

# MINUTES

meeting: **PENSIONS JOINT CONSULTATIVE  
PANEL**

date: **19 SEPTEMBER 2012**

## **PRESENT:-**

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

## **TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES:-**

M Cantello - UNISON  
M Clift - UNITE  
I Smith - UNITE

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-**

G Drever - Director of Pensions  
N Perrins - Chief Pensions Service Manager,  
Pension Services  
M Fox - Democratic Support Officer, Governance,  
Delivery

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ali (Walsall MBC) and Eling (Sandwell MBC)

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



**Declarations of Interest**

9                    There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes**

10                  Resolved:-  
                        That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2012 be approved as a correct record.

**Trade Union Representation – Investment Advisory Sub-Committee (Resolution 6b)**

Ian Smith (UNITE) referred to the history of representation by Trade Union representatives on the Sub-Committee, adding that, during the 1990's, it was agreed that a Retired Members' Representative (ie. someone who is in receipt of a pension from the Fund) serve as an observer representative on the then Superannuation Committee and the Investment Advisory Sub-Committee. In asking the Pensions Committee to increase Trade Union representation on the Sub-Committee from 2 to 3, it was suggested that this should more correctly read that "the Committee be recommended to increase the number of Trade Union Representatives serving on the Sub-Committee from 1 to 2, alongside the Retired Members' Representative".

11                  Resolved:-  
                        That resolution 6b of the minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Joint Consultative Panel held on 18 July be amended to read as follows:-

                        "That the Pensions Committee be recommended to increase the number of Trade Union Representatives serving on the Investment Advisory Sub-Committee from 1 to 2, alongside the Retired Members' Representative".

**Presentation – West Midlands Pension Fund - Logo**

12                  Stephen Levesley, Brand Co-ordinating Officer, attended the meeting to give a presentation on proposals for a new logo for the West Midlands Pension Fund. He detailed the steps in arriving at the new design and proposals to engage via a focus group with the 3 main membership groups, following which the findings of the group and a recommended course of action would be reported to the next meeting of the Pensions Committee.

In discussion, it was noted that 317 responses had so far been received, of which most had been in favour of the existing logo. Councillors at the meeting, however, were generally in favour of the need for the brand to be re-freshed and for the new design as presented at the meeting.

After responding to questions, the Chair thanked Mr Levesley for attending the meeting and he withdrew.

**Member Services and Operational Management Report –  
1 May – 31 July 2012 (Appendix 1/5)**

The Chief Pensions Service Manager submitted a report which detailed the work undertaken by Pension Member Services and other operational matters during the period 1 May – 31 July 2012.

13 Resolved:-

That the report, providing information on the work undertaken by Pension Member Services and other operational matters during the period 1 May – 31 July 2012 be received.

**Policy Statement for Administering Unclaimed Benefits (Appendix 1/6)**

The Chief Pensions Service Manager submitted a report which informed the Panel of the procedure taken by the Fund when they are unable to pay a benefit to a scheme member because they cannot be contacted or the member elects not to receive the due benefits.

14 Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

**Pensions Administration Strategy (Appendix 1/7)**

This report by the Chief Pensions Officer set out the framework of the Pensions Administration Strategy of the Fund, by outlining policies and performance standards to be achieved when providing a cost-effective and high quality pensions administration service. Ms Perrins added that work is continuing on additional documents to accompany the main strategy and that these will be submitted at a future meeting. Martin Clift referred to new regulations which will take effect at the end of next year and questioned whether the strategy would need to be further revised. The Director of Pensions responded that the strategy is a working document and will be revised when new regulations are in place. She added that the pensions service is trying to work in partnership with others and to set targets for the pension fund and participating employers.

15 Resolved:-

That the report be noted.