



Pensions Joint Consultative Forum

Minutes – 4 September 2013

Attendance

Members of the Committee (Wolverhampton)

Cllr Bert Turner (chair)
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Mike Heap
Cllr John Reynolds

Trade union observers

Mr Malcolm Cantello (UNISON)
Mr Martin Clift (UNITE)
Mr Ian Smith (UNITE – retired)
Mr Andy Wilkins (UNISON)

District members

Cllr Rachel Harris (Dudley MBC)
Cllr Vic Silvester (Sandwell MBC)

Staff

Geik Drever	Director of Pensions
Mark Chaloner	Assistant Director-Investments
Claire Parlor	Head of Governance
Amy Whiles	Project Officer
Martin Fox	Democratic Support Officer

Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mark Evans (Wolverhampton City Council),

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Action</i>
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MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

2. Substitute members

Cllr Silvester attended the meeting on behalf of Cllr Eling (Sandwell MBC).

3. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

4. **Minutes**

Martin Fox

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

6. **Dates of meetings 2013/14**

Resolved:

That it be noted that meetings of the Forum will take place at 1330 hours on the following dates:

4 December 2013

5 March 2014

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. **Pensions administration report 1 June – 31 July 2013**

Geik Drever/

The report advised the Forum of the work undertaken by Pensions Member Services and other operational matters during the period.

Nadine

The report included applications received for admission to the Pension Fund which had been approved or were awaiting approval by the Director of Pensions, the Chair and Vice Chair and the Pensions Committee. Cllr Reynolds asked for more information about the application by Places for People Leisure Limited as the guarantee status had been given by Wolverhampton City Council. The Chair suggested that further information be obtained prior to this application being approved. Cllr Harris asked why only 7 out of 14 employees had opted in to the scheme regarding Aspen Services Ltd. The Director undertook to seek further information although added that employers are not permitted to discourage employees from joining the scheme.

Perrins/

Jane

Hopkins

Resolved:

(a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the applications for admission body status be noted, and that further information be obtained about the applications from Aspen Services Limited and Places for People Leisure Limited and that the Director in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair be authorised to approve the latter, following the receipt of additional information.

8. **Trustee training activity and Forward Plan** Geik Drever
The Director of Pensions submitted a report which reviewed activity during 2012/13 against the trustee training policy and detailed proposed training for 2013/14. Cllr Reynolds asked whether there was an option to carry out training online and whether recent and future material could be circulated to members. The Director undertook to respond to this request.
Resolved:
That the report be noted.
9. **New member update information** Geik Drever/
Nadine
Perrins
The Director of Pensions submitted a report which provided an update for new and existing members on the West Midlands Pension Fund, the management arrangements and the special role of members in respect of the discharge of the functions associated with the relevant pensions regulations and legislation.
Resolved:
That the report be noted.
10. **Scheme changes and consultations – presentation** Geik Drever
Amy Whiles and Claire Parlor gave a presentation on the implementation of the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014, covering the key principles, fundamental changes and key areas of work for the Fund. The presentation also included recent consultation and the Fund's response and an overview of the call for evidence on the future structure of the scheme. The Director and officers responded to questions as appropriate and the Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.
Resolved:
That the presentation be noted.
11. **Transforming rehabilitation pension proposals** Geik Drever
The Director of Pensions submitted a report which detailed an invitation from the Ministry of Justice for Administering Authorities to notify the Ministry of Justice if they would like to be considered as the LGPS fund in which all of the Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service will participate. The Chair had written to all members on 30 August indicating that the Fund had expressed an interest in the proposal and had submitted a bid to the MoJ. Responding to questions, the Director of Pensions indicated that a number of Funds had expressed an interest and submitted proposals and that a final interview is scheduled on 10-11 September. The Director undertook to keep members fully informed of progress.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and that the submission of the proposal to the Ministry of Justice be ratified.