



# Pensions Joint Consultative Forum

## Minutes – 3 March 2014

### Attendance

#### Members of the Committee (Wolverhampton)

Cllr Bert Turner (chair)  
Cllr Peter Bilson  
Cllr John Reynolds  
Cllr Paul Sweet

#### Trade union observers

Ms Wendy Bond (UNISON)  
Mr Malcolm Cantello (UNISON)

#### District members

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

#### Staff

Geik Drever	Director of Pensions
Nadine Perrins	Head of Pensions
Carl Craney	Democratic Support Officer

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## 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

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Muhammad Afzal (Birmingham City Council), Cllrs Mark Evans and Michael Heap (Wolverhampton City Council and Martin Clift (UNITE ) Mr Ian Smith (UNITE – retired),

#### 2. Substitute members

No substitute members attended the meeting.

3. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

4. **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. Carl Craney

5. **Matters arising**

With reference to Minute No. 9, (Actuarial valuation 2013 - Update and presentation), Geik Drever, Director of Pensions advised that the valuation was in its final stages and would be the subject of a report to the Pensions Committee at the meeting scheduled for 26 March 2013. Geik Drever / Carl Craney

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

6. **Pensions administration report 1 October – 31 December 2013**

The report advised the Forum of the work undertaken by Pensions Member Services and other operational matters during the period. The report included information relating to the following: Geik Drever/ Nadine Perrins

- Membership data;
- Workflow statistics;
- Pensions Liabilities Fund;
- Employer membership data;
- Customer services;
- IDRP (Internal Resolution Procedure) casework;
- Death grant;
- Workload statistics;
- Applications for admission body status;
- Pensions in payment;
- Communications and marketing activity (including Presentations and Web Portal).

Nadine Perrins, Head of Pensions, reported on the ongoing Data Cleansing exercise and drew to the attention of the Forum the revised format using electronic systems and streamlining which was taking place to improve both the accuracy of the records held and the efficiency of the Fund in general.

Cllr Vic Sylvester (Sandwell MBC) referred to the presentations delivered upon requests from employers and enquired as to whether the “Drop In Sessions” were well attended. Nadine Perrins reported that attendance varied throughout the day but that they

were particularly popular during the lunch time period.

Malcolm Cantello (UNISON) referred to the increase in the number of indexing errors. Nadine Perrins reported that the Team responsible had now been restructured, responsibilities and processes revised and now included employees with operational experience which would address this matter.

Resolved:

That the report and the applications for admission body status, as detailed in the report, be noted.

**6. Service plan monitoring 2013/14**

Geik Drever presented a report which provided an update to the Fund's financial and business plan monitoring arrangements. She referred to a sum of unspent monies in the budget which had been earmarked for service development once the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 came into effect. She also reported that the outcome of Accreditation for Investors in People was awaited.

Geik Drever/  
Nadine  
Perrins

Cllr Peter Bilson suggested that once the outcome of the Accreditation was known that it should be publicised widely to emphasise the improved efficiencies in the overall operation of the Fund. The Chair, Cllr Bert Turner assured the Forum that such a publicity exercise was in hand.

Malcolm Cantello referred to the drop against the benchmark figure in relation to investment returns. Geik Drever explained that this figure was subject to fluctuation depending upon the particular benchmark used and the performance of the market.

Malcolm Cantello commented that the number of members who had not received a Benefits Statement had increased over the last reporting period. Geik Drever and Nadine Perrins responded that this was often due to the Fund not being in possession of current personal details of members and was one of the reasons for encouraging members to use the Web Portal where details could be updated.

Resolved:

That the Fund's financial monitoring and key performance indicators for the period to 31 December 2013 be noted.

**8. LGPS update report**

Geik Drever presented an update report in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). She reminded the Forum that the proposed design of the new Scheme had been the subject

Geik Drever/  
Nadine  
Perrins

of a series of consultations undertaken by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the scheme regulations. The LGPS regulations 2013 had subsequently been made on 12 September 2013 and laid before Parliament on 19 September 2013. These regulations would come into force on 1 April 2014 when they would be deemed to have been made under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The Transitional Regulations, which would detail how scheme members transfer from the 2008 scheme to the 2014 scheme, together with details of how any proposed protections of rights and entitlements would work were still awaited.

Cllr Peter Bilson acknowledged the operational difficulties faced by the Fund given the very short lead in time now available and suggested that a Communications Strategy needed to be in place in order to ensure that blame was not apportioned to the Fund which it did not deserve and was not responsible for. Geik Drever advised that the Chair had written to the DCLG and had received a response assuring that the Transitional Regulations would be available shortly but this had not proven to be the case.

Nadine Perrins explained the difficulties in undertaking calculations on post 1 April 2014 retirements in the absence of the Transitional Regulations and explained the process to be followed in making interim payments and early settlements to affected members.

Resolved:

That the activity and progress to date in respect of the new 2014 LGPS scheme and the impact of the continued delays to the finalisation of the regulations be noted.

9. **Nadine Perrins – Chief Pensions Services Manager**

The Chair advised that this would be the last meeting of the Forum to be attended by Nadine Perrins, Head of Pensions as she would be retiring from the Council shortly. All those present joined in thanking Nadine for her long service and wished her well for the future.