



Minutes

Local Pension Board

Date: 12 January 2018

Time: 11.30am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Paul Drinkwater (Scheme Member representative), Councillor Peter Harrand (in the chair) (Scheme Manager representative), Bryan Smith (Scheme Manager representative) and Stuart Wilson (Scheme Member representative)

In Attendance: Ian Brandwood – Chief Employment Services Officer/Technical Adviser, Claire Johnson – Technical Adviser, Dan Stacey – Technical Adviser

Apologies: None

18 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 July 2017 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

19 Urgent items

None.

20 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of disclosable interest in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

22 Local Pension Board Activity Report

Members considered the report of the Chief Employment Services Officer concerning performance in key areas for the period 1 June to 20 November 2017. During this period four members opted out of the pension scheme, citing financial reasons.

2.8 of the report should read 1 IDRPs complaints at stage 1 and at stage 2.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That members be provided with a report detailing the pension options the new recruit firefighters have chosen; and
- c) That members be provided with a list of staff who are not currently in the scheme.

23 Pension Ombudsman – update

Members received a report of the Chief Employment Services Officer which presented three sample cases reviewed by the Pension Ombudsman as follows;

- Mr S – Misquote/misinformation
- Mr H – Misquote/misinformation
- Mr N – Incorrect Calculation – West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue case

The case of Mr N was discussed in further detail, confirming the Ombudsman did not uphold the complaint and no further action was required by the Authority.

RESOLVED

- d) That the report be noted; and
- e) That members be provided with full details of sample cases relating to WYFRS and a summary of others cases which are of interest, with the full case notes attached as an appendix.

24 Legislative update

Members considered a report submitted by the Chief Employment Services Officer and an update was given in relation to:-

- Employee Contributions Holiday 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme
- Transitional Protections – legal challenge
- Ill health injury compensation pension – tax issues
- GDPR – overview of key changes and stats from WYPF
- Voluntary Scheme Pays – Paper presented to Executive Committee

It was noted that the Voluntary Scheme Pays paper was approved at the Executive Committee on 22 November 2017.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

25 Scheme Advisory Board Update

The Chief Legal and Governance Officer submitted a report which advised of the current position with regard to the operation and associated costs of the national Scheme Advisory Board.

It was reported the Scheme Advisory levy has decreased by 15p per member to £5.67.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

26 Scrutiny and Review

One of the requirements of the Local Pension Board is members undertake to scrutinise areas relevant to the administration of the Firefighters Pension schemes. The Chief Employment Services Officer submitted information on the following areas for scrutiny and review;

- annual benefits statements
- discretions
- continued professional development records for Local Pension Board members

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That the continued professional development records for the Local Pension Board members were accurate.

27 Draft Local Pension Board Annual Report 2017 – 18

A draft Local Pension Board Annual Report 2017 – 18 had been submitted by the Chief Legal and Governance Officer for consideration prior to formal ratification by the Human Resources Committee of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

The reported date in section 3.2 requires amending.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report 2017 – 18 be submitted for formal ratification by the Human Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 April 2018.

28 The Pensions Regulator – view on progress

Members received a report of the Chief Legal and Governance Officer which invited consideration of a report published by the Pensions Regulator in August 2017 in respect of key findings of the 2016 survey relevant to the administration and governance of Firefighter Pension Schemes; of which 98% of Fire Rescue Services responded.

Members were invited to consider how the results compared to the performance of West Yorkshire Fire and Recues Local Pension Board.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That the risk register provided by the Pension Board be adopted and included as a standing agenda item at future meetings.

29 West Yorkshire Pension Fund – Key Performance Indicators

Members considered the report of the Chief Employment Services Officer and noted the performance to date.

Members noted that pension estimate targets were only met 79.43% of the time and this was due to insufficient resources at West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF). WYPF will administer 13 (currently 8) Fire Rescue Authority pension funds in the future, we have been assured they intend to increase the resources to meet this demand.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

30 Proposed changes to constitution of the Terms of Reference

Members received a verbal presentation from Paul Drinkwater following training received by the Pension Advisory Board.

Proposals were made by the Scheme Representative Paul Drinkwater and supported by a majority of the Board that the Local Pension Board meets on a quarterly basis in future; the tenure of the Chair be increased to 2 years instead of 1 year as it currently stands; and scheme member representatives reapply for the post every 3 years as opposed to every 12 months as at present.

Training for the Local Pension Boards is included in the levy paid; however travel expenses are often incurred. It was proposed by the Scheme Representative Paul Drinkwater and supported by a majority of the Board this could be delivered at FSHQ and union representatives could be invited.

It was agreed a WYPF representative should be invited to future meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED

- a) The Human Resources Committee be invited to consider the proposed changes below and determine whether it wishes to support reference to the Full Authority for possible approval.
 - i. the frequency of meetings of the Local Pension Board be increased to four times in each municipal year
 - ii. the tenure of the Chair and vice chair be increased to two years as appropriate, and
 - iii. Scheme Member representatives be appointed for a three year term, and

- b) That a timetable for Local Pension Board member training be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

Chair