

Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) Conference

“Putting the focus on better and more sustainable pensions”

GLIL was recently invited to the PLSA Local Authority Conference in Gloucestershire. The three-day event is aimed at anyone involved in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is the largest of its kind, attended by over 300 local authority officers, councillors, members of Local Pension Boards and committees, admitted bodies and their advisers.

A highlight was a lively session, featuring social enterprise Debate Mate, on the motion that LGPS funds should be compelled to invest in UK infrastructure and social housing with Ted Frith, GLIL Infrastructure, COO, (pictured) on the panel.

Opposing sides went into battle to win their argument in a fun and highly-charged session designed to engage attendees and encourage young people to develop the skills of debate.

Another feature was a keynote speech from the Minister for Local Government, Rishi Sunak, on pooling, the Fair Deal and the new quadrennial valuations.



At one point, the minister’s speech was briefly interrupted by members of the local branch of the climate change awareness group, Extinction Rebellion, in an attempt to place the focus on fossil fuel investment. In response, the minister and the PLSA chair, Richard Butcher, addressed the protesters, respecting their point of view and invited them to ask some questions later on, stressing that the issue of climate change was being addressed during the course of the conference.

Overall, the conference was another success, with a varied range of exhibitors and sponsors, a programme of topics covered to help build a better pension system, with well-run schemes that are value for money and work in savers’ interests, improved contributions to get more money into pension savings and effective engagement to help people make the right decisions

