gillingwater, Team Manager, Democratic & Licensing  
Date: 8 August 2022