

FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 17 August 2023 – 2.30PM

PRESENT:	EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES Councillor Ben Clayton - Chair EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES Mr Sid Walker
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ian Hayton - Scheme Manager Michelle Richardson - Brigade Pension Advisor
APOLOGIES:	Councillor John Gardner Councillor Dennis McCabe Mr David Howe Mr Alan Turner – Vice Chair Beverley Parker - Governance/Training Advisor Paul Mudd - XPS Business Services

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

The Scheme Manager sought nominations for position of Chair of the Local Pension Board. Councillor Ben Clayton was proposed and seconded whereupon nominations were closed.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Ben Clayton be appointed Chair of the Local Pension Board for the ensuing year.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Gardner, Councillor Dennis McCabe, David Howe, Alan Turner, Beverly Parker and Paul Mudd.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Local Pension Board. Mr Alan Turner was subsequently proposed and seconded whereupon nominations were closed.

RESOLVED – that Mr Alan Turner be appointed Vice Chair of the Local Pension Board for the ensuing year.

4. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting on 31 May 2023 be confirmed.

6. CHAIRS REPORT TO THE BOARD

The Board considered the Chairs Annual Business Report to the Board which included:

- Membership
- Terms of Reference
- Board Activity
- Finance
- Notifications of Interests
- Record Keeping
- Transparency
- Breaches of the law
- Risk Register
- GDPR
- FPS bulletins
- Approved Policy/Guidance Documentation
- Training

The Chair confirmed that he had been appointed to the LGA Firefighters' Pension Scheme Cost Effectiveness Sub Committee. The Scheme Manager congratulated him on his appointment.

RESOLVED – That the Chairs Annual Report be noted and be forwarded to the Scheme Manager.

7. SCHEME MANAGERS REPORT TO THE BOARD

The Scheme Manager (SM) provided the Board with the following updates:

- Governance and Administration – Updated Terms of Reference & Annual Work Programme 2023/24 - approved
- Training & Development - noted
- Discretions Applied - none
- Ill Health - none
- Appeals - none
- IDRPs - none
- Members and Movement - noted
- Breaches of the law - none
- Cyber Security - no breaches
- Age Discrimination Remedy – McCloud/Sargeant – noted
- Part Time Worker Discrimination Remedy – Matthews - noted
- Internal Audit Report - noted
- Risk Registers – noted

The SM tabled information received from XPS relating to the McCloud Remedy arrangements for post October 2023 retirements. The document highlighted the following:

- Final scheme legislation will not be implemented until October
- XPS intend to process retirement options from early September based on their interpretations of the expected legislation
- XPS will send retirement options to Members heavily caveated to make them aware of the potential for change if the draft legislation is amended
- As calculations will be undertaken manually XPS have suggested 90 days notice where possible
- XPS have proposed that member estimates for a period of time be limited and provided to members only within 6 months of their retirement
- CFB would need to brief members of the changes
- XPS have requested that the SLA is suspended from October (reviewed monthly) to accommodate the potential additional work

The Chair emphasised the need to ensure the changes are communicated to Members.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) **That the Scheme Manager's Report be noted.**
- (ii) **That the Terms of Reference and Annual Work Programme for 2023/24 be approved.**

8. PERFORMANCE

MR reported 87% compliance for Quarter 1 which was a decrease from 92% for Quarter 4. She explained that the quarter represented a busier period than Quarter 4 of 2022/23 with a 25% increase in cases. She confirmed that there had been no impact on payment and there had been no complaints for Quarter 1.

RESOLVED – that the Contract Performance Management update be noted.

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND BULLETINS

MR presented the actions falling out from the FPS Bulletins 69, 70 and 71 and provided an update on progress.

The Chair commented that the Action Log provided a much clearer picture of areas to be progressed.

RESOLVED – that the FPS Bulletin Log be noted.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional items for discussion.

COUNCILLOR BEN CLAYTON
CHAIR