Central Pool Partnership Office

Partnership Director - Central Pool

A Senior, Partnership, Leadership role at the centre of LGPS Central Pool governance

Hosted by West Midlands Pension Fund / City of Wolverhampton Council
on behalf of the LGPS Central Pool Partner Funds

Shape the governance, relationships and delivery framework that enables the partner pension funds and LGPS Central Ltd to deliver the Partnership objectives.

Cheshire Pension Fund · Derbyshire Pension Fund · Gloucestershire Pension Fund · Hampshire Pension Fund · Pension Fund · Norfolk Pension Fund · Nottinghamshire Pension Fund · Oxfordshire Pension Fund · Shropshire County Pension Fund · Staffordshire Pension Fund · Suffolk County Council · West Midlands Pension Fund · Wiltshire Pension Fund · Worcestershire Pension Fund

Together in partnership with LGPS Central Limited

The opportunity

This is a pivotal senior leadership role for an experienced governance and partnership professional who can operate confidently across a complex, high-profile and multi-regional local government pension environment. The postholder will lead the Central Pool Partnership Office (CPPO) function and provide the governance, relationship and delivery leadership needed to support the LGPS Central Investment Pool collaboration.

The role sits at the interface between the partner pension funds, their senior officers and elected members, and LGPS Central Ltd. It requires the ability to turn collective ambition into clear governance actions, using sound judgement, independence and building credibility with all parties to achieve this.

At a glance

Role	Partnership Director - Central Pool
Directorate/Host	West Midlands Pension Fund, with City of Wolverhampton Council as host authority on behalf of the Partner Funds
Location/Workstyle	Field-based and flexible, reflecting the multi-regional reach of the Partner Funds
Purpose	Strategic leadership of governance forums, stakeholder liaison and partnership delivery
Reporting line	Working on behalf of the partner funds
Direct reports	Investment Pooling Stakeholder Liaison Lead and Investment Pooling Stakeholder Liaison Officers

Why this role matters now

- **Asset pooling reform agenda as set by Government**
  The role is central to delivering the asset pooling objectives set by Government through the Fit for the Future programme and subsequent asset pooling statutory guidance.

- **Diversity across the partnership**
  The LGPS Central Pool has the largest diversity of membership across the LGPS pools, with regions spanning the Midlands, South, South West and East of England and a range of Partner Fund asset sizes.

- **Governance by design**
  The postholder will manage and develop the governance forums and frameworks that enable Partner Funds to exercise their shareholder, client and democratic oversight responsibilities effectively.

- **Relationship-led delivery**
  Establishing trust and credibility to deliver support services enabling the Partnership across the Central pool region, through strategic partnerships with stakeholders across all levels, including S151 Officers, Councillors, advisors, LGPS Central Ltd Board and Officers.

- **High autonomy**
  The postholder will be expected to operate with independence, impartiality and sufficient credibility to deliver services across the partnership.

About the LGPS Central Investment Pool

LGPS Central is the investment pooling partnership created to help Partner Funds pool investment assets and deliver better outcomes through scale, governance, efficiency and stronger investment capability. The pool company, LGPS Central Ltd, is the FCA regulated investment management company through which Partner Funds receive pooled investment products, services and advice.

The LGPS Central Pool collaboration is underpinned by the Inter-Authority Agreement, which sets the framework for collective governance, partner responsibilities, the role of the CPPO and the relationship with LGPS Central Ltd. The Partner Funds retain their own statutory responsibilities as administering authorities while working together to ensure effective governance and delivery of pooling requirements.

Central Pool Partner Funds

- Cheshire Pension Fund
- Oxfordshire Pension Fund
- Derbyshire Pension Fund
- Shropshire County Pension Fund
- Gloucestershire Pension Fund
- Staffordshire Pension Fund
- Hampshire Pension Fund
- Suffolk Pension Fund
- Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund
- Wiltshire Pension Fund
- Norfolk Pension Fund
- West Midlands Pension Fund
- Nottinghamshire Pension Fund
- Worcestershire Pension Fund

