



Minutes of a meeting of the Local Pension Board held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday, 4 December 2017.

PRESENT

(in the Chair)

Cllr. D. Alfonso
Mr. P. Bedford CC
Ms. D. Haller

Mr. D. Jennings CC
Ms. D. Stobbs

26. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

27. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

28. Questions asked by members.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

29. Urgent Items.

There were no items for consideration.

30. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting. No declarations were made.

31. Pension Fund Administration Report - July to September 2017.

The Board considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources regarding the performance of the Pension Section against its performance indicators. A copy of the report, marked '6', is filed with these minutes.

Following questions from members the following points were noted;

- The Pension Section had met the HMRC statutory deadline for Annual Allowance Pension Tax Statements for 2016/17. The Section continued to work with the Fund's employer bodies to work through the complexities of providing the necessary data accurately;

- Arrangements to replace the Authority's Pension administration system were ongoing. The Board would consider an update at its next meeting which would include details regarding the outcome of the tender exercise, the process by which the new provider's performance would be measured and the contract termination arrangements should the system's performance become a concern.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

32. Record Keeping- Data Improvement (Monthly Posting)

The Board considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided information relating to the Pension Sections data keeping and intended improvements in how it obtained and managed its information. A copy of the report, marked '7', is filed with these minutes.

The Director reported that one such improvement would be the request for employee pension data, information used to calculate members annual benefit statements and future benefits, to be sent to the Pension Section by the Fund's employing bodies on a monthly basis rather than annually which would enable data queries to be identified and resolved more efficiently.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

33. Risk Management and Internal Controls.

The Director of Corporate Resources presented a report, the purpose of which was to detail concerns relating to the risk management and internal controls of the Fund in relation to its administration. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes, marked '8'.

The Director reported that the Leicestershire Fund managed its own risks and presented a register of the associated risks annually to the Board as recommended under the Regulator's Code of Practice. He added that risks were scored based on impact and likelihood, with risks which accumulated a combined score of 15 or more being escalated within the Council for further investigation. All pension risks were currently scored below 15.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

34. Local Government Pension Scheme Complaints Procedure.

The Board considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which Informed members of the arrangements in place to manage formal complaints made by members of the fund concerning its administration. A copy of the report marked '9' is filed with these minutes.

The Board recognised the good work of the Pension Section to resolve the majority of complaints informally, resulting in only a small number of complaints against the Authority having to be escalated to formal Dispute Resolution Procedures.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

35. Brewster Ruling.

The Director of Corporate Resources presented a report concerning a recent ruling by the Supreme Court regarding access to a deceased members Northern Ireland Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) pension by a co-habiting partner and the subsequent implications for the administration of the Leicestershire Pension Fund. A copy of the report marked '10' is filed with these minutes.

The Director reported that the claimant, Ms Brewster, had originally been denied access to her co – habiting partner's Northern Ireland LGPS Pension due to the absence of a completed nomination form however the court ruled that Ms Brewster had been wrongfully discriminated against and a completed nomination form was not required for married or civil partner survivors.

Following the Brewster ruling the Department for Communities and Local Government had issued a letter dated 17 August 2017 concerning the implications on the England and Wales LGPS. The Leicestershire Pension Fund acted on this and subsequently identified one outstanding case which had now been settled. The Board noted that whilst the ruling had concluded there was no legal requirement for a co-habiting nomination form to be completed, the Pensions Section would continue to encourage fund members to do so for administration purposes.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

36. Date of next meeting.

Monday 12 March 2018 at 9.30am.

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