

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSIONS BOARD

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

Minutes of the meeting of Local Government Pensions Board held as a virtual public meeting and livestreamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZEVvZLP8lw>.

Present

Members:

James Tumbridge (Chairman)
David Pearson

Christina McLellan
Jon Averbs

Officers:

Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain
Kate Limna	- Chamberlain's Department
Jeff Henegan	- Chamberlain's Department
Matt Mott	- Chamberlain's Department
Christopher Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department
James Gibson	- Chamberlain's Department

In attendance

Annemarie van Bochove (for item 5)	- Barnet Waddingham
David Crampton (for item 5)	- Barnet Waddingham

The Chairman welcomed David Pearson to his first meeting of Local Government Pensions Board following his appointment as a Scheme Member Representative.

The Chairman also acknowledged this would be Jon Averbs last Local Government Pensions Board meeting before his impending retirement at the end of the year. The Chairman thanked Jon for his valued contribution to the Board and for participating in the work of the board throughout his time as a Board Member and wished him well for the future.

The Chairman referred to a presentation at item 5 on the agenda and proposed this be moved to the non-public part of the agenda given the nature of the presentation and the likely discussion that would follow, which the Board agreed to.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mark Wheatley and Martin Newnham.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous Local Government Pensions Board meeting held on 8 June 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Board considered a report of the Town Clerk which set out outstanding actions from previous meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

5. **PRESENTATION - GOVERNANCE TRAINING**

RESOLVED: That the Board agreed to consideration of this item being moved into the non-public part of the agenda on the grounds that the presentation and any potential discussion items would likely involve the disclosure of private or sensitive information relating to the Responsible Authority or Scheme Members.

6. **THE CITY CORPORATION'S PENSIONS SCHEME - UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain updating on a range of topics in relation to the City Corporation's Local Government Pensions Scheme (The Scheme).

The Chairman welcomed the update and confirmed that he did not consider there to be any issues or items for officers to raise that were not already otherwise covered on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

7. **THE CITY OF LONDON: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - RISK REGISTER**

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain providing the latest Local Government Pension's Board Risk Register and allowing an opportunity for the Board to review the existing risks and actions presented.

The Board noted that, further to the discussion at the previous Local Government Pensions Board meeting, the risk register had been updated to include a risk relating to the McCloud judgement. It was further explained how this risk would remain a movable feast with the regulations being subject to legislation that had not yet been finalised. The risk would need reviewing and updating on a regular basis.

The Chairman referred to concerns being raised at the last meeting regarding the McCloud judgement and the agreement that it would be appropriate for communications going to Scheme Members updating them. The Chairman explained that on this occasion, having considered the latest information from relevant sources following the meeting, officers were of the view that it would not be appropriate to communicate with Scheme Members at this time. The

Chairman stressed how he considered it important for the Board to be given an explanation for the decision reached by officers, which was why he asked for an update note to be circulated between meetings explaining why no form of communication had been circulated to Scheme Members. The Board noted the Pensions Team continues to monitor the risk.

RESOLVED: That Members approve the risk register as presented.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - MCCLLOUD UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain providing them with an update on four key areas relating to McCloud.

In response to whether there was any indication on timescale or what would be happening next, the Board noted there was not much to be able to update on at this point in time, with next steps being dependent on Parliament moving forward with the Public Services Bill and further legislation or regulations being put in place. In the meantime, reference to the McCloud judgement would be included as a general update in all newsletters, annual statements and with relevant information that was available being published on the Pension Fund website.

Board Members commented on the difficulty in finding relevant information on the Pension Fund website relating to McCloud and it was agreed this would be looked at to ensure relevant information was prominent on the website and accessible.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

9. LGP BOARD - PENSION FUND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES 1 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain providing an annual summary of Financial Investment Board activity of the Pension Fund.

The Board noted that the City Corporation had published its first Taskforce for Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Report that covered all City Corporation financial investment funds. There was a stated target of reaching net zero on all financial investment activity by 2040, with work ongoing at the City Corporation that would impact on Pension Fund investment activity.

The Chairman questioned whether this stated aim was aspirational and would require the approval of Court of Common Council and Members. The Chamberlain explained that the Climate Action Strategy had been approved by Court of Common Council, with the various underpinning elements going through different Committees and the TCFD report having been through Finance Committee and agreed to allow its release and publication in advance of COP26.

The Chairman acknowledged the Board were not responsible for investments but suggested that where changes were being made that it would be helpful if the Committees and Boards responsible for investments could keep this Board

abreast of any proposed changes. This would allow for the Board to remain joined-up, understand any changes and also allow an opportunity to add value offering their steer and input on the proposed pace of change.

It was agreed that an appropriate action be worked up and included on the outstanding action list, which the Chairman welcomed in ensuring the Board does not lose sight of this.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Target Operating Model - The Chairman referred to previous discussions on this item and his correspondence with the Town Clerk on the issue, with officers now happy with where it has landed and with an update note having been circulated to Board Members between meetings explaining the position.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the previous Local Government Pensions Board meeting held on 8 June 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

14. PENSION FUND - DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain presenting the draft Pension Fund Statement of Account.

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

PRESENTATION - GOVERNANCE TRAINING

At this point in the meeting, the Board received governance training that had been moved from item 5 on the agenda into non-public session.

The meeting closed at 2.28pm

Chairman

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