

**67.** The council has undertaken work to identify any issues with their housing stock which comprises 14,000 properties, including 427 common blocks. The results of the work undertaken, which included structural engineers, was to identify RAAC within 69 individual properties and 15 blocks of flats, representing 0.5% of the overall housing stock, where the council has property interest. The council has implemented a strategy for remediation works based on the condition of the properties involved.

**68.** The council continued to make progress in 2023/24 with regards to remediation of those properties affected by RAAC with funding included in their capital budgeting to undertake the work.

### **The pensions' triennial funding valuation as at 31 March 2023 has provided a potential positive impact on finances**

**69.** The most recent triennial funding valuation took place across Local Government Pension Scheme pension funds at 31 March 2023. The main purpose of the valuation is to review the financial position of each fund and to set appropriate contribution rates for each employer for the upcoming three-year period as part of the fund's overall funding strategy.

**70.** West Lothian Council is a scheduled member of Lothian Pension Fund (LPF), the second largest local Government Pension Scheme in Scotland. The LPF has communicated that its March 2023 Valuation has been finalised by and employer contribution rates from 1 April 2024 are now confirmed. The valuation dated 31 March 2023 for LPF showed a funding level of 157%, a significant increase from 106% in 2020.

**71.** Reducing employer contributions will reduce the costs associated with pensions, thereby reducing some of the cost pressures faced by the council in 2024/25. From April 2024, the employer rate has been reduced from 21.8% to 17.6%. This change to employer contributions has been built into the council's financial budget plans for 2024/25 and overall budget gap identified for that year.