

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

IN QUORATE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2023

13. PRESENT

Councillor

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| P Drake (Chair) | Vale of Glamorgan |
| D Naughton | Cardiff |
| J Morgan | Blaenau Gwent |
| Catherine Black | Pension Service Manager, Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC |

Apologies:

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| C Elsbury | Caerphilly |
| G Tovey | Fire Brigades Union |
| D King | Fire & Rescue Service Association |

Absent:

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| P Davies | Fire Brigades Union |
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Observers:

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| Matthew Brushett | Audit Wales |
| Charles Rigby | Audit Wales |

OFFICERS PRESENT: - ACO A Reed – Director of People Services; Mrs S Watkins, Deputy Monitoring Officer, Ms K Jeal, Accountant (People Services); Mrs J Thompson, Pensions

14. QUORUM NOT ESTABLISHED

The Chair noted that quorum was not established. She agreed that the meeting of the Board would continue to allow Members to hear, for information purposes only, the items outlined on the agenda. Members noted that whilst discussion is permissible, official business cannot be transacted and no decisions made.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

16. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chair's announcements.

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Due to the absence of a quorum, approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2023 was deferred to the next meeting.

18. REVIEW OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Pension Service Manager of RCT CBC 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 2023 to August 2023.

RESOLVED THAT

- 18.1 Members noted the performance data contained within Appendix 1 of the report.
- 18.2 Members noted the relevant pension administrative overview and update included at Appendix 2 attached to the report.

19. PUBLICATIONS, UPDATES, INFORMATION (STANDARD ITEM)

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

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the publications which were shared for information and awareness purposes, as attached at Appendices 1-4.

20. FIREFIGHTER PENSIONS – UPDATE ON CURRENT NATIONAL EXERCISES: MCCLOUD AND O'BRIEN

McCloud

In July 2021, the Fire & Rescue Authority, as Scheme Manager, agreed to provide pension benefit 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 had provided notice of their intention to do so. This policy decision came into effect from October 2021, although those retiring post 1 October 2023 will be processed under an Immediate Choice principle, as per the Firefighters Pension (Remediable Service Wales) Legislation 2023. The ACO People Services provided an update on the number of ID cases that have been processed between 19 October 2021 and 30 September 2023 and confirmed next steps in relation to remedying all cases of age discrimination.

O'Brien

An additional exercise will commence in October 2023 which re-visits the first options exercise (RDS MOD/Matthews) undertaken between 2013 and 2015, which offered all On Call staff, with service prior to July 2000, the ability to buy pension scheme membership, based on new legislation that came into effect, based on determined discriminatory practices. The initial exercise took 18 months to implement, and the same timescales have been placed on the second exercise commencing October 2023. Preparatory work is currently underway.

Members recognised the enormity of both projects and thanked officers and the Pensions Teams for the work undertaken, alongside business as usual.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the content of the report.

21. SCHEME ADVISORY BOARD

The Director of People Services provided Members with an update on the latest meeting of the Scheme Advisory Board, which included both Pension Schemes and discrimination remedies. An evaluation of presumptions was presented by GAD on mortality rates and other family statistics. Potential changes to employer contributions rates effective in 2024 were noted, together with the implications if the uptake of O'Brien is high. A GAD update is awaited and a watching brief will be maintained.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the update.

21. UPDATE ON PENSION CONSULTATIONS

The Director of People Services informed Members that the Service has responded to Welsh Government's consultations on the 2007 Pension Scheme and 2007 Compensation Scheme which closed on 13 October 2023.

In addition, the 'Home Office McCloud/Sergeant Remedy (Retrospective)' Government response was appended to the report consider under agenda item 7 (minute no 20 above).

22. LOCAL PENSION BOARD RISK REGISTER

The Director of People Services presented the report as an opportunity for Members to consider the management of pensions risks, as identified by the Local Pension Board, and the development of a Risk Register for the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Local Pension Board.

In view of the importance of this matter and the fact that the meeting was not quorate, Members requested that the item be placed high on the agenda of the next meeting.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the contents of the report.

23. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL PENSION BOARD 2023/2024

The Director of People Services presented the Forward Work Programme for 2023/2024.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the content of the Forward Work Programme for 2023/2024.

24. 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.