

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2015 AT
SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

10. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left
S Bradwick (Chair)	Rhondda Cynon Taff
R McKerlich	Cardiff
B Morgan	Rhondda Cynon Taff
V Smith	Monmouthshire
H Jakeway	Association of Principal Fire Officers
D King	Retained Firefighters Union

APOLOGIES:

J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent
A Psaila	Fire Brigades Union

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:- ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services, Mr C Barton - Treasurer, Ms L Mullan – Senior Accountant, Mr C Powell – Deputy Monitoring Officer

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

12. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair extended a warm welcome to CFO Jakeway, who was attending his first Local Pension Board meeting on behalf of the Association of Principal Fire Officers.

The Chair also informed Members that unfortunately he would be unavailable to attend the Local Pension Board Training event at Llandrindod Wells on 4 November, 2015, as he had to attend an urgent Local Authority meeting, and would therefore submit his apologies.

13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Local Pension Board Committee meeting held on Monday, 2 July, 2015, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

The Chair and Councillor Morgan also informed Members and Officers that they had been advised by the Wales Audit Office that they should no longer 'note' reports and recommendations.

14. LOCAL PENSION BOARD TRAINING PLANS

The ACO People Services informed Members that the purpose of the report was to outline the training requirements for Members of the Local Pension Board.

RESOLVED THAT

- 14.1 Members agreed to receive the proposed basis for the development of a Training Policy as outlined in the report.
- 14.2 Members agreed that Officers should programme a table for approval at the next Local Pension Board meeting.
- 14.3 Following discussion on Members attendance and concerns with missing essential training opportunities, Officers agreed to consider arranging the training events on the same day as the Local Pension Board Committee meetings where possible.
- 14.4 Officers also agreed to ensure that Members who were unable to attend the Welsh Government Training event on 4 November, 2015, would be updated on the working knowledge and familiarisation of Pension Schemes, their roles and responsibilities as Local Pension Board Members, and other relevant Pension Board matters.

15. FIREFIGHTERS PENSION FINANCING MECHANISM

The Senior Accountant presented a report to provide Members with an outline of the funding arrangements for the Firefighters Pension Schemes.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session, Members agreed to receive the report.

16. COMMUTATION FACTORS: PENSIONS OMBUDSMAN DETERMINATION

The ACO People Services informed Members that the purpose of the report was to inform Members of the Local Pension Board about the current position concerning the Pensions Ombudsman's determination in relation to the GAD v Milne case, and the impact on commutation lump sums made between 2000 and 2006.

RESOLVED THAT

- 16.1 Following discussion, Members agreed to receive the terms of the Pensions Ombudsman's determination, and the actions that were taking place to discharge his instructions.
- 16.2 Members agreed that they expected the Rhondda Cynon Taff to complete the associated payments in December 2015.

17. PENSIONS REGULATOR – PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION BOARDS

The ACO People Services informed Members that the Public Services Pension Act (PSPA) 2013 set out the new arrangements for the creation of schemes for the payment of pensions and other benefits. The PSPA 2013 gave powers 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 was the recognised Scheme Manager, and as such needed to identify through which mechanism it intended to fulfil its role and obligations in the future.

The Pensions Regulator had recently published a 'Quick Guide to Public Service Pension Boards', and the purpose of the report was to bring the guide to the attention of the Local Pension Board Members.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to receive the content of the 'Quick Guide to Public Service Pension Boards', as published by the Pensions Regulator.

18. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The ACO People Services presented the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED THAT

- 18.1 Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for the Local Pension Board Committee 2015-2016.
- 18.2 Officers agreed to further populate the Forward Work Programme following the Welsh Government Local Pension Board training event.

Following discussion on any conflict of interest issues with the HR & Equalities Committee, Officers assured Members that as the Local Pension Board Committee was in effect a 'sub-committee' which reported to the full Fire & Rescue Authority, there was no conflict of interest for Members of the Local Pension Board Committee.

19. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT (PART 1)

There were no items of urgent business.