

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSIONS BOARD

Friday 19 January 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Local Government Pensions Board held at Committee Room – 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall, Friday 19 January 2024, at 1:45pm.

Present

Members:

Mark Wheatley (Chairman)
Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman)
David Pearson
Christina McLellan
Paul Wilkinson

Officers:

Kate Limna	-	Chamberlain's Department
Graham Newman	-	Chamberlain's Department
Sarah Port	-	Chamberlain's Department
Blair Stringman	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Members raised concerns regarding a draft code of conduct consultation which had been circulated for comments. Members were not aware that being a member of a political party was a disclosable matter. The Town Clerk advised that Member's should always disclose if there were any interests. It was suggested this issue was discussed outside of the Committee.

3. MINUTES RESOLVED –

- That the public minutes and non-public summary of the Local Government Pensions Board meeting on 25 September 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
- That the public minutes of and non-public summary of the Pensions Committee meeting on 12 September and 21 November 2023 be noted.

Matters arising:

A Member asked for an update regarding the meeting between this Board and the Pensions Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs. The Member also had subsequent questions regarding their relationship and their responsibilities as a Board Member, as these were unclear and raised corners over accountability. Furthermore, the Member advised that they were unable to locate the Terms of Reference of the Pensions Committee on the Corporation's website. The Chairman confirmed that the Board's Terms of Reference were on the Corporation's website and would be discussed in the following item: these set

out the Board's role around compliance and oversight. The Chairman also added that the joint meeting between the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of this Board and the Pensions Committee would take place the following week. The Chamberlain confirmed that the role of the Local Government Pensions Board was to scrutinise, and it did not have any decision-making powers, however, questions could be put back to the Pensions Committee. The Pensions Committee had only been established in recent years, and prior to that the Financial Investment Board managed the Pension Fund investments. The Pensions Committee had taken over-all decision-making responsibilities in respect of pensions investments and administration.

Regarding the Pensions Committee minutes, a Member raised a question regarding the McCloud Remedy, and it being given the highest risk on the risk register and queried when this Board would receive the risk register. The Chamberlain explained that the Pensions Committee agreed to receive the risk register every six months and the last iteration of this was received in September. It was expected that this particular risk would be reduced when this was next presented to the Committee and the Board. The Chamberlain also clarified that the reason this was a high risk on the register was that at that point in time, the formal regulations around the implementation of the McCloud Remedy had not been passed.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk with the Board's Terms of Reference (ToR), for annual review.

The Chamberlain advised Members that the ToRs required a few amendments as follows:

- Under Constitution it should read "Two will be Members of the Court of Common Council (who may not be Members of the Pensions Committee or the Corporate Services Committee.)" With reference to the Financial Investment Board being removed as the Board no longer exists and the Establishment Committee has been re-named as Corporate Services Committee.
- Any reference to the Local Government Pensions Board be referred to in its full name, as there is a Police Pensions Board, and this would avoid any confusion.

RESOLVED – That

- the terms of reference of the Board, be approved (following any amendments) for submission to the Court in April 2024, and that any further changes required in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

5. PENSIONS SCHEME - ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain providing information on the scheme administration details that have been reported to the Pensions Committee since the last Local Government Pensions Board meeting on 25 September 2023.

The Deputy Chairman queried the number of Members affected by the McCloud judgement since 2014. The Board noted that there had been 1100 retirements since 2014, however, not all would have been eligible for the McCloud Remedy. The Pensions Team were assessing the eligibility of all those who had already retired prior to the implementation of McCloud and would be contacting them in due course in respect of their options. In addition, a Remedial Service Statement must be issued to all eligible active and deferred members by the 31 August 2025 to provide details of their pension scheme benefits as a result of the Remedy. At the next meeting, there would be some further clarity and data for the Board to consider. The Deputy Chairman enquired as to what would happen if a pensioner were to pass away before they had been provided with their Remedy options. The Chamberlain advised that remediation must take place regardless of the status of the individual and in the event that the pensioner passes away before a Remedy decision has been made the Authority would initially look to make contact with those who may be eligible for a survivor benefit. Since October 2023, there had been 96 retirements, all of which had been processed with reference to the provisions of the McCloud Remedy.

RESOLVED – that the report be received, and its content noted.

6. **PENSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT**

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain which summarised the reports and decisions made by the Pensions Committee on the public agenda at their meetings on 12 September and 22 November 2023.

The Chamberlain provided the Board with the following updates following its last meeting:

- Two new Members have joined the Pensions Committee bringing the vacancies down to two. They will attend their first meeting in March.
- Bite size training from Barnet Waddingham (Enlighten!) has been rolled out to Members of the Board and to Members of the Pensions Committee to complete at Members' own leisure. The Pensions team would monitor Members' completion and whether they had passed, and this would be included in reports going forward.
- The City Fund and Pensions Fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 were signed off in November 2023.
- Auditors were looking at finalising the financial statements for the year ending 31st of March 2023, which would be completed in the coming weeks.
- The Grant Thornton audit findings report for the years ended 31 March 2022 and 2023 went to Audit and Risk Committee and Pensions Committee. The auditors (Grant Thornton) reported that there were no major issues with the pension fund accounts.
- On the Pension Fund annual report for 2022-2023, there was a statutory deadline for publishing this on the 1st of December following the scheme end year. As the City Fund accounts (which include the Pension Fund accounts) for the year ended 31 March 2023 had not been signed off by this date, the Pension Fund Annual Report 2022/23 has been published in draft form.

A Member queried as to whether the links for the training had been sent to Members yet, as they had not received anything. Other Members confirmed they had received the link. The Chamberlain advised that they would follow up with correspondence to all Members to ascertain this had been received and asked Members to check their junk inbox – the e-mail link would have come from Barnet Waddingham directly rather than the City Corporation officers.

RESOLVED – that the report be received, and its content noted.

7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items that relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting in line with requirements of the Public Services Pensions Act 2013 relating to pensions scheme governance, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions to not apply.

10. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That

- The non- public minutes of the Local Government Pensions Board meeting on 25 September 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
- The non- public minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting on 12 September and 21 November 2023 be noted.

11. **PENSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT (NON-PUBLIC)**

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain which summarised the reports and decisions made by the Pensions Committee on the non-public agenda at their meetings on 12 September and 22 November 2023.

12. **LONDON CIV UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain providing an update on the London CIV (LCIV), the asset pool operator for London LGPS Funds and in which the Pension Fund is invested in.

13. **PENSIONS SCHEME - ADMINISTRATORS' UPDATE (NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX) RECEIVED.**

14. **PENSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT (NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX) RECEIVED.**

15. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no non-public questions.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2.46 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Blair Stringman
Blair.Stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk