

FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES MINUTES OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING 8 NOVEMBER 2023 – 2.30PM

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

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 17 August 2023 be confirmed.

3. SCHEME MANAGERS REPORT TO THE BOARD

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

- Discretions Applied - none
- Ill Health - one Wholetime Firefighter was retired on ill health grounds in September. Two further potential cases currently going through IQMP process.
- Appeals - none
- IDRP - none
- Members and Movement - noted
- Breaches of the law - none
- Cyber Security - no reported breaches
- Risk Register at Appendix 1 was noted

4. SCHEME MANAGERS REPORT TO THE BOARD CONT.

Sargeant and Matthews – update

The SM gave a detailed presentation relating to the age discrimination (Sargeant) and on-call firefighter (Matthews) pension remedies. This covered:

- Action already taken
- Order of Processing
- Immediate Choice Cohort Timetabling
- Contentious Issues
- Contingent Decisions
- Opt-out
- Compensation
- Types of Claims
- Legislative timeline
- Implementation Timeline
- Legal Cases

The SM gave the Board assurances that the Brigade and XPS had implemented all actions on the checklist ahead of the 31 October 2023 deadline and were on schedule.

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

5. PERFORMANCE

5.1 XPS Update – Verbal Update

Mr Mudd confirmed that there was a delay in producing the Quarterly Performance pack and it would be shared with the Board when available. He gave a verbal update on performance for Quarter 2 and confirmed that 83% of the work had been completed in the requisite timeframes and no formal complaints had been received.

He reported that the number of staffing had been increased from 80 to 175 to deal with the complexities of the McCloud Remedy and thanked the Brigade for the support given.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted.

5.2 High Level Pension Survey Results

Emma Doubooni (ED) presented the results of the staff engagement survey to gain insight into the views and opinions of the arrangements of the Brigade's Pension Management Service. The Board discussed the 10% return rate on the survey and suggested an incentive may be used in future surveys.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND BULLETINS

ED presented the actions falling out from FPS Bulletins 72, 73 and provided an update on progress.

RESOLVED – that the FPS Bulletin Log be noted.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional items for discussion.

**COUNCILLOR BEN CLAYTON
CHAIR**