

Pensions Committee

21 June 2017

Report title	Annual Report of the Local Pensions Board	
Originating service	Pension Services	
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Recommendation for noting:

1. The Pensions Committee is asked to note the report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide feedback to the Committee on the work undertaken by the Local Pensions Board during 2016/17 and to meet the legislative requirement for producing an annual report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced the requirement to have a Local Pensions Board to assist in the good governance of the scheme.
- 2.2 The West Midlands Pension Fund created and implemented the board ahead of the deadline of 1 April 2015, and has since developed an appropriate training program, and workplan in consideration of matters relevant to the Fund and the role of the Board.
- 2.3 The board meets bi-annually and consists of 6 Employer and 6 Member representatives, a copy of the Board's work program for the 2017/18 year is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Throughout the last democratic year, 2016/17 the Board received one notice of resignation from its employer representatives. Appointment to that vacancy was completed in line with the policy and Paul Johnson has now been appointed.
- 2.5 Also in line with the policy the Board undertook recruitment to the member representative group, and received a re-nomination from the Unison trade union. Sharon Campion was re-appointed to the Board.

3.0 Attendance at meetings

- 3.1 Attendance at the meetings fell just short of the Fund's KPI (85%) at 75%. Where possible, training events are delivered on the same day as the meetings to enable efficiency in time with attendance at training events at 70%.
- 3.2 An overview of the Board membership and their attendance at meetings and training events over the year is provided in Appendix 2. Following his appointment to the Board on 1 June 2016, Councillor Bagri attended an induction course on 18 August 2016.

4.0 Training

- 4.1 The fund has offered a number of training opportunities for Board members and, where possible, training has been offered in conjunction with Pension Committee to develop and further relationships across the 2 groups.
- 4.2 All members are encouraged to complete at least 10 hours of self-study to include the pension regulator's toolkit. Attached at Appendix 3 is a copy the individual training hours for the Board.

5.0 Reports of the Pension Board

- 5.1 During 2016/17 the Board did not refer any matter to the Pensions Committee and continue to review the work of the Fund in areas of Data Quality/Record Keeping and continue to ensure the Fund has relevant policies and procedures in place.
- 5.2 Throughout the 2016/17 year the Board considered reports on the following topics
- Communication and Customer Engagement
 - Preparing for the General Data Protection Regulations and the changes
 - Employer performance
 - Actuarial Valuation process
 - Review of internal audit plan.

6.0 Costs

- 6.1 The cost of operating and supporting the Board has absorbed into the Fund governance budget and existing officer workload.

7.0 Forward plan for 2017/18

- 7.1 In considering the work of the Board going forward to ensure the continued good governance of the scheme, the following key areas have been highlighted
- Meeting legislative requirement for General Data Protection Regulations
 - Monitoring the effectiveness of the fund's Customer Engagement Strategy
 - Considering the outcomes of the Scheme Advisory Board, Local Pension Board survey and implementing any recommendations
 - Considering the outcome of the Scheme Advisory Board's Key Performance Indicator assessment, ensuring highlighted improvements are actioned.

8.0 Financial implications

- 8.1 As outlined in the report

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 The Fund is required to have a Local Pensions Board as set out in the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 which also requires the Fund produce an annual report on the work of the Board.

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 There are no equalities implications.

11.0 Environmental implications

11.1 There are no environmental implications.

12.0 Human resources implications

12.1 There are no implications

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

13.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 Public Service Pensions Act 2013

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/25/contents>

14.2 Report to the Pensions Committee 16 March 2016

<https://wolverhamptonintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=186&MId=4827&Ver=4>

15.0 Schedule of Appendices

15.1 Appendix 1

Pension Board work programme

15.2 Appendix 2

Attendance record

15.3 Appendix 3

Individual training hours for the Pension Board