

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

PENSION BOARD

31 JANUARY 2022

PRESENT:

Employer representatives: Councillor Shepherd and Mr P McCourt (Director of Service Delivery)

Scheme Member representatives: Mr B Johnson (Chairperson)

Councillor Briggs attended an observer.

Kevin Wilson - Executive Director of Corporate Services/Section 151 Officer and Scheme Manager, Martyn Ransom - Head of Finance, David Lofthouse - Procurement Manager, Sarah Keyes - Finance Officer, Mathew Buckley - Monitoring Officer/Secretary and Samm Campbell - Committee Manager.

The meeting was held at the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kingston upon Hull. Meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m.

1/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Marshall.

2/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations of interest.

3/22 MINUTES - Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 12 July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5/22 REPORTING BREACHES - The Procurement Manager informed the Board that there had been no breaches since the meeting held on 12 July 2021.

Resolved - That the update be received.

6/22 PENSION BOARD WORKSTREAMS UPDATE - The Head of Finance submitted a report setting out an update on the Board's workstreams for 2021/22.

The Board was reminded that Members could submit requests for training. No complaints had yet been received during 2021/22. The pension fund administration key performance indicators showed good outcomes for the most part, but some processing deadlines had been missed during periods of high demand.

Resolved - That the report be received.

7/22 REMEDY SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT - The Finance Officer submitted a report summarising the Service's response to a survey by the Firefighters' Pension England Scheme Advisory Board.

The survey sought to gauge services' readiness to apply the remedy relating to the McCloud/Sargeant case and the Matthews case. This survey was due to be followed up in the future in order to understand how services had progressed.

A Member asked whether West Yorkshire Pension Fund WYPF was likely to undertake pension administration work on behalf of more authorities now that the remedy was due to be implemented. WYPF had recently agreed to undertake work for two more fire and rescue services, but had assured the Services that it would recruit appropriately to address the extra work.

Resolved - That the details be received.

8/22 SARGEANT/MCCLOUD UPDATE - The Procurement Manager gave a verbal update to the Board on the Sargeant/McCloud case.

At its previous meeting (Minute 23/21 refers) the Board had heard that Humberside Fire Authority had opted not to apply Immediate Detriment Guidance in relation to the remedy for the Sargeant/McCloud case, and would await the publication of the relevant framework, which was subsequently published in October 2021. Her Majesty's Treasury had since issued a note withdrawing the Immediate Detriment Guidance. This had raised concerns around the framework, but the Service, along with most others in the country, intended to continue using the framework to apply the remedy. The associated legislation was due to be in place in October 2023. The Service had developed a spreadsheet to coordinate its work with West Yorkshire Pension Fund, which had been adapted for use by other fire and rescue services.

Resolved - That the update be received;

9/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – There were no items.