LGPS Central Pool footprint

c. £100bn combined assets	6,000+ employers	1.7m+ scheme members

Cheshire Pension Fund

Derbyshire Pension Fund

Staffordshire Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme

Nottinghamshire Pension Fund

Shropshire County Pension Fund

Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund

West Midlands Pension Fund

Norfolk Pension Fund

Worcestershire Pension Fund

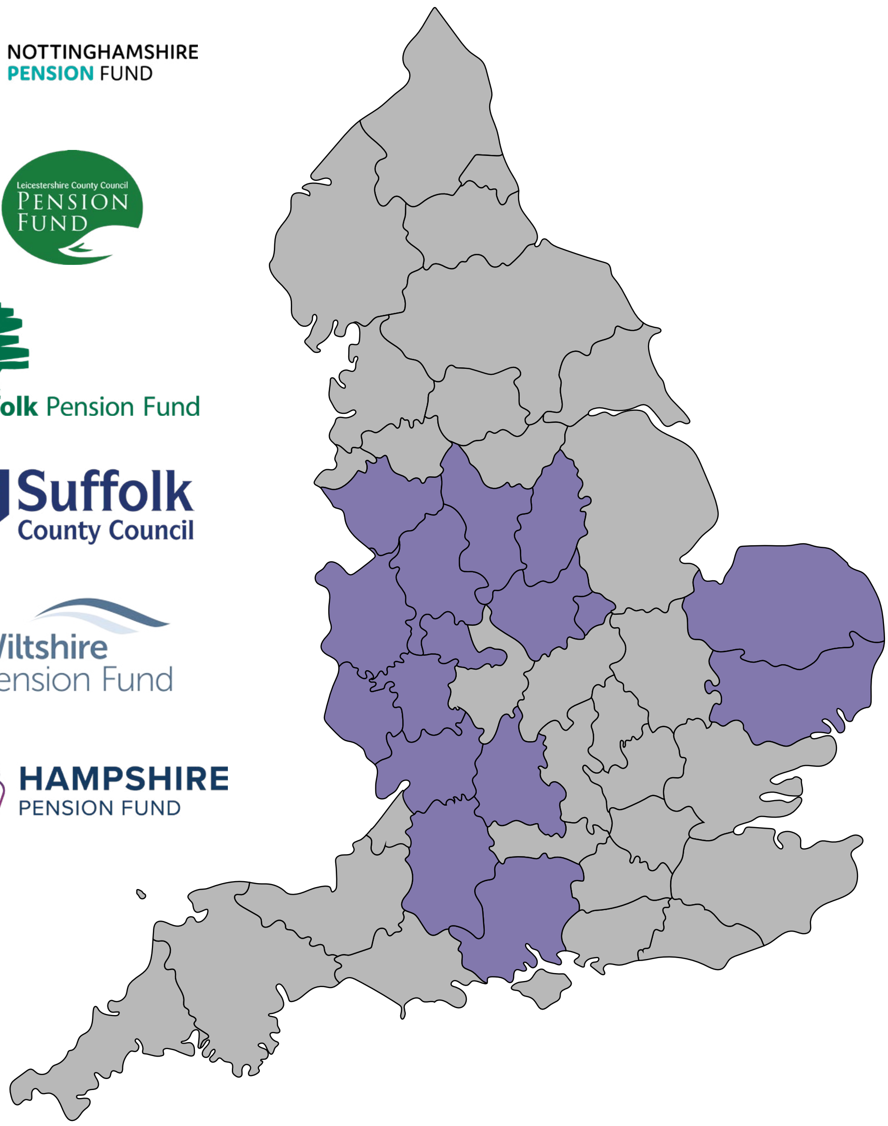
Suffolk County Council

Gloucestershire Pension Fund

Wiltshire Pension Fund

Oxfordshire Pension Fund

Hampshire Pension Fund



Role focus and responsibilities

1. Leadership

- Lead, manage and be responsible for the Central Pool Partnership Office function, including the delivery of governance support to the Partner Funds where there is collective responsibility.
- Own and co-ordinate the governance framework that supports the shared objectives of the pooling partnership an the effective operation of the Governance forums.
- Ensure clear governance reporting, auditability of decisions, action tracking, control environment testing and review, and alignment to statutory and non-statutory guidance.
- Providing Secretariat (and Chairing where required) governance forums, acting impartially and in the interests of achieving the agreed objectives for the pool.
- Identifying and managing delivery risks and any adaptations which may be required. Creating an appropriate environment for constructive debate, challenge and shared learning, ensuring inclusion and navigation of a range of perspectives to ensure delivery of outcomes and shared vision.

