

FRS Local Pension Board Meeting



NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23rd September 2019

FRS Meeting Room 215 at 10:30hrs

Present: Adrian Murphy, Andy Lowe, Tara Atkins, Dan Jadzevics, Tristian Ashby, James Diston, Jon Lacey, Jon Simpson, Giles Sparkes

1. Apologies

Jo Weir & Paul Mace

2. Declaration & Registration of Interests, Gifts & Hospitality

N/A

3. Urgent Matters

N/A

4. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

Minutes and Actions from previous meeting have been agreed and completed by relevant parties.

5. Scheme Advisory Board Presentation – Tristian Ashby

See attached Presentation for further details.

Tristian Ashby joined the LPB to present and discuss the role and purpose of the Scheme Advisory Board, and how the Board links and supports LPB's.

The SAB's Primary Function is to provide the Secretary of State with advice on the desirability of making changes. The Board consists of 7 employee representatives, 7 employer representatives, pension experts and legal advisers.

The 3 sub committees of the SAB are Admin & Benchmarking, Cost Effectiveness and LPB Effectiveness, all 3 sub committees have their own Terms of Reference.

Work to date includes the ABS Survey, LPB Questionnaire and Identifying Good Practice.

The SAB are supportive of Joint Boards, however there are currently no Joint Boards within the UK with Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire currently undergoing the process of creating a Joint Board.

Looking forward with the Cost Cap breach, McCloud & O'Brien Cases, it is suggested that there will be a new scheme created which will address all current matters, however this is unconfirmed.

The LPB commented about the challenges surrounding knowledge, understanding of subject matter and expertise in the field. The WSF&R LPB work towards a 4 yearly cycle for members, therefore giving members opportunity to learn and develop.

6. Administration Procedures and Performance

See Fire Pension Board Report and Appendices for further details.

Tara Atkins provided an update to the Board regarding Pension Administration with support from Andy Lowe.

The membership numbers and activity were shared with the LPB as Appendix A, this shows Active, Deferred's and Pensioners across all 4 schemes for the previous 3 months.

An update was given regarding the Booth Case, Exit Cap Consultation, Annual Benefit Statements and GMP Reconciliation, the final report regarding GMP Reconciliation is due early 2020.

A decision will be reached as to whether a breach should be registered due to incomplete Annual Benefit Statements. It was noted that Hampshire are currently working on the missing statements, a data improvement plan is in place and Sabrina would have the final say as to whether a breach is logged.

Hampshire County Council have maintained their 100% Record regarding performance and case completion, further details can be found in Appendix C.

The Member Portal currently has an update of 17.77%, however this is expected to increase due to the recent mailing and availability of the 2019 Annual Benefit Statements.

Action, Andy & Tara to discuss and arrange Webinar training regarding Member Portal which would then be made available to all Firefighters.

Action, Steve Clack to be engaged with and to take forward included details about Member Portal with training and induction material for recruits.

An overview of all recent LGA Fire Scheme Bulletins was provided, more information can be found in Appendix D.

Finally, the key items for the Scheme Year Cycle are Employer Data, Mandatory Scheme Pays and Annual Benefit Statements.

Appendix F & G provide a copy of the research report and policy regarding TPY Public Service.

7. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference have been unanimously agreed by the Board.

Amendments were made to Annex A during the meeting which detailed the Appointment Process. The Board agreed that member representatives would comprise of 1 from each union rather than publishing vacancies and attempting to recruit.

Employer representatives have been updated to replace 'The Assistance Chief Fire Officer' with 'Elected Member'.

Action, Sreya to ensure that Giles Sparkes and Jo Weir have been sent invites for the December and 2020 LPB Meetings.

8. **New Policy Changes**

The Fire Discretions Policy has been updated in September 2019 so that it incorporates the move of Administration from Capita to Hampshire County Council.

See attached Policy for further reference.

9. **Confidential Items for Discussion**

N/A

10. **Training Schedule Review**

The Board agreed that this is an accurate representation of the training completed by the Board during the year.

Action, Tara to consider the possibilities of providing bespoke training in respect of Pensions for those joining the Board. It was mentioned that a new Board member should complete the Online TPR Training as a minimum.

Action, all Board members to send their TPR Online Training Log to Adrian so that the training schedule can be updated.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

9 December 2019.

12. **LPB Training Session (12:30 to 13:30)**

The Board's training session consisted of the TPR Self-Assessment Tool and the 5 S's in Governance.

Appendix

Item 5 – Scheme Advisory Board Presentation – Tristian Ashby

Presentation to LPBs

Item 6 - Administration Procedures and Performance

Fire Pension Board Report, September 2019

Appendix A – Membership Numbers

Appendix B – Restricting Exit Payments in the Public Sector, Consultation Process

Appendix C – Caseload Performance

Appendix D – LGA Fire Scheme Bulletins

Appendix E – Draft Scheme Advisory Board Minutes, June 2019

Appendix F – TPR Public Service Research, 2019

Appendix G – TPR Public Service Research Summary, 2019

Item 7 - Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Item 8 - New Policy Changes

WSF&RS FPS2015, FPS & NFPS Employer Discretions Policy Item 10 -

Training Schedule Review

Training Schedule