

## **SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 23 JANUARY 2023**

#### **24. PRESENT**

##### **Councillor**

P Drake (Chair)	Vale of Glamorgan
D Naughton	Cardiff
D King	Fire & Rescue Service Association
G Tovey	Fire Brigades' Union
M Alexander	Fire Brigades' Union
I Traylor	Pensions Service Director, Pensions, Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC
R Alexander	Standards Committee Member (Observer)

##### **Apologies:**

R Prendergast	Association of Principal Fire Officers
G Thomas	ACO Corporate Services
J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent

##### **Absent:**

C Elsbury	Caerphilly
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**OFFICERS PRESENT:** - ACO A Reed – Director of People Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mrs S Watkins - Deputy Monitoring Officer

#### **25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **26. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chair's announcements.

#### **27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Local Pension Board Committee held on 17 October 2022 were read and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

## **28. REVIEW OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND UPDATE REPORT ON PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL BENEFITS STATEMENT**

The Service Director, Pension, RCT advised Members that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between South Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council sets out the manner in which certain duties and responsibilities are expected to be carried out. A key element of the SLA is the reporting on actual performance activity against the agreed key delivery Service Standards. The report presented included an update on key activity undertaken during the reporting period and shares the performance data for the period 01 April 2022 to 30 November 2022.

He further advised that he would circulate the most up to date version of Appendix 1 as the comments fields require updating.

Gareth Tovey queried whether the Board need to review the data at Appendix 1 due to the complex nature of McCloud and O'Brien, as the data appears positive and the number of queries received by FBU representatives is not visible.

The Service Director, Pensions, RCT explained that some stats are mirrored by types of requests and in relation to issues raised by FBU members and the timelines in place there have been occasions, due to the complexity of the issue, that targets have not been met. He further advised that current indicators are positive and reviewed and measured frequently. Not every contact with FBU members is measured and a 100% target is not met each time due to the complexity surrounding some cases.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

28.1 Members noted the performance data contained within Appendix 1 and the overview contained within Appendix 2.

28.2 An updated version of Appendix 1 to be circulated to Members.

## **29. FIREFIGHTER PENSIONS – REMEDYING AGE DISCRIMINATION**

The Director of People Services reported to Members that in July 2021, the Fire & Rescue Authority, as Scheme Manager, agreed to provide pension options for those individuals who were considered to be in scope for Immediate Detriment (ID), ie those who are currently in service but intending to retire and have provided notice of their intention to do so. This policy decision came into effect from October 2021. The report provided an update on the number of ID cases that have been processed since October 2021. It also provided updates in relation to the Service's communication activity.

The Director of People Services wished to thank the Pensions Service Director and his team for the support provided with Category 1 cases, which have been quite complex in nature.

Councillor Naughton queried if it would be made clear to individuals that the figures calculated and provided by GAD are not the final figures. The Director of People Services assured Councillor Naughton that individuals will be provided with a disclaimer advising the figures are indicative and not final agreed figures.

Mr Tovey raised the potential of lack of information surrounding McCloud. The Director of People Services agreed to review usage and feedback from colleagues and share the headline information with the Board.

In relation to McCloud, Mr Tovey queried when commencement of the Board's work is likely to commence. The Director of People Services advised that Welsh Government are in the process of working with their lawyers and UK Government on a suite of documents which are currently not for wider circulation. A working group has been set up with representatives from across Wales. The documentation will be circulated to the Board, when available.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

29.1 Members noted the content of the report.

29.2 Usage and feedback to be included on the next agenda.

## **30. THE PENSIONS REGULATOR RETURNS**

The Director of People Services presented the report which included the completed public service pension scheme returns that were submitted to the Pensions Regulator in relation to the 1992, 2007 and 2015 Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the returns which were shared for information and awareness purposes.

## **31. PUBLICATIONS, UPDATES, INFORMATION (STANDARD ITEM)**

The Director of People Services shared a number of publications, updates and information relating to pensions matters with the Board.

In relation to potential industrial action, the Treasurer confirmed that individuals will be required to pay the full amount of contributions and this will be made clear in communications with staff.

In relation to O'Brien the Director of People Services confirmed that a communications exercise has taken place and Members are submitting proformas prior to the exercise taking place.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members reviewed and noted the publications which were shared for information and awareness purposes, as attached at Appendix 1-5.

### **32. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL PENSION BOARD 2022/2023**

The Director of People Services presented the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023.

In relation to the Scheme Advisory Board, the Director of People Services confirmed a meeting has not taken place since the previous Local Pension Board meeting therefore, there was no further update to report upon. The next meeting is due to take place next week and an update will be provided at the next Board meeting.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the content of the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023.

### **33. MEMBERS TRAINING SESSION**

The Director of People Services advised Members that she was unable to field attendance to the training session organised by Welsh Government in September 2022. She confirmed that the expectations of LPB Members are to gain knowledge, provide feedback, challenge and review processes, with the purpose of assisting the Scheme Manager with compliance and effective and efficient governance.

Mr Tovey suggested, with the complexity of certain schemes, to include them on the forward work programme to ensure a real assessment is undertaken, similar to a health check. Assistance would be required on the legislative side of this.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

33.1 Members agreed to review and provide feedback from the online Training Package.

33.2 A copy of the forward work programme to be shared in advance of future meetings for assurance and transparency around the Matthews and McCloud schemes.

**34. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE  
CHAIRPERSON DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)**

There were no items of business that the Chair deemed urgent.