2. Relationships

- Build trust and confidence with Partner Fund senior officers, Section 151 Officers, LGPS Senior Officers, Councillors, Committee Chairs, advisers and LGPS Central Ltd.
- Operate as a senior liaison point between Partner Funds and the pool company, ensuring effective two-way engagement on client, shareholder and governance matters.
- Create and deliver stakeholder engagement and communications plans, including materials for reports, consultations, briefings, workshops and partner events.
- Act as a diplomatic representative of the collective pool, balancing diverse partner perspectives while maintaining fairness, equity and a focus on outcomes.

3. Supplier management

- Responsible for procurement and management of suppliers on behalf of the collective Funds to support oversight and governance.
- To develop and lead delivery of the annual workplan for the collective partnership.
- Develop, manage and report on the agreed budget for shared servicing of the Partner Funds.
- Coordination of reporting to support individual Fund's assurance, engagement and formal briefings.

4. Enabling governance and compliance

- Drive governance and partnership activity in support of asset pooling objectives set by Government through the Fit for the Future programme and statutory guidance.
- Support Partner Funds to meet their governance, client and shareholder obligations, including delivery through appropriately structured forums and working groups.
- Enable the partnership to develop a resilient model capable of responding to evolving regulation, statutory guidance, local authority governance and investment pooling expectations.
- Promote continuous improvement, value for money and strong controls in a high public-interest, high-value investment environment.

Candidate profile

The successful candidate will combine credible senior governance experience with a background of public sector experience/awareness with the interpersonal and political judgement needed to broker consensus across a multi-authority investment partnership. They will be comfortable operating with autonomy, working through ambiguity and influencing without relying on direct line authority.

Capability	What this means in practice
Strategic governance leadership	Experience chairing or supporting high-level partnership boards, governance forums or committee structures, with a track record of delivering clear outcomes.
Stakeholder and political acuity	Confidence working with elected members, senior officers, statutory officers and external partners in politically sensitive environments.
Relationship management	Ability to build trust, listen well, influence fairly and maintain credibility across diverse organisations with different priorities.
Autonomous service delivery	Ability to lead a shared-service support function with limited supervision, strong judgement, delegated authority and clear accountability.
Investment pooling literacy	Understanding of local government, LGPS investment pooling, fiduciary responsibilities, shareholder/client roles and the evolving pooling regulatory landscape.
Controls, risk and assurance	Strong risk management, control environment, governance reporting and information governance skills.
Communication and diplomacy	Ability to prepare concise, high-quality reports and briefings for variety of audience, facilitate debate and resolve tensions constructively.
Team leadership	Ability to develop a resilient, responsive and partnership-focused team that delivers value for money and continuous improvement.

What success will look like

- Governance forums operate smoothly, transparently and proportionately, with clear purpose, briefings, decisions and actions.
- Partner Funds feel well supported, informed and able to fulfil their responsibilities as administering authorities and as shareholders/clients of LGPS Central Ltd.
- Relationships between Partner Funds and LGPS Central Ltd are constructive, professionally managed and focused on delivery of pooling objectives.
- The Central Pool Partnership Office is recognised as an impartial, credible and highly valued shared service that supports the collective interests of the pool.
- Regulatory, statutory guidance and governance requirements are translated into practical delivery plans, with appropriate reporting, assurance and escalation.

This is a 2 stage recruitment process, with stage 1 interview panel scheduled for w/c 31 August 2026. You will be required to prepare a presentation for the interview.

Interview panels will consist of a range of officers from our Partner Funds together with our pooling company LGPS Central Ltd, with opportunity for meet and greet with relevant stakeholders during the second stage.

Interviews will be held in person at West Midlands Pension Fund offices in i9, Wolverhampton.

To apply for this role please visit www.WMJobs.co.uk

Closing date for applications is Sunday 23rd August 2026

For more information, or if you would like to discuss the role, please contact
CPPORecruitment@wmpf.wolverhampton.gov.uk

Central Pool Partnership Office