

**Minutes of the meeting of the Local Pension Board  
held on 20 October 2021 via Zoom**

PRESENT

Employer Representatives:

Cllr Simon Glyn  
Gareth Owens, Deputy Clerk

Employee Representatives:

Richard Fairhead, Fire Leaders Association - Prospect, Employee Representative  
Tim Lloyd, Fire Brigades Union  
Bob Mason, Fire Officers' Association.  
Duncan Stewart-Ball, Fire Brigades Union

Advisors

Helen MacArthur, Assistant Chief Fire Officer  
Julie Brown, Pensions Manager  
Martin Morgan, Dyfed Pension Fund

Minute Taker

Alwen Davies, Members' Liaison Officer

1 APOLOGIES

Cllr Bryan Apsley  
Cllr John B Hughes  
Ken Finch, Treasurer  
Jane Honey, Fire Officers' Association

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 None.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2021 were approved as a correct record.

4 FIREFIGHTERS PENSION SCHEMES – UPDATE REPORT

4.1 The Pensions Manager led Members through the report which informed members about the scheme membership, together with updates on:

- Horizon Scanning
- North West Regional Fire Officers Pension Group meeting
- Sargeant – Immediate Detriment Cases
- Overview of FPS Bulletins and Circulars

- 4.2 The report gave details of current member levels in the firefighters' pension schemes. It was noted that as of September 2021, 56 employees were not enrolled within a firefighter pension scheme, this comprises of 14 whole-time and 42 retained duty employees.
- 4.3 Members were reminded that one complaint is currently being considered by the Pension's Ombudsman (PO). The Pensions Manager had been advised by the PO that the complaint was to be assigned to an adjudicator and that the timescale for a decision to be made is between three to four months.
- 4.5 **Horizon scanning – HMRC Managing Pension Schemes (MPS) service** – it was noted that, as requested by the HMRC, the Service is taking steps to enrol onto the MPS service, which will be available from 19/10/21. However, to date obtaining access to the HMRC gateway is proving difficult and the Service is liaising directly with HMRC to resolve the issue.
- 4.6 The new MPS service will eventually replace the currently used Pension Schemes Online service and will allow Pension Scheme Administrators to view their pension scheme(s) eligible for migration, provide the latest information on their pension scheme(s) and migrate them to the Service and file accounting for tax returns for their pension schemes (replacing the current service) from Spring 2022.
- 4.7 **North West Regional Fire Pensions Officer Group (NWRPOG) Update** – NWRPOG consists of pension representatives from Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside and North Wales. The aim of the meetings is to provide updates, offer support, to share ideas and experiences. The meetings are chaired by the Technical Manager of the Local Pensions Partnership Administration and are held quarterly.
- 4.8 The NWRFPOG met via Zoom on the 22/09/21 during the meeting the Senior Fire Adviser of the LGA provided an update on current FPS issues. Following a recap of the contents of FPS bulletins issued over the last quarter the focus was on Transitional Remedy.
- 4.9 In relation to remedy the group were advised that template letters would be issued by the LGA within the week. Letters and packs produced by Greater Manchester would also be shared with the group.
- 4.10 **Sargeant – Immediate Detriment Guidance** - During the Fire Authority meeting in September approval was obtained to apply Section 61 of the Equality Act to immediate detriment cases subject to receipt of the LGA/FBU framework. The scheme administrator, Dyfed Pension Fund, has been advised of this position. Dyfed Pension Fund raised concerns regarding the workload arising in performing manual calculations and

sought assurance that only forecasts would only be processed for members who have provided confirmation of retirement.

- 4.11 Current members who are within scope of immediate detriment have been personally contacted and invited to an update session. In consultation with FBU colleagues, further sessions are planned.
- 4.12 Following receipt of the MOU and IDF on 08/10/21, the next step is for FRA adoption of the framework. As previously mentioned, following the FRA decision, further details about the framework and steps taken by the FRA to implement the framework will be presented to the LPB members during the next LPB meeting.
- 4.13 **FBU representatives agreed to convey the message to their members about not requesting a calculation for speculative purposes.**
- 4.14 **RESOLVED to note the report.**

## 5 THE PENSION'S REGULATOR (TPR) MODULES 5, 6 AND 7

5.1 The Pensions Manager delivered a training session on the following modules:

- Providing information to members and others
- Resolving internal disputes
- Reporting breaches of the law.

5.2 Members were reminded that in accordance with the Local Pension Board terms of reference all members must complete the full course within six months of joining the Board. In addition, members recommended and agreed during the meeting of 2 May 2019 that the learning would be repeated every two years. Therefore this presentation aimed to satisfy the agreed recommendation by providing a re-cap of modules 5, 6 and 7 of the TPR.

5.3 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

## 6 DYFED PENSION FUND UPDATE (SCHEME ADMINISTRATOR)

6.1 Martin Morgan presented his report which provided information on the following areas:

- Regulatory Update
- E-communication
- GMP reconciliation
- Appeals
- Breaches
- My Pensions Online
- Data quality
- Workflow.

6.2 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

7 SCHEME ADVISORY BOARD

7.1 ACFO MacArthur informed members that the SAB had not met recently and that the next meeting is scheduled for 4 November 2021.

8 RISK REGISTER – RISK AREA 3 FUNDING GOVERNANCE

8.1 Members were reminded that the Pensions Regulator recommends that Local Pension Board members consider and review their Risk Register during each Board meeting. The risk register for funding governance was presented for review at this meeting.

8.2 It was noted that the biggest risk was the WG funding in respect of employer contributions and the lack of guarantee that it will be available every year. Members were comfortable with the work being done to control it and keep this risk under review.

8.3 **RESOLVED to note the Funding Governance Risk Area of the Register for 2021/22, and that any changes or updates be incorporated into the register and the revised document published at the end of the year on the Authority's website.**

9 MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO THE FRA

9.1 The next meeting of the FRA will be on 20 December. ACFO MacArthur confirmed that the following items will be on the agenda:

- IDRPs amendments
- Immediate Detriment FBU/LGA Framework

9.2 It was agreed that no other issues needed to be referred to the FRA.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 None.