



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**

**Minutes of the Local Pension Board (LPB) meeting on 22 October 2020 at 10:00 hours. This was an online meeting held in Microsoft Teams.**

**Members of the Local Pension Board**

Mr Ian Cotter	Employer Officer Representative (Chair)
Cllr Richard Biggs	Employer Member Representative (Vice Chair)
Cllr Peter Hutton (Substitute)	Employer Member Representative
AM Andy Cole	Employer Officer Representative
Mr Sean Frampton	Scheme Member Retiree Representative
Mr Gerard Senior	Scheme Member Retiree Representative
Vacant	Scheme Member Employee Representative
Vacant	Scheme Member Employee Representative

**Other staff:**

Carol Swan, Pension Scheme Manager  
Sadie Price, HR Business Partner and Employee Relations Manager  
Mike Rees, Employee Relations Officer  
Jackie Blight, Employee Relations Advisor  
Steph Howard, Democratic Services Support

**Guest:**

Helen Scargill, West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF)

**20/14 Welcome**

20/14.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

**20/15 Apologies**

20/15.1 There were no apologies received.

**20/16 Conflicts of Interest**

20/16.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any declarations of conflicts of interest. There were no disclosures.

**20/17 Minutes of the meeting of the Local Pension Board held on 5 March 2020**

20/17.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the meeting of 5 March 2020.

20/17.2 **RESOLVED: The minutes were approved without amendment.**

**20/18 Review actions from all Local Pension Board (LPB) meetings**

20/18.1 The Chair took Member through the actions from previous meetings which were discussed and updated. Action 42 was closed as this data is now included in the LPB Risk Register document. Action's 43 and 44 were in progress; training has been organised for sessions at the January and the LGA for the April 2021 meetings, and Action 45 was still in progress as recruitment was unsuccessful.

20/18.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**

**20/19 LPB Risk Register**

20/19.1 The Chair took Members through the risks listed in the register.

20/19.2 The Chair brought to the Members attention risk number two which is *Failure to ensure legislation, rules and guidelines are interpreted correctly*. It was commented that this risk was a concern with regards to the Age Discrimination Remedy and the complexity of the various elements of the Firefighter Scheme and Remedy solutions, the different interpretations of these and the legal aspects. This risk has been reflected and scored in the risk register.

20/19.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the risks and comments.**

**20/20 Scheme Manager update**

20/20.1 Scheme Manager, Carol Swan gave an update on LGA Bulletins 33 - 37.

20/20.2 It was confirmed that all Pension Bulletins had been emailed to Board members by HR. These bulletins had been consolidated into this report and it was confirmed whether each item was for information only or if action was required. Where action was required, updates had been provided. Ian Cotter enquired about the 2020 valuation, Sean Frampton enquired about the valuations at the end of the month, and it was confirmed that the pension team

were on track to implement all actions, including the completion and submission of the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) 2020 valuation data collection spreadsheet by the 31 December 2020.

20.20.3 Some key pieces of information to Members were also highlighted. There were no dispute resolutions raised and no reported breaches. Members were updated on the recruitment of two LPB employee scheme member representatives where, unfortunately, there was a disappointing response.

20.20.4 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**

## **20.21 West Yorkshire Pension Fund update**

20/21.1 Helen Scargill from WYPF gave an update to the Board Members. This update was on the following areas: Fire Communications meeting – 7 September; Fire Technical Community – 22 September; the Annual Conference 22-23 September; Fire Quarterly Client Meeting – 15 July; Remedy consultation, SAB response; FPS Bulletins – nos. 35 and 36; LGA Training sessions; Monthly Client Reports – July, August and September; Regulations amendments; Valuation 2020; deferred benefits statements, annual benefit statements and pension savings statements; GMP Reconciliation; Monthly Returns; KPI report; TPR Scheme Returns – Data Scores and Data Improvement Plan.

20/21.2 Members were advised that there had been a restructure at WYPF and this had created several new posts and once in post those individuals would support with project work i.e. Remedy and Matthews.

20/21.3 Cllr Richard Biggs enquired if the approach to project work would be mirrored by DWFRS. Ian Cotter replied that extra resources were probably required, although the requirement would need to be analysed. Helen Scargill also outlined the charging for the WYPF for their additional work, which would be spread on a cost per member basis, with additional detail to follow.

20/21.4 Helen Scargill gave detail on the implications of remedy on fire authorities and its response to the LGA and stated that deferred benefit payments had been made.

20/21.5 Helen Scargill took Board members through the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) reporting figures and Savings Statements (Appendices B & C)

20/21.6 Client reports had also been sent out and client returns had been made on time.

20/21.7 Ian Cotter referred to the effect of limits on annual allowances and how it was trickling down in the Service and the implications this could cause.

**20/21.8 RESOLVED: Members noted the update and comments**

**20/22 Firefighters' Pension Scheme pension overpayments**

20/22.1 Please see Exempt Minute post.

**20/23 Training and development (verbal)**

20/23.1 The Chair confirmed that Helen Scargill from WYPF would be carrying out training at the 13 January 2021 meeting and the Local Government Association (LGA) were scheduled to provide a training session in April 2021.

**20/24 LPB Work Programme**

20/24.1 The Chair advised Members that the annual programme of work for quarter 1 was on track.

20/24.2 The Chair requested confirmation from WYPF that the October quarter 1 (AFT) tax charges had been reported and paid to HMRC.

**20/24.3 ACTION: Helen Scargill to obtain confirmation and report back to the Chair that the October quarter 1 (AFT) tax charges were reported and paid to HMRC.**

**20/25 Items agreed with the Chair (AOB)**

20/25.1 No further agenda items were suggested by Members.

**20/26 Date of Next Meeting**

20/26.1 The next Local Pension Board meeting will take place on 13 January 2021 at 10am

**20/27 Exempt Business**

23/27.1 In accordance with Section 100A (2, 3 & 4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to move to exclude the press and public for the business specified below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public. The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

**PART 2**

**20/28 Firefighters' Pension Scheme pension overpayments**

20/28.1 Ian Cotter gave details on the circumstances of overpayments in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, which had been refunded to the Home Office in in 2019/2020. Details on individual circumstances of those receiving the overpayment were also provided and views sought on pursuing repayment. Ian Cotter noted the views of the Board on each case, including the legal implications and the balancing of reclaiming costs versus benefit.

**20/28.2 RESOLVED:**

**That in respect of all cases, the Local Pension Board delegate authority to officers to pursue with the relevant pension administrators to reclaim the overpayments, and then to reflect on what proportionate and reasonable steps could be taken to pursue a proportionate amount of the overpayment from the individuals depending on the outcome of the claim with the administrator.**

Meeting closed at 12.10hrs

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_