

## FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 31 MAY – 2.00PM

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES</b> Councillor Ben Clayton - Chair  <b>EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES</b> Mr David Howe Mr Sid Walker Mr Alan Turner – Vice Chair
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ian Hayton - Scheme Manager Beverley Parker - Governance/Training Advisor Michelle Richardson - Brigade Pension Advisor Paul Mudd - XPS Business Services
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	None received.

### 1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

### 2. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** – that the Minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting on 1 November 2022 be confirmed.

### 3. SCHEME MANAGERS UPDATE

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

- Discretions Applied - one
- Ill Health - none
- Appeals - none
- IDRP - none

#### 4. **SCHEME MANAGERS UPDATE Cont.**

- Membership – noted
- Cyber Security - no breaches - Cyber Essential Plus (CE+) accredited
- Breach of the law - no breaches
- Risk Registers – no change
- Age Discrimination – The Scheme Manager shared the McCloud Project timeframe which outlines the Parliamentary process and laying of regulations which will be completed in September with legislation in effect by 1st October 2023. It was acknowledged that the timeframe does not allow much scope for changes to be made once the consultation process is complete. Noteworthy are the complications which arise in relation to taxation and contributions. Both the Scheme Manager and XPS have submitted a response to the consultation.
- Matthews – Retained Firefighters' Pensions – The Scheme Manager shared the Proposed changes to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England). The consultation period ends on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Comments should be forwarded to the Scheme Manager for inclusion in his response.
- Re-enrolment 2022 – M Richardson (MR) advised legislative requirements have been met and the number of staff enrolled has increased as a result of re-enrolment.
- FPS (SAB) Levy 2022/23 – MR reported the levy cost to the CFA for 2022/23 is £2508. A purchase order has been raised and provided to the LGA for processing.

**RESOLVED: - That the Scheme Managers Report be noted.**

#### 5. **PERFORMANCE**

##### 5.1 **Contract Performance Management Update**

MR reported 97% compliance for Quarter 3 which was an increase from 90% for Quarter 2. The improvement was due to XPS recruiting additional staff and providing targeted training for existing staff. There was a drop in performance in Quarter 4 at 91% involving 2 cases, which she reported had made no impact on the payments to members.

**RESOLVED – that the Contract Performance Management update be noted.**

#### 6. **XPS BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE**

##### 6.1 **Performance Delivery Report 2022 - 2023**

The Board noted the tabled XPS Business Services Update Report for 2022/23.

P Mudd reported the lifetime allowance has been scrapped meaning there is no upper limit on pension funds. The maximum tax-free lump sum is £268,000 which is paid the day after retirement. Subsequent payments are paid with monthly pension payments and are taxable at the individuals taxation rate.

## **6.1 Performance Delivery Report 2022 - 2023 continued ...**

MR confirmed that HR had done a lot of work internally to encourage staff to sign up to Member Self-Service and will continue to promote the service. She reported that there had been an increase and was currently standing at 46%.

P Mudd advised that deferred benefit statements will be sent out to members. XPS are exploring the use of an address screening and mortality service to improve communication with members.

**RESOLVED - That the XPS Business Services update be noted.**

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS AND BULLETINS**

### **7.1 FPS Bulletins**

Members considered the following bulletins:

- Bulletin 66
- Bulletin 67
- Bulletin 68

It was noted members will receive Annual Benefit Statements (ABS) based in the current pension scheme, once the Remedy has been implemented, new ABS will be circulated to members.

In respect of the top up grant the Scheme Manager noted accounts for 2022/23 remain unaudited due to Teesside Pension Fund accounts being incomplete. There is the potential for part of the grant being withheld until such time accounts are complete.

MR confirmed that the bulletins had been circulated to the Board and all actions would be implemented.

**RESOLVED – that the Communications and Bulletins be noted.**

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 FBU – National Insurance Contributions**

P Mudd clarified those members who had paid reduced NI contributions would be contacted in due course, adding that there is an opportunity to 'buy back' NI Credits via the Government Gateway.

**COUNCILLOR BEN CLAYTON  
CHAIR**