

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3 JULY 2017 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

22. PRESENT

Councillor	Left	
S Bradwick (Chair)		Rhondda Cynon Taf
D Ali		Cardiff
H Joyce		Cardiff
M Phillips		Cardiff
G Stacey		Rhondda Cynon Taf
V Smith		Monmouthshire
D King		Retained Firefighters' Union
R Prendergast		Prospect
A Psaila (arrived at 1055 hrs)		Fire Brigades Union

OFFICERS PRESENT: ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services; DCO S Chapman – Monitoring Officer; Mr C Barton – Treasurer; Mr C Powell – Deputy Monitoring Officer; Mr M Malson – Head of Human Resources.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Each Member declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in each agenda item which affected their Authority.

24. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair nominated Cllr V Smith to take the role of Deputy Chair of the Local Pensions Board. All Members present concurred, and Cllr Smith was duly elected Deputy Chair of the Local Pensions Board.
- **Firefighters' Modified 2006 Scheme**

The Chair informed Members that under the Firefighters' Modified 2006 Scheme, the HMRC requested Fire & Rescue Authorities to confirm whether pension arrears were subject to PAYE, and requested a response on the following by 31 July 2017:

- Potential PAYE errors on the payment of pension arrears;
- Tax relief on the pension contributions paid in order to count historical service.

The Chair confirmed that Officers are progressing the request.

- **Temporary promotion and pensionable pay**

The Chair advised Members that the various firefighters' pension schemes identify the constituent parts of pensionable pay in different ways. Through the Service's trade union consultation mechanism, acknowledgement has been received which recognises that the 1992 Scheme members who are temporarily promoted will have that arrangement as pensionable; while the 2015 Scheme members will not. There is no discretion in the 2015 Scheme to enable temporary promotion to become pensionable.

- **Annual Pension Statements – Year ending March 2017**

The Chair informed Members that last year, due to the introduction of a new payroll system partly way through the year, firefighters' annual benefit statement production experienced difficulties, and the pension administrator had to report a delay to the Pensions' Regulator. The Pensions' Regulator decided not to take action over the breach.

This year, the Service has provided its pension administrator with a complete data set to allow it to facilitate the printing and distribution of annual benefit statements before the end of August deadline.

25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Local Pension Board meeting held on 3 July 2017 were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

The Chair noted for the purpose of the new Board Members that the last meeting of the Local Pension Board scheduled for 30 March 2017 was not quorate and did not therefore take place.

26. LOCAL PENSION BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATED AUTHORITIES

The Director of People Services provided Members with an overview of the Board's Terms of Reference and Delegated Authorities, which will assist in the provision of scrutiny on all aspects of the Authority's constituent pension schemes.

Following a question and answer session, the Director of People Services confirmed that Members will be in receipt of training, advice and on-going support to assist in fulfilling the obligations of the Board.

The Director of People Services also advised Members of the legal requirement to provide an equal balance of Trades Unions and Employers' side representation, which made it unnecessary for all Members to attend

each meeting. Attendance at meetings will be determined in advance of each meeting by prior liaison with Members.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the Local Pension Board's Terms of Reference and Delegated Authorities.

27. FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES – SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

The Director of People Services informed Members that the Public Service Pension Act 2013 (PSPA 2013) set out the arrangements for the creation of schemes for the payment of pensions and other benefits. The PSPA 2013 gives power to the Pensions' Regulator to operate a system of independent oversight of the operation of these schemes.

Under the terms of the PSPA 2013, the Fire & Rescue Authority is the recognised Scheme Manager and as such needs to identify through which mechanism it intends to fulfil its role and obligations.

This report provides an update on the matters relating to the Fire & Rescue Authority's management of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 (FPS 1992); the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) 2007 (FPS 2007); and the new Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) 2015 (FPS 2015).

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to accept the information contained in the report and agreed to consider monitoring reports on an annual basis.

28. FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME 1992

The Director of People Services presented a report which identified the background to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 and sets out the key features and significant points for the information of the Local Pension Board Members.

A question and answer session ensued regarding firefighter fitness levels, and Members were advised of the support available in maintaining these levels through the Service's Occupational Health Unit.

RESOLVED THAT

28.1 Members agreed to note the key features of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992.

28.2 Members acknowledged the Board's responsibility in relation to the governance and scrutiny for the Fire & Rescue Authority's management of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992.

29. FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME 2007

The Director of People Services presented a report which identified the background to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2007, as it is commonly called, and sets out the key features and significant points for the information of the Local Pension Board Members.

RESOLVED THAT

29.1 Members agreed to note the key features of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2007, as appended to the report.

29.2 Members acknowledged the Board's responsibility in relation to the governance and scrutiny for the Fire & Rescue Authority's management of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2007.

30. FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME (WALES) 2015

The Director of People Services presented a report which identified the background to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) 2015, as it is commonly called, and sets out the key features and significant points for the information of Local Board Members.

RESOLVED THAT

30.1 Members agreed to note the key features of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) 2015, as appended to the report.

30.2 Members acknowledged the Board's responsibility in relation to the governance and scrutiny for the Fire & Rescue Authority's management of the newest Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) 2015.

31. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Director of People Services presented the Forward Work Programme for municipal year 2017/18. Members were informed of their entitlement to request matters to be included in the Forward Work Programme for future attention by the Local Pension Board.

RESOLVED THAT

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for 2017/18