



FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES BOARD MEETING 22 MAY 2025 – 2.00PM

PRESENT:	EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES Councillor David Coupe Councillor Mick Stoker Councillor Gary Allen EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES Alan Turner- Vice Chair David Howe Sid Walker
IN ATTENDANCE:	Pete Rickard - Scheme Manager Kristine Ward- ACFO SPPR Michelle Richardson - Brigade Pensions Advisor Ross Spedding – Governance Graeme Hall - XPS Business Services Sharon Stoker – XPS Business Services

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

It was noted no Declarations of Interests were submitted to the meeting.

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 6 NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting on 6 November 2024 were confirmed.

3. SCHEME MANAGERS REPORT TO THE BOARD

- Governance and Administration - noted, discretions have been applied.
- Scrutiny - noted specifically cybersecurity.
- Risk - work is ongoing to update the format of the Risk Register and new version will be presented at the next Board meeting.
- Sergeant/McCloud Remedy – as the statutory deadline has now passed the Brigade has breached and will self-report this. FRS's across the country have also reported breaches. Pension regulation was discussed and the Board agreed it should be a platform for scrutiny and decisions should be made internally within the FRS by the Scheme Manager.

4. SCHEME MANAGERS REPORT TO THE BOARD cont.

- Matthews Remedy - noted. Assurance was given that CFB have exhausted all attempts to contact outstanding effected individuals.
- Pensions Dashboards - XPS will undertake dashboard work and maintenance. This will need approval by the CFA but has already been approved by the Executive Committee.
- Training - noted.

RESOLVED – That Cleveland Fire Brigade will report a breach in Sergeant/ McCloud Remedy. This will be confirmed at the next meeting.

5. PERFORMANCE

XPS Update:

- The standard quarterly report was discussed. Guidance is expected in early June which will work on cases of pension sharing orders to proceed.
- ABS and RSS reduction was noted.
- SLAs are at 91%.
- Lifetime allowance has disbanded, meaning there is no cap on overall pension balance, however, with lump sum benefit allowance any amount over £26k is taxable, which will be reflected on P60s.
- There is one outstanding error / complaint on an AVC.

RESOLVED – Mr Graeme Hall will provide a resolution to the outstanding error / complaint relating to an AVC.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND BULLETINS

FPS Bulletins 86-92 were noted.

The FPS Action Log was discussed and an overview of actions given. The Board noted the issue on a national level for staff with expertise in pensions, and that Michelle Richardson achieves this in addition to her role.

The Board thanked Michelle Richardson for monitoring the extensive actions associated with the bulletins published since the previous meeting in November 2024.

RESOLVED – That the FBS Bulletin Action Log was noted.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Board noted that Councillor Ben Clayton was no longer appointed to the Fire Authority and a new Chair would be appointed at the Annual General Meeting on 14 August 2025. The Board thanked Councillor Clayton for his dedication and support shown in his role as Chair over recent years.

**ALAN TURNER
VICE CHAIR**