

MINUTES

meeting: **PENSIONS JOINT CONSULTATIVE
PANEL**

date: **18 JULY 2012**

PRESENT:-

Councillor T Singh (Chair) - Wolverhampton City Council
Councillor Silvester - Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Martin - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillors Bateman, Bilson, Clarke, Heap and Reynolds
- Wolverhampton City Council

TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES:-

W Bond - UNISON
M Cantello - UNISON
A Maybury - UNISON
M Clift - UNITE
S Poole - UCATT
S Witton - UCATT

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

G Drever - Director of Pensions
M Crutchley - Head of Communications – West
Midlands Pension Fund
N Perrins - Chief Pensions Service Manager
M Fox - Democratic Support Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bains (Coventry City Council) and Turner (Wolverhampton City Council)

Wolverhampton
City Council



Declarations of Interest

1 There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

2 Resolved:-
 That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2012 be approved as a correct record.

Dates of Meetings 2012/2013

3 Resolved:-

 That it be noted that meetings of the Panel will take place at 1400 hours on the following dates:-

 19 September 2012
 5 December 2012

(NOTE: Members noted that the following 4 items had been considered by the Pensions Committee on 20 June 2012 and were submitted to the Panel for discussion with the Trade Union representatives)

Presentation – New LGPS Pension Scheme 2014 Proposals (CARE) and Employer Consultation

4 It was noted that this item had been considered at a special meeting of the Pensions Committee and Pensions Joint Consultative Panel held earlier today.

Pensions Member Services Management Report from 1 March – 30 April 2012 (Appendix 1/1)

5 Resolved:-

 That the report, providing information on the work undertaken by Pension Member Services and other operational matters during the period 1 March – 30 April 2012 be received.

New Member Information (Appendix 1/2)

 The Director of Pensions referred to a forthcoming training session for Committee Members on 24 July 2012, which would provide in-depth guidance on issues such as governance, investments and retirements and pension benefits. She added that further dates could be arranged as necessary and she also intended to organise a training session for Joint Consultative Panel Members.

 Malcolm Cantello (UNISON) suggested that representation by Trade Unions on the Investment Advisory Sub-Committee be increased

to 3. Martin Clift (UNITE) advised that it was customary for a retired Union representative to observe meetings of the Sub-Committee and that this place has been held by Ian Smith for a number of years. He suggested therefore that there is currently a vacancy for a trade union representative on the Sub-Committee.

6 Resolved:-

(a) That the report, providing a brief outline of the West Midlands Pension Fund, the management arrangements and special role of Committee Members in discharging their functions associated with relevant pensions regulations and legislation, and clarifying future training requirements, be noted.

(b) That the Pensions Committee be recommended to increase the number of trade union representatives serving on the Investment Advisory Sub-Committee to 3, thereby preserving the custom of having a retired Trade Union representative at Sub-Committee meetings.

LEAN Systems Update (Appendix 1/3)

7 Resolved:-

That the report, detailing progress on the introduction of a systems thinking approach to pension processes, be noted.

Corporate Governance Activity – June 2012 (Appendix 1/4)

It was noted that the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum had recently given consideration to the issue of shale gas fracking and Councillor Reynolds suggested that in cases where the Fund makes an ethical stance, this should be communicated to appropriate and interested organisations. The Director of Pensions referred to the work of LAPFF, adding that she regularly attends meetings along with the Chair of the Pensions Committee. She added that some of this activity and topics considered by the Forum could be added to the Fund's website if this was considered appropriate. The Director also responded to a question about the current Chair of the Forum.

8 Resolved:-

That the report, providing an outline of the current issues being raised by the Local Authorities Pension Fund Forum, and the West Midlands Pension Fund's proxy voting activity for the quarter, be noted.