

POLICE PENSIONS BOARD

Tuesday, 8 October 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Police Pensions Board held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)	Helen Isaac
John Todd (Deputy Chairman)	Tim Parsons
Alexander Barr	

City of London Police Authority:

Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Matt Mott	- Chamberlain's Department
Graham Newman	- Chamberlain's Department

City of London Police Force:

Carl Tomlinson	- Financial Services Director
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1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 12 June 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to the apologies of Helen Isaacs being recorded.

4. OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding outstanding references and the following points were made.

2/2019/P – Procurement Due Diligence and Market Research

- The Chamberlain noted that this item of work was currently paused and that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

6/2019/P – Recruitment of Scheme Member

- The Town Clerk noted that the recruitment advertisement closed on 16 October 2019, and that an update on interested candidates would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting.

9/2019/P – Training Modules

- The Chamberlain agreed to contact Members individually to clarify which training modules remained to be completed ahead of the April 2020 deadline.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

5. TRAINING PRESENTATION - COMMUTATION LUMP SUMS AND UNAUTHORISED PAYMENTS

Members received a training presentation from the Chamberlain on Commutation Lump Sums and Unauthorised Payments and the following points were made.

- In response to a question, the Chamberlain confirmed that some officers had been moved on to the 2015 scheme from earlier schemes and would therefore be affected by the McCloud judgement.
- In response to a question, the Chamberlain replied that no records were kept on reasons as to why some officers had chosen to opt out of their pension scheme. Such officers remained eligible to opt back in. If officers left the scheme and re-joined within five years, the final salary link would be maintained.
- Members felt that a communication should be made to those officers who had opted out that their final salary benefits would be retained should they choose to re-join the scheme prior to April 2020. Members were clear that the Board was not providing pension advice, but rather ensuring that officers were clear on the implications of their choice(s) to opt in or out of the pension scheme. The Chamberlain agreed to write to the Commissioner to that effect (**14/2019/P**).
- A Member suggested that such a communication should also be incorporated into a next Pensioners' Newsletter.

6. POLICE PENSION SCHEME UPDATE

Members considered an update report of the Chamberlain regarding the City of London: Police Pension Scheme and the following points were made.

- The Chairman noted that in his view the statement that officers opting out of the scheme were obliged to sign was robust enough to make it clear to them of the significance of their decision.

- The Chamberlain confirmed that officers were free to return forms by post or by email.
- In response to a question, the Chamberlain commented that scheme members were generally moving towards online communication.
- In response to a question, the Chamberlain confirmed that transfer of pension rights to dependents was a straightforward process.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

7. THE CITY OF LONDON: POLICE PENSION SCHEME - REVISION TO THE RISK REGISTER

Members considered a report of the Chamberlain regarding the City of London: Police Pension Scheme – Revision to the Risk Register and the following points were made.

- The Chairman felt that Risk PSB 01 (Actuarial Data) should incorporate the risk that other Forces could potentially submit inaccurate data to the Home Office.
- In response to a question regarding Risk PSB 02 (Legislative Compliance) the Chamberlain explained that the current likelihood was scored highly as the Pensions Team was carrying a long-term vacancy which needed to be recruited to as soon as possible. Members suggested that the Chamberlain consider reducing the likelihood but increasing the impact of both this risk, and Risk PSB 03 (Pension Scheme Administration – Personnel).
- The Chairman noted that the target risk for Risk PSB 07 (Cyber Security) should match that of City of London Police Authority departments.
- The Chairman suggested that the pensions risk arising out of the McCloud judgement should be recorded within the City of London Police's financial risk planning **(15/2019/P)**.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

8. CITY OF LONDON POLICE PENSIONS BOARD - GOVERNANCE

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding City of London Police Pensions Board – Governance and the following points were made.

- Members noted that, to date, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Pensions Board had been appointed by the Police Authority Board, but that any delegation from either the Court of Common Council or the Commissioner to the Police Authority Board in pensions matters should be made explicit.

- Members felt that it would be appropriate for the Chairmanship of the Pensions Board to rotate annually between an Employer Representative and a Member Representative.
- Members noted that an explicit quorum should be adopted for the Board and felt a quorum of three where at least one Employer Representative and one Member representative was present was appropriate.
- Members felt that a maximum of 3 four-year terms (total 12 years) was an appropriate term of appointment.

RESOLVED, that subject to comments made, the proposed amended terms of reference of the Board be submitted to the Police Authority Board for consideration when that Board appoint its Committees for 2020/21 **(16/2019/P)**.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

11. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED, that under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

12. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding non-public outstanding references.

13. **THE CITY OF LONDON: POLICE PENSION SCHEME STATISTICAL DATA**

Members considered a report of the Chamberlain regarding the City of London: Police Pension Scheme Statistical Data.

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

There were no questions.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT THAT THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 1.04 pm

Chairman

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