



## Minutes of the meeting of the Local Pension Board held on 11 July 2023 via Zoom

### PRESENT

#### Employer Representatives:

Cllr John B Hughes

Dafydd Edwards, Treasurer

Gareth Owens, Clerk to the Authority and Monitoring Officer

#### Employee Representatives:

Stuart Millington, Fire Leaders Association

#### Advisors

Helen MacArthur, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Beccy Marfleet, Pensions Officer

Martin Morgan, Dyfed Pension Fund

#### Minute Taker

Lisa Allington, Executive Assistant

### 1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was noted that ACFO Fairhead had now retired and, as such, a new Chair of the Local Pension Board was required.

ACFO Millington was nominated as Chair for the remainder of the financial year. This nomination was seconded and agreed unanimously.

### 2 APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were offered and accepted from Lee Williams, Fire Officers Association and Stuart Stanley, Fire Brigades Union. It was noted that Cllr Bryan Apsley, Jane Honey, Fire Officers Association and Matt Ryan, Fire Brigades Union were absent without apology.

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest to record.



#### **4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.
- 3.2 It was agreed that ACFO Helen MacArthur would ensure that Cyber Risk was included on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) Risk Register.
- 3.3 It was noted that the third point under paragraph 9 should be numbered 9.3.

#### **5 PENSION FUND ACCOUNT**

- 5.1 ACFO MacArthur presented the Pension Fund Account paper, which aimed to provide Members of the Local Pension Board (LPB) with an update on the draft pension fund account for 2022/23.
- 5.2 It was clarified that the valuation of pension funds was an all-Wales valuation and was driven by the Scheme Advisory Board. A formal valuation was carried out every four years, but an annual valuation was also carried out for accounting purposes and this often resulted in varied fluctuations.
- 5.3 **RESOLVED to:**
- i) note the 2022/23 unaudited pension fund accounts; and**
  - ii) note the timing of the external audit.**

#### **6 UPDATE REPORT – SCHEME MEMBERSHIP**

- 6.1 Beccy Marfleet presented the Firefighters Pension Scheme Update Report which aimed to provide the Local Pension Board (LPB) with an update on current issues relating to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.
- 6.2 It was noted that there was a large volume of work involved in dealing with the remedy process in order to ensure that employees within the scope were able to claim what they were entitled to.
- 6.3 It was further commented that the accuracy of the data was vital.
- 6.4 **RESOLVED to:**
- i) note the content of the report.**



## **7 UPDATE REPORT – ADMINISTRATOR**

- 7.1 Martin Morgan presented the Service pensions administration report – March 2023, which aimed to provide a progress update on a number of projects being simultaneously undertaken, along with providing information on relevant issues in the administration of scheme benefits.
- 7.2 It was confirmed that the Dyfed Pension Fund were still awaiting system updates from the Government's Actuary Department in relation to the new scape rates in order to be able to carry out calculations for transfers.
- 7.3 It was agreed that the Service would carry out a promotional drive on encouraging relevant staff to log into My Pension Online (MPO), and to check the personal information held within that database.
- 7.4 **RESOLVED to:**  
**i) note the content of the report**

## **8 UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTERS**

- 8.1 ACFO MacArthur presented this report, which had been written to provide members of the LPB with an update following the Welsh Government's consultation on remedy.
- 8.2 **RESOLVED to**  
**i) note the ongoing legal matters relevant to the Firefighters Pension Scheme and the current status; and**  
**ii) note the potential impact of both legal challenges on the forthcoming actuarial valuation.**

## **9 RISK REGISTER**

- 9.1 ACFO MacArthur presented the Risk Register report, which provided Members of the Local Pension Board (LPB) with an update on risk management arrangements.
- 9.2 Members' attention was drawn to the Risk Register included on page 42 of the report and the highest risks were highlighted to Members. It was noted that Cybercrime was the highest operational risk on the register at the current time.
- 9.3 It was asked if the ICT Department kept a record of penetration attempts, and responded that they did.



9.4 An amendment to the McCloud and Sargeant risk was requested in order to reflect that it related to funding.

9.5 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) **consider and approve the assessment of the funding risks associated with the firefighters' pension scheme.**

## **10 TRAINING**

10.1 ACFO Helen MacArthur delivered a training presentation on Managing Complaints and Disputes.

## **11 SCHEME ADVISORY BOARD FOR WALES UPDATE**

11.1 ACFO MacArthur gave a verbal update on the Scheme Advisory Board for Wales.

11.2 Members were advised that a meeting of the Scheme Advisory Board was scheduled for 28 July and that more information relating to both the 2020 valuation assumptions and the age discrimination remedy would be available following that meeting.

## **12 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE – FOR APPROVAL**

12.1 The amended Terms of Reference were presented to LPB Members for their approval.

12.2 Members agreed that the membership of the LPB required expansion to ensure that all areas were fully represented at each meeting.

## **13 MATTERS TO BE ESCALATED TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY (FRA)**

12.1 It was agreed that the amended Terms of Reference would be taken to the Full Authority in order to seek approval to expand the LPB membership to ensure full and fair representation at each meeting.

## **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13.1 The next meeting would be held on 24 October, 2023 at 09:00hrs.

Meeting closed 14:10