

FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 1 NOVEMBER – 2.00PM

PRESENT:	EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES Councillor Ben Clayton - Chair Councillor Teresa Higgins Councillor Steve Matthews EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES Dave Howe Sidney Walker
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ian Hayton - Scheme Manager Beverley Parker - Governance/Training Advisor Michelle Richardson - Technical Pension Advisor Paul Mudd - Governance Manager XPS Business Services
APOLOGIES:	Councillor Lynn Hall (Sub) Alan Turner – Vice Chair

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 23 August 2022 be confirmed.

3. SCHEME MANAGERS UPDATE

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

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

4. SCHEME MANAGERS UPDATE Cont.

- Members and Movement - noted
- Cyber Security - no breaches - Cyber Essential Plus (CE+) accredited
- Breach of the law - no breaches
- Risk Registers - no changes
- Matthews Case Remedy – CFB has identified 88 Members as being in the scope for the second options exercise, 8 of which are still employed, and communication with those affected has already begun. CFB has been selected to participate in a data collection exercise by GAD to support them in estimating the possible impact on scheme liabilities, project scheme cashflows in future years and the development of a calculator for FRAs and administrators to use for the second options exercise. D. Howe agreed to circulate information via WhatsApp to retired Members once available.
- Immediate Detriment - verbal update noted
- Potential for Industrial Action – the Scheme Manager outlined the pension implications to Members taking strike action and agreed for Members to receive communications outlining this when strike action is confirmed.

RESOLVED: - That the Scheme Managers Report be noted.

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

5.1 Complaints

There were no complaints for Q2.

5.2 Contract Performance Management Update

M. Richardson reported 90% compliance for Quarter 2 which was an increase from 78% for Quarter 1. She confirmed this improvement was due to XPS recruiting additional staff and providing targeted training of existing staff. M. Richardson noted that the 80% compliance for responding to requests for estimates of benefits within 10 working days had no detrimental impact on Members and involved one case out of five.

RESOLVED – that the Contract Performance Management update be noted.

6. XPS BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Performance Delivery Report Q2

The Board noted the tabled XPS Business Services Update Report.

P. Mudd confirmed that a maximum of 42% of Members were able to access their Annual Benefit Statement online which was below the national average.

M. Richardson confirmed that HR had done a lot of work internally to encourage staff to sign up to Member Self-Service and expected this to reflect in the figures for the next quarter. The Board discussed this ongoing issue and agreed that training sessions be held online to take Members through the sign-up procedure.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) **That the XPS Business Services update be noted.**
- (ii) **That M. Richardson and P. Mudd to arrange on-line training sessions to encourage Members to register for Self-Service.**

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND BULLETINS

7.1 FPS Bulletins

Members considered the following bulletins:

- Bulletin 59
- Bulletin 60
- Bulletin 61

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 – Legal Judgement

P. Mudd referred to the Pension Scheme Transitional Protections: Injury to Feelings Employment Tribunal case which had been settled in the FBUs favour. Members who lodged the claim via a survey seven years previously will receive either £3,700 or £7,000 as compensation for having their personal lives effected by upset from the changes to the pension scheme.

The Scheme Manager agreed to bring a report to the next Board meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Scheme Manager presents a report on the ‘Pension Scheme Transitional Protections: Injury to Feelings Employment Tribunal Case’ to the next Board meeting.

8.2 Thanks to Former Chair

The Chair thanked Councillor Higgins for the commitment and dedication shown during her time as Chair of the Local Pension Board and presented her with a gift. Councillor Higgins thanked Board Members for their support during this time.

**COUNCILLOR BEN CLAYTON
CHAIR**