**SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 21 JANUARY 2019 AT**

**SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS**

**80. PRESENT**

S Bradwick (Chair) Rhondda Cynon Taf

V Smith Monmouthshire

J Harries Rhondda Cynon Taf

D King Fire & Rescue Services Association

R Prendergast Fire Leaders Association

**APOLOGIES:**

K McCaffer Vale of Glamorgan

**ABSENT:**

A Psaila Fire Brigades Union

L Jones Fire Brigades Union

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** ACO M Malson – Director of People Services; Mr C Barton – Treasurer; Mrs S Watkins – Deputy Monitoring Officer; Ms K Jeal –Accountant (Payroll Team); Mrs S Glover - Pensions Liaison Officer

The Chair advised that apologies had been received from Councillor K McCaffer, who expressed her regret that she could not attend the meeting as she is attending to a family matter.

**81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**82. CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements from the Chair.

**83. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Local Pension Board meeting held on 22 October 2018 were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

**84. VOLUNTARY SCHEME PAYS IN THE FIREFIGHTERS’ PENSION SCHEMES**

The Director of People Services outlined the requirements on the Fire and Rescue Authority in respect of provisions for individuals in the Firefighters’ Pension Schemes (FPS) to make payment of a tax charge if they breach the HMRCs standard Annual Allowance (AA) limit, and advised of the two methods for assisting these individuals to pay any tax charge incurred, vis Mandatory Scheme Pays (MSP) and Voluntary Scheme Pays (VSP).

The Chair expressed his concern in relation the time it is taking to agree the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT), and offered to meet, as the Chair of the LPB, with officers at RCT. The Director of People Services confirmed that a meeting is being held at the end of this week, where hopefully agreement can be reached. He agreed to take the concerns of the Chair to the meeting. It was agreed that, once the SLA has been agreed, a special meeting of the LPB be convened, with the SLA being the only item.

**RESOLVED THAT**

84.1 Members resolved to recommend to the Fire and Rescue Authority the introduction of the Scheme Pays Procedure with effect from 1 April 2018; and

84.2 Once the SLA has been agreed with RCT, a special meeting of the LPB be convened, with the SLA being the only item

**85. THE PENSION REGULATOR – PUBLIC SERVICE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SURVEY 2018**

The Director of People Services provided members with a copy of the Service’s return to The Pensions Regulator – Public Service Governance and Administrative Survey 2018, for their information.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members accepted the report and noted the content of the survey return.

**86. THE PENSIONS REGULATOR – FIREFIGHTERS’ PENSION SCHEME RETURNS FOR 2017-2018**

The Director of People Services presented the Scheme Returns for Members’ information.

The Chair noted that within the entries, Councillor Kathryn McCaffer’s title is slightly different, and requested that for consistency, the entries be amended to reflect the same. Mr King also commented that the RFU no longer exists, and this should be changed to reflect the new title of ‘Fire and Rescue Services Association’.

**RESOLVED THAT**

86.1 Members noted the details of the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme Returns 2017-18 as made by the Fire Authority’s Pension Administrators, RCT Pensions; and

86.2 The changes noted above be made to the Scheme Return.

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

The Director of People Services apologised, advising that the wrong report had been included with the agenda and circulated the correct report to Members. The Director of People Services gave an in depth update on the Scheme Advisory Board Wales’ (SABW) formal response to Welsh Ministers to all of the Government Actuary Department’s 2016 Valuation.

Members were asked to note the response from the Independent Chair of SABW to the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government & Public Services, and the recommendations contained within.

**RESOLVED THAT**

87.1 Members noted the content of the report; and

87.2 await response from the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government & Public Services to the Independent Chair of SABW.

**88. FIREFIGHTERS’ PENSION FINANCING MECHANISM (YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019)**

The Treasurer gave an outline of the funding arrangements for the Firefighters’ Pension Schemes.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the content of the report.

**89. REPORT ON LOCAL PENSION BOARD WEBSITE**

Members received a presentation from Kim Jeal and Sarah Glover in relation to the Pensions portal which will be available via the intranet, for staff to access. A number of options will be available to staff, including information on their relevant Pensions Schemes, also, details of the Local Pensions Board (LPB). The Chair requested that details of the LPB Members be included, also Members suggested the inclusion of information on Pensions Fraud and LGA bulletins.

The Chair thanked Sarah Glover for producing an excellent piece of work.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the detail within the presentation.

**90. SUMMARY OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of People Services presented the summary of the LPB work Programme for the municipal year 2018/19. He commented that a lot had been achieved throughout the year. He also confirmed that three meetings a year will be retained, with the option to call special meetings, as required.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

Members noted the work of the Local Pension Board.

**91. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

The Director of People Services presented the Forward Work Programme for 2017/18, and gave an explanation of some areas of note.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for 2017/18

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

There were no items deemed urgent by the Chair.