



**Northamptonshire  
County Council**

**Agenda Item No: 3 (a)**

Democratic Services  
Column E6  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
One Angel Square  
Northampton

**Northamptonshire Local Government Pension Scheme Local Pension Board**

**Minutes of the meeting held in public on 15 October 2018**

**Venue: Room 116, One Angel Square, Northampton**

**(Meeting held in public)**

PRESENT:-  
Paul Evans (Chairman)

Employers Side

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw

Employees Side

Penny Smith  
Martin Hammond

Also in attendance (for all or part of the meeting)

Jenny Daniels	Democracy Officer (minutes)
Ben Barlow	LGSS Pensions Services Financial Manager
Paul Hanson	Democratic Services Manager
Mary Lamb	Aon (observing)
Michelle Oakensen	LGSS Pensions Governance Officer
Catherine Pearce	Aon (observing)
Joanne Walton	LGSS Pensions Governance & Regulations Manager
Mark Whitby	Head of Pensions

36/18 Welcome & Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Allan Matthews and Audra Statham.

37/18 Declarations of Interest by Members, if any

It was noted that this would be Penny Smith's last meeting as she was retiring on 7 December 2018. A vote of thanks was given for her contributions to the Local Pension Board.

38/18 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Penny Smith nominated Paul Evans as the Chairman of the Local Pension Board. This was seconded by Martin Hammond.

Penny Smith nominated Councillor Mick Scrimshaw as Vice-Chairman of the Local Pension Board. This was seconded by Paul Evans.

**RESOLVED that: Paul Evans be the Chairman of the Local Pension Board for the year 2018-2019 and Councillor Mick Scrimshaw as Vice-Chairman of the Local Pension Board for the year 2018-2019.**

39/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2018 & Action Log

The Local Pension Board approved the minutes of the meetings held in public and private on 16 July 2018.

The Action Log was noted as all items having been undertaken.

**RESOLVED that: The Local Pension Board approved the minutes of the meeting held in public and private on 26 July 2018**

40/18 LGSS Pensions Service Administration Performance Report:

At the Chairman's invitation LGSS Pensions Governance Officer, Michelle Oakensen introduced this item (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating the key performance indicators were positive. The Administration expenses in the addendum to the report highlighted an underspend relating to current vacancies. There were also 2 over-payments which they were pursuing.

An over-payment as noted in paragraph 3.2 of the report had been referred to the Director of Finance following advice from Eversheds Sutherland, who had approved writing this off. The case was a historic one and processes and procedures had been put in place to avoid this happening again.

In answer to query from the Local Pension Board it was confirmed it had been difficult to chase the over-payments but these were historical (being 8 years old) and officers had confidence in the systems now in place.

**RESOLVED that: The Local Pension Board noted the Pensions Service Administration Performance Report.**

41/18 Pension Fund Annual Business Plan Update Report 2018/19:

At the Chairman's invitation, the LGSS Pensions Governance & Regulations Manager, Joanne Walton introduced this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating all activities were running to schedule with the exception of the ESCROW account. This was however in hand and would be completed shortly. There had been a Customer Service Excellence review and the next would take place in August 2019. The service currently used LGSS Law and Eversheds for Legal Services, but were looking to procure access to specialist pensions advice under the new National LGPS Framework for Legal Services when it would be launched in January 2019.

With regard to the ongoing GMP (contracting-out) reconciliation the deadline for HMRC to receive first time contracting out queries was 31 October 2018. ITM Limited had provided assurances that this deadline was going to be met.

In answer to a query by the Local Pension Board it was noted that people tended to contact with regard to self-service around annual events like the end of year statement. There was more take up when redundancy was involved. This trend is similar across the LGPS industry.

**RESOLVED that: the Local Pension Board noted the Pension Fund Business Plan Update for the second meeting of the 2018/19 financial year.**

42/18 Governance and Compliance Report:

At the Chairman's invitation, the LGSS Pensions Governance & Regulations Manager, Joanne Walton introduced this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating the scheme was reportedly costing less than the required 19.5% (+/- 2%). The Elmes v Essex case had been concluded and the Northamptonshire Pension Fund had been correct in following the Local Government Association's advice to make backdated payments to eligible members.

