**NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Pension Board**

Approved Minutes of the meeting of the Pension Board held on Friday 26 July 2024

**PRESENT:**

**Employer Representatives:** Jonathan Dyson – Chief Fire Officer (Chair)

Mat Walker – Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Marc Warren – Group Manager Scarborough & Ryedale District

Louise Branford-White – Head of Finance

**Member Representatives:** James Manning – FOA

**Advisors in attendance:**  Helen Scargill – West Yorkshire Pension Fund

Mat Mott – West Yorkshire Pension Fund

Leanne Patterson - People Services Operations Manager

**The agenda, reports and minutes for this meeting are on NYFRS’s website.**

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| **Minute**  **Number** | **ITEM OF BUSINES** |
| **1.** | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPRESENTAION AT MEETINGS** |
|  | Apologies received from Paul James and Sarah Mekin  It was noted there were no attendees from the Fire Brigade Union. The Chair understood quorum had not been met without an FBU employee’s representative, and the continued lack of attendance meant the meeting had to proceed. No points were raised for consideration from the FBU. |
| **2.** | **PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING** |
|  | The minutes of the meeting on 13 December 2023 were agreed as an accurate record. |
| **3.** | **ACTION / DECISION LOG REVIEW** |
|  | The action log was reviewed, and it was confirmed Comms had been issued on how to receive paper updates for those who do not want to register online. |
| **4.** | **DECLARATIONS OF ANY PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS** |
|  | No conflicts of interest were declared. |
| **5.** | **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION** |
|  | Pension Remedy Update - LBW took the Board through the Pension Update report including the scheme membership information. Louise confirmed the Deputy Mayor has passed delegated responsibility in relation to the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme Discretions to the CFO following the move into the Combined Authority,  Louise reported the data processing to meet the statutory requirements for contingent decisions was complete or being progressed within the time period and confirmed the improved communications and liaison with WYPF team during this period. Advice was received to re-run GAD data through the GAD calculator to reflect NS&I rates update and further work is pending. During the period of the report two added pension refunds, an ill health reassessment and two contingent decisions were made.  An update was given on the options exercise relating to retained firefighters remedy and the data has been collated to start the calculations process using the GAD calculator for the 294 expressions of interest received. Following a discussion regarding the 9 firefighters who expressed no interest, it was agreed further efforts will be made to contact them and Helen shared examples of the work undertaken by other FRS including sharing the figures involved.  **ACTION: LBW to bring an update to the next meeting relating to contacting the 9 firefighters who expressed no interest.**  MW highlighted the challenges firefighters face when seeking retirement information and said a colleague’s recent experience was stressful. The Board acknowledged the system requires improvement and Louise assured the Board she is aware of the issues and is working with her team to improve the process. MM & HS were keen to help to improve the experience and manage expectations about what to expect and when. It was agreed LBW would ask Rachael Day to look at the internal process and how we communicate information with firefighters.  **ACTION:**   * **The Board requested a quarterly update on progress.** * **Consideration for a Vlog/Blog on the internet about retirement and what to expect.**   LBW highlighted the training courses and up-to-date information available to members via bulletins from the LGA.  **ACTION: LP / JD to discuss how best to record training sessions being undertaken by the Board.** |
| **6.** | **WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND UPDATE**  **Report of the Pension Provider** |
|  | HS reported on the Pensions dashboard presentation given at the Fire Client meeting recently, slides are available. The Key performance indicators are complete, one deferred benefit case did not meet the deadline, and it is anticipated there will be more as processing was stopped due to the Care revaluation error, that has now been resolved and there will be no impact on the member due to the delay.  Helen reported NYFRS Online member registration continues to increase and gave a reminder to maintain a record of all Matthews cases for reconciliation purposes, data to be submitted by 31 March 2025.  There are issues producing the Remedy Pension Saving, Helen outlined the background and resolutions with HMIC and WYPF believe they will be able to produce most statements by the October deadline. HMIC have confirmed that individuals will have 3 mths from the receipt of their RSM to contact HMIC and deal with their case.  **ACTION: HS will share wording to send to FF outlining the position.**  The team were thanked for their help in tracing contact details for lost members, there are now only 5 members outstanding. |
| **7.** | **RISK REGISTER** |
|  | LBW confirmed risk registers were being monitored and no risk had been added for the last quarter.  **ACTION:** **Check Pension Board Papers have been published in accordance with procedure.** |
| **8.** | **BREACH REGISTER** |
|  | Nothing to report. |
| **9.** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** |
|  | CFO Dyson updated on the NYFRS case relating to a contingent decision made following LGA guidance and following advice from King’s Counsel, the LGA requested that the decision be reverted, and they now needed to issue new guidance. |
| **10.** | **PROPOSED MEETINGS - 2024** |
|  | * 24 October 2024 * 30 January 2025 * 24 April 2025 |