

FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES MINUTES OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING 6 MAY 2026 – 2.00PM

PRESENT:	EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES Councillor John Kabuye - Chair Councillor David Coupe EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES James Sudron Sid Walker
IN ATTENDANCE:	Simon Weastell - Scheme Manager Kristine Ward – ACFO Strategic Planning, People & Resources Lee Brown – Temporary ACFO Service Delivery Louise Tindall - Governance / Training Sharon Potter - XPS Business Services
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Councillor Mick Stoker Councillor Dennis McCabe Alan Turner - Vice Chair Michelle Richardson - Brigade Pensions Advisor Graeme Hall - XPS Business Services

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting on 4 February 2026 be confirmed.

3. SCHEME MANAGERS' REPORT TO THE BOARD

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

- Governance and Administration
 - Discretions – one request received to consider waiving abatement considered as detailed in the confidential report at Appendix 1. Scheme Manager (SM) gave full consideration and decided not to exercise discretion and to apply abatement in full.
 - Ill Health – none
 - IDRP – none

4. SCHEME MANAGERS' REPORT TO THE BOARD cont.

- Scrutiny
 - Breaches of the Law – none
 - Cyber Security – no reported breaches
 - Compliance – Cyber Essentials Plus (CE+) accredited
 - Audit - none
- Risk – the Board considered the detailed Risk Register at Appendix 2, which had been reviewed by the internal Pensions Management Team on 21 April 2026 and noted that no changes were recommended. The Board noted that Training remained a risk and this was expected to be reduced once all members had completed LGA training.
- Deferred Choice (DC) – RSS Issuance – it was noted that 15 Members have yet to be issued with an RSS and XPS continue to work on these cases.
- Immediate Choice (IC) – RSS Issuance – all statements have now been issued with members given a 12-month period to make their election. Currently awaiting confirmation from XPS on the number of members who have not made the election in this timeframe which will require the Scheme Manager to make a default decision on their behalf.
- Contingent Decisions – 9 received to date all relating to opt-outs. SM will consider. On hold pending receipt of further guidance which is in line with the approach of regional fire and rescue services.
- Matthews Remedy – now 76 cases to process
- Training – the Board's Technical Adviser attended refresher training in December 2025 with two other Board Members completing this training in March 2026. Full training was being completed by other Board Members that week (5 & 7 May).

RESOLVED - That the Scheme Manager's Report be noted.

5. PERFORMANCE

5.1 XPS Performance Delivery Report Q4 – ending 31 March 2026.

The Board considered the Performance Delivery Report for 1 April – 31 March 2026 which covered:

XPS Projects Updates

- Retirement Payment – Lump Sums
- Looking Forward – Service Enhancements
- Aurora Front End / XPS One
- Service Deliver Headlines
- Member Engagement – MyPension / Telephony
- Statement Issuance Update

Service Delivery Headlines

- Successful data migration from Altair to Aurora.
- Launched new web portals with over 47,000 members registered and 65,000 calculations run.
- MyPension Live Chat launched to help with registration.
- First phase of Pension Increase project successfully run through Aurora in April and phase two on track.
- XPS Pensions Dashboard Progress – 148 schemes connected with over 642,000 members in line with their connection dates.

Member Engagement

- Telephony – 142 call received (75 answered / 64 abandoned) Member Connect team increased working hours to 0700 – 1900hrs to cope with demand.
- MyPension – 29% registered since launch in February 2026 and building steadily with further communications planned.

Service Level Reports

- Service Levels for Q4 were 71.43% - down from Q3 (98%) due to roll out of new system and successful transfer of data from Altair to Aurora. Also, there is a high volume of calls and enquiries. This is being monitored on a monthly basis and is expected to return to higher level by next quarter.

Complaints

- Currently two live complaints relating to pensioner members chasing RSS and impact on Pensions Savings Statement and a member awaiting general information. Sharon Potter agreed to confirm to the Board whether these were new complaints or the existing complaints previously reported.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) **That the report be noted.**
- (ii) **That XPS provides the Board with clarity over the two complaints at the next meeting.**

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND BULLETINS

The SM presented the FPS Bulletin action log which captured new actions relating to Bulletins 101 -103 which had been completed and a summary of outstanding actions from previous bulletins.

RESOLVED – that the FPS Bulletin Log be noted.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional items for discussion.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN KABUYE
CHAIR**