

DRAFT

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority Pension Board, held at the Leicester City Council, City Hall, Charles Street, Leicester on Thursday, 28th September 2017.

PRESENT

Mr P Bedford CC (Chair)

Cllr A Thalukdar

Mr G Vaux (Fire Brigades Union)

Mr I Howe (Pensions Manager, LCC / Scheme Administrator)

Ms A Greenhill (CFA Treasurer / Scheme Manager)

Mrs J Green (Minutes)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr K McKee, FBU Regional Representative.

2. Minutes of the Local Pension Board meeting held on 8th February 2017

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the Local Pension Board meeting held on 8th February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Key Performance Indicators

The Board received the metric data for Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire for the quarter ending 30 June 2017.

The Board compared all the data from the three regions and discussed what benefits could be gained in the future by having one joint regional board. It was noted that similar information is provided to each region and it was recognised that working towards a mutual process was supported as a possible approach to be taken as a way forward.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the information presented.

4. Scheme Administrators Update

Ian Howe (IH), Pensions Manager, Leicestershire County Council provided a verbal update.

The following matters were discussed:

Annual Benefit Statements

IH confirmed that following last years' software issues all was in order this year and active and preserved members received their Statements in August before the statutory deadline. 3 active members who transitioned from the 92 scheme to the 15 scheme during the statement run did not get a statement in August and will receive

theirs in October. The Board considered this and decided it was not a material breach so did not need to notify the Pension Regulator.

Contribution Holiday Payments

IH confirmed that 45 cases had been finalised and there was nothing further outstanding to date.

GMP Reconciliation

IH confirmed GMP reconciliation continues for pensioners and preserved members and is on track for the 31 December 2018 deadline. Actives members GMP work has not yet commenced.

Annual Allowances

IH informed the Board that work is currently ongoing in order to meet the deadline of 6 October 2017.

AG confirmed Leics Fire Authority have agreed to allow voluntary scheme pays.

Tender Update

IH confirmed the procurement tender document had been signed off in respect of the Pensions Administration System. It was anticipated that the process would be complete and the successful bidder announced in a couple of months at which time, the Board would consider receiving a demonstration of the on-line facility.

Data Quality and GDPR May 2018

IH informed the Board that the Pensions Regulator was working towards data quality and record keeping. IH is looking to encourage employers in implementing monthly contribution postings ahead of Members being able to access the information online. Leicestershire Fire is already engaging with the Pension Team on this improvement.

IH confirmed that LCC is looking at GDPR and pension implications where providing a service.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the information provided.

5. Scheme Manager's Update

Alison Greenhill (AG), Scheme Manager provided a verbal update.

Pensionable Allowances

AG reiterated that as Scheme Manager, it was her responsibility to make decisions regarding the pensionable status and allowance payments. It is the intention to review the status of all allowance payments to ensure compliance following the Norman V Cheshire ruling. It is also intended to complete the work on ensuring that there is a consistent approach to allowances across Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. This would strengthen the approach of aiming to have a joint pension board.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the update information provided.

6. Conflict of Interest

There were none to note.

7. Impact on Annual Allowance Changes

The Board received a report informing it of the changes to the annual allowance and of the Scheme Manager's decision to agree a discretion to use Voluntary Scheme Pays for scheme managers.

AG confirmed she would discuss the matter further with IH.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the contents of the report.

8. Date of next meeting

RESOLVED:

The Board agreed that future meetings would take place following each Combined Fire Authority meeting. The next meeting to be held on Monday, 11th December 2017.

Future Meetings:

7th February 2018

20th June 2018

9. Any other business

Graham Vaux informed the Board that he had been made aware of Karl McKee's imminent retirement. He confirmed he would discuss the matter with his regional colleagues and hoped to propose another member before the next meeting to ensure future meetings are quorate.

28th September 2017
10:55 am – 11:45 am

CHAIR