

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2018 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

43. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left
S Bradwick (Chair)	Rhondda Cynon Taff
V Smith (Deputy Chair)	Monmouthshire
D Ali	Cardiff
J Harries	Rhondda Cynon Taff
K McCaffer	Vale of Glamorgan
D King	Retained Firefighters Union
R Prendergast	Association of Principal Fire Officers

APOLOGIES:

H Joyce	Cardiff
A Psaila	Fire Brigades Union

ABSENT:

M Phillips	Cardiff
L Jones	Fire Brigades Union

OFFICERS PRESENT:- A/ACO M Malson – Director of People Services, DCO S Chapman – Monitoring Officer, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mr M Prior – Chair of Firefighters Pension Scheme Wales Scheme Advisory Board

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

45. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WELCOME ADDRESS**

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mr Michael Prior, Chair of the Firefighters Pension Scheme Wales Advisory Board, and to newly appointed Member Councillor Harries.

- **ESSENTIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

The Chair stressed the importance of Local Pension Board Members completing the required training which was a statutory requirement to ensure that they had the requisite knowledge, skills and understanding to fulfil their obligations associated with their role on the Board.

However, the Chair was disappointed to learn that there were three Members who had still not completed the required training even though Officers had arranged a dedicated training day which Members did not attend.

Members were informed that the training session would be rescheduled to take place before the next Local Pension Board meeting, and that they should make every effort to attend otherwise it would be necessary to consider whether those Members had the capacity to undertake their role on the Board.

Following a proposal by the Chair, Officers agreed to send a formal letter to Members reminding them of the importance of attending Local Pension Board training sessions.

46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Local Pension Board Committee meeting held on 16 October, 2017, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

47. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE WORK AND ROLE OF THE WALES SCHEME ADVISORY BOARD

The Chair of the Firefighters Pension Scheme Wales Scheme Advisory Board provided Members with a verbal overview of the work and role of the Wales Scheme Advisory Board.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the verbal overview report on the work and role of the Wales Scheme Advisory Board.

The Chair thanked the Chair of the Firefighters Pension Scheme Wales Scheme Advisory Board for addressing the Members and for providing an informative overview on the work of the Wales Scheme Advisory Board.

48. ALL WALES SCHEME ADVISORY BOARD - UPDATE

The Acting ACO People Services informed Members that the Scheme Advisory was a body established by Welsh Government to oversee the various Firefighters' Pension Schemes in Wales. The purpose of the report was to appraise the Local Pension Board of the most recent Scheme Advisory Board's discussions which could impact on the Fire & Rescue Authority's role as Pension Scheme Managers.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session on data security issues and an arrangement fee of £3 per Firefighter member paid to the Local Government Association, Members agreed to accept the report and the information contained therein.

49. SCHEME ADVISORY BOARD – RESPONSE TO WELSH MINISTERS ON THE GOVERNMENT ACTUARY'S DEPARTMENT (GAD) 2016 VALUATION ASSUMPTIONS

The Acting ACO People Services presented a report which provided Members of the Local Pension Board with an update on the Scheme Advisory Board's formal response to Welsh Ministers to all of the Government Actuary Department's 2016 Valuation Assumptions.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the Scheme Advisory Board's response to Welsh Ministers.

50. WELSH GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES IN WALES – DECEMBER 2017

The Acting ACO People Services presented a report which updated Members on the Welsh Government's Consultation on Amendments to the Firefighters' Pension Schemes in Wales, which would allow surviving spouses or civil partners of qualifying Firefighters to retain their entitlement to a survivor's pension should they remarry or enter into a new civil partnership.

The consultation also covered proposed minor amendments to the 1992, 2007, and 2015 Schemes.

RESOLVED THAT

50.1 Members agreed to note the content of the consultation document, and the formal response made on behalf of the Fire & Rescue Authority.

50.2 Members agreed to receive a further report on the outcomes of the consultation process, and amendments to the Firefighters' Pension Schemes once they were finalised.

51. PENSIONS TAX AWARENESS SEMINAR

The Acting ACO People Services presented a report which updated Members on the Local Government Association Pension Tax Awareness Seminar in respect of the tax implications for Firefighters' Pension Scheme members of Annual Allowances (AA) and Lifetime Allowance (LTA), and Fixed and Individual Protections.

RESOLVED THAT

Following lengthy discussion on the importance of providing employees with awareness rather than advice on tax issues relating to individuals' pensions, Members agreed to accept the report and the information contained therein.

52. SUMMARY OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Acting ACO People Services informed Members of the work that the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Local Pension Board had undertaken during the Municipal Year 2017/2018.

RESOLVED THAT

52.1 Members agreed to note the work of the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Local Pension Board for 2017/2018.

52.2 Officers agreed to send the Chair a copy of the Forward Work Programme for the new Municipal Year 2018/2019.

53. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Acting ACO People Services presented the Forward Work Programme for 2017/2018.

RESOLVED THAT

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for 2017/2018.

54. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)

There were no items of urgent business for Members to consider.