**RESOLVED that: the Local Pension Board noted:**

- 1) information on potential new or amending legislation, affecting the LGPS;**
- 2) information on other pensions legislation;**
- 3) activities of the LGPS Scheme Advisor Board and the Pensions Regulator;**
- 4) information on issues concerning the governance of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) on a national and local basis; and**
- 5) skills and knowledge opportunities.**

43/18 Northamptonshire Pension Fund Training Strategy 2018:

At the Chairman's invitation, the LGSS Pensions Governance & Regulations Manager, Joanne Walton introduced this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating the strategy was under constant review to ensure members of both the Local Pension Board and the Pension Committee had the ability to challenge decisions made. There was now one strategy for members of the Local Pension Board and Pensions Committee. The former assessment credits remained in place and the events undertaken at Wyboston on the CIPFA Skills and knowledge would be added. The Chairman would be advised on an annual basis where everyone was in terms of training but members would be informed more regularly.

**RESOLVED: that the Local Pension Board agreed the Northamptonshire Pension Fund Training Strategy located in the appendix to the report in order for it to be approved at the next Pension Committee meeting in December.**

44/18 Northamptonshire Pension fund Data Improvement Policy and Plan:

At the Chairman's invitation, the LGSS Pensions Governance & Regulations Manager, Joanne Walton introduced this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating it was a requirement of the Pensions Regulator to have in place a Data Improvement Policy and Plan. The Policy covered the Fund's approach and commitment to review and improve the data held. The Pensions Regulator's had now included common and conditional data scores in the mandatory annual scheme returns. How pension schemes were to derive these scores was open to interpretation and therefore the results may not be comparable when issued. The Data Improvement Plan would be constantly reviewed and an update report will be brought to each meeting.

In answer to queries from the Local Pension Board the following was confirmed:

- They did have adequate resources and if they could obtain missing address data there would be a significant improvement in the common data score.
- The Business Plan for that year included 2 posts relating to data quality. They had been unable to recruit externally but they had a plan in place for that year.

- The data had to be correct to enable calculation of accurate benefits. The Scheme Advisory Board had been looking into the data items that were considered appropriate to score.
- It was unknown if there would be a league table at the end of the process but it wouldn't be trusted anyway due to the inconsistent way funds report.
- Although they were working on getting data as accurate as possible there could never be 100% accuracy because they were relying on members and employers to keep data items such as addresses up to date. A fine could be charged to employers for information not provided.
- New regulations in 2014 changed the way in which benefits were calculated .The service had continued undertaking checks but this was no longer possible under CARE revaluation so they had written to employers to say they were only undertaking high level checks from 1 October 2018.

**RESOLVED that: the Local Pension Board noted:**

- 1) The Data Improvement Policy; and**
- 2) The Data Improvement Plan.**

45/18 Pension Fund Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2017-18:

At the Chairman's invitation LGSS Pensions Services Financial Manager, Ben Barlow introduced this item (copies of which had already been circulated) stating this was the final draft with the Pensions Committee signing it off the previous week and being audited by KPMG. There had been good feedback from the Auditors and with regard to the CIPFA framework. There had been no material issues except 3 minor instances which should be solved by ERP Gold.

In answer to queries from the Local Pension Board, the following was confirmed:

- One bulk transfer out of the fund had been made totalling £25million.
- In terms of unitary authority agenda, staff would look at the scheme employers involved and what could happen and monitor this through the year.

**RESOLVED that: the Local Pension Board noted the report.**

46/18 Risk Monitoring:

At the Chairman's invitation, the LGSS Pensions Governance & Regulations Manager, Joanne Walton introduced this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating that they had a plan in place to consider and report risks to the Local Pension Board and Committee going forward. There were over 50 risks on the current risk register but they would like to streamline this so there were less than 30. The revised risk register would be presented to the Board in February, before the Pensions Committee for approval.

**RESOLVED that: The Local Pension Board agreed with the proposed process.**

47/18 Meeting Dates:

At the Chairman's invitation, Democracy Officer, Jenny Daniels presented these.

**RESOLVED that: the Local Pension Board agreed to meet on the following dates in 2019/20:**

- **Monday 1 July 2019**
- **Monday 7 October 2019**
- **Monday 13 January 2020**

- **Monday 6 April 2020**

48/18 ACCESS Asset Pooling Update:

**RESOLVED** that the Local Pension Board that under Section 100A of the Local government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them.

**RESOLVED** that the Local Pension Board noted:

- 1) the update on Asset Pooling; and
- 2) the attached exempt minutes from the ACCESS Joint Committee meeting of 11 June 2018

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11.30am.