



Committee and Date

Pensions Board

28 January 2022

PENSIONS BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2021

**In the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

10.00 am – 11.25 am

Responsible Officer: Michelle Dulson

Email: michelle.dulson@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257719

Present

Pensioner Representatives

John Hall (Chairman)

Mike Morris

Dave Wright

Employer Representatives

Liz Furey

Clare Charlesworth-Jones

25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Helen Woodvine.

26 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

27 Minutes of the previous meeting

Paragraph 19 - Pensions Board Peer Review

The Chairman hoped to provide an update on the Board's Peer Review at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

28 Public Question Time

A question had been submitted by Ms Joanna Blackman, in relation to a webinar on the case for pensions divestment from fossil fuel companies. The Head of Treasury and Pensions read out the question and the response.

A question had been submitted by Mr Martin Oddsocks, in relation to the Board's progress in reducing the risk of climate change. The Head of Treasury and Pensions read out the question and the response.

A copy of the questions and responses provided are attached to the signed Minutes and available on this Committee's pages on the Council's web site.

29 **Administration and Regulatory Updates**

The Board received the report of the Pensions Administration Manager – copy attached to the signed Minutes – which provided Members with the latest administration and regulatory updates affecting the Local Government Pensions Scheme.

The Pensions Administration Manager drew attention to the following:

- Helen Woodvine from Coverage Care had been appointed to the vacant Employer Representative post.
- The Employers meeting had been scheduled for 22 November 2021. The Agenda items for the meeting were noted in paragraph 6.1 of the report. The Pensions Administration Manager confirmed that they would be publicising the Annual Report but that the Annual meeting would not be a live event this year.
- The Pensions Team were looking at signing up to the Scams pledge through the Pensions Regulator to ensure that everything possible was being done to ensure the members do not transfer their benefits to an unregulated scheme without understanding all of the consequences.
- The LGPS Guide for Pension Board members, Committee members and Officers had been circulated. The Pensions Administration Manager explained that it was a working document at the moment and any comments back would be welcomed.
- It was confirmed that the Annual Benefit Statements had all gone out on time apart from seven that could not be put live for which the members had been written to.
- In relation to the McCloud update (Paragraph 10 of the report) the Pensions Administration Manager reported that the Public Service and Judicial Offices Bill had gone through parliament and that guidance had been issued.

- The Pensions Administration Manager gave an update in relation to the Pension Regulator's Single Code of Practice which had been put back until Spring 2022 however Officers were working on what was in the draft Code.
- The Pensions Regulator's annual scheme return had been received and had to be completed by 10 November.
- The Pensions Administration Manager highlighted the improvements being made to My Pension online (paragraph 13 of the report), improvements to the i-connect data portal and a recruitment exercise for four new posts to the team.

In response to a query, the Pensions Administration Manager reported that there were a number of transfers out made throughout the year and agreed to provide Members with the statistics. She explained the strict process followed to ensure members fully understood what would happen and what they could get from the fund. She was not aware of any member who had regretted leaving the scheme and if they were entitled to a transfer under the legislation, they could not be stopped.

Referring to My Pensions Online, the Pensions Administration Manager explained what the service provided for those who lack or have reduced mental capacity, which included one to ones to go through the paperwork with one of the team, facilitated MS Teams meetings (with assistance from a family member, if required) and bookable public meeting rooms eg the Shrewsbury Hub in the Town Centre, would be used once they were reintroduced. The Pensions Administration Manager explained that they talked the family through the Court of Protection process and would raise any concerns with Social Services or the Council's People Directorate.

In response to a query, the Pensions Administration Manager confirmed that employers did have the opportunity to raise issues/queries prior to the Employees meeting. She explained that they were looking to introduce targeted meetings for different types of employers as one size did not fit all.

30 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Pensions Board would be held on the 28 January 2022 at 10.00am.

31 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and paragraph 10.2 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items as defined by the categories specified against them.

32 Exempt Minutes (Exempted by Category 3)

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

33 Cyber Security Update (Exempted by Category 3)

The Board received a verbal update from the Infrastructure, Security and Innovation Manager, ICT.

34 Pensions Committee Reports and Feedback (Exempted by Category 3)

The reports considered by the Pensions Committee at its meeting on 17 September 2021 had been received by the Board.

35 Governance Update including overview of recorded breaches and cyber security (Exempted by Category 3)

The Board received the report of the Communications and Governance Team Leader – copy attached to the signed Exempt Minutes – which provided an update on the Breaches of LGPS regulations recorded for the quarter 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021 affecting the Shropshire County Pension Fund. Updates on all other governance issues were also included within the report.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: