## Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

## Pension Board Meeting

## Tuesday, 29th August 2023 at 1400 hrs, West Wing Meeting Room

| Pension Board Representatives                    |   |
|--|---|
| Employer Representatives                         | Guy Palmer (Chair)<br>Ade Elliott<br>Nigel Snape                            |
| Employee Representatives                         | Amy Bailey<br>Nick Crum<br>George Marshall<br>Julian Short<br>Gareth Taylor |
| Pension Board Adviser (Delegated Scheme Adviser) | Martin Reohorn  |
| Pension Officer                                  | Sharon Lewis  |
| Minute Taker                                     | Jill Oseman   |

Present:Guy Palmer (GP)Employer Representative / ChairAde Elliott (AE)Employer RepresentativeNigel Snape (NS)Employer RepresentativeMartin Reohorn (MR)Pension Board AdviserAmy Bailey (AB)Employee RepresentativeGeorge Marshall (GM)Employee RepresentativeGareth Taylor (GT)Employee Representative

Minutes: Jill Oseman (JO)

| Item |   | Action |
|------|---|--------|
| 1.   | Introduction & Apologies<br>Apologies were noted from: Nick Crum, Sharon Lewis, Julian Short  |        |
| 2.   | Conflicts of Interest<br>No conflicts of interest were raised.  |        |
| 3.   | <b>Minutes of Previous Meeting &amp; Matters Arising</b><br>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023 were reviewed and agreed as a true record. The following points were noted: |        |

| Item |   | Action         |
|------|---|----------------|
|      | • Action carried forward: MR noted that a number of Pension Boards seem to be exceeding their remit in terms of pension schemes, yet appear to be held up as examples of best practice; MR to discuss with Roger Phillips.  | MR             |
|      | <ul> <li>MR to produce a short paper for SLB around additional pensions admin<br/>support from 50% to 100% for SL.</li> </ul>   | MR             |
|      | • Those who haven't yet completed the online TPR EDI training were asked to do so. As new members, GT and JS were encouraged to sign up for the training session arranged by Warwickshire Pension Board on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October.   | All to<br>note |
|      | <ul> <li>In terms of risks around cyber security, MR noted that TL is working with Ellie<br/>Misselbrook to develop something which can be included in both the Payroll<br/>and Pensions contracts. AE undertook to follow this up with Ellie.</li> </ul>   | AE             |
|      | <ul> <li>Action carried forward: GP to speak to SL re. a form of words for a new risk<br/>around the potential risk/impact on the Service in terms of failure to backfill<br/>SL's role whilst she is supporting SFRS.</li> </ul>   | GP             |
|      | <ul> <li>MR to speak to Roger Phillips re. remedial service statements with a view to<br/>lodging something with the SAB.</li> </ul>  | MR             |
|      | • MR noted he is awaiting a copy of the agreed template prior to putting together some figures on the cost to the Service of administering the FPS.   | MR             |
| 4.   | Pensions Board Training Needs   |                |
|      | MR noted the following:   |                |
|      | <ul> <li>There is a suite of training packages produced by TPR which Members were asked to take a look at.</li> <li>A joint training session with SFRS has been scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> October by Warwickshire Pension Fund.</li> <li>WYPF are planning to offer some training around remedy for their clients – date TBC.</li> </ul> | All to<br>note |
| 5.   | Scheme Advisory Board Update  |                |
|      | Pension Board members all had a copy of the latest SAB update. MR noted the following:  |                |
|      | <u>III-Health</u> : LGA have published an ill health process guide. SL to carry out a comparison with our own guidance in order to identify any areas for improvement.  | SL             |
|      | Pensionable pay: Weightmans have produced some further guidance on pensionable pay; MR to forward a copy to NS. We have previously carried out reviews of our own processes and are happy with these.   | MR             |
|      | <u>Data collection for 2015 remedy</u> : we have submitted our data to WYPF. We also completed a survey to determine how prepared we are for remedy.  |                |

| Item |   | Action |
|------|---|--------|
|      | <u>McCloud:</u> there was a recent ruling allowing unions to appeal against the High<br>Court judgement over payment of costs incurred by the McCloud ruling in public<br>sector schemes.   |        |
|      | <u>Pensions dashboard</u> : the implementation date has been pushed back to October 2026 although WYPF are still working to the original timeline.  |        |
|      | <u>Age discrimination remedy</u> : there has been some final consultation and we are<br>working towards the implementation deadline with WYPF. As part of remedy, a<br>contributions and taxation calculator has been developed by GAD; we haven't yet<br>seen this and are unsure if it will allow mass input of data or will be case by case. |        |
|      | We have been made aware of third parties trying to scam members by selling their<br>help in claiming remedy benefits. WYPF will be updating their website and we have<br>put an item in the SB alerting our staff to this.  |        |
|      | A series of warm up letters to members have been written by the LGA to advise<br>them which cohort they sit in; WYPF have confirmed they will send out these letters<br>on our behalf. We are currently awaiting some further information from WYPF on<br>the detail of this.   |        |
|      | <u>Matthews second exercise</u> : 476 people have been written to who we believe will be eligible; this is considerably more than last time suggesting a lot were missing from the first exercise. We are awaiting further information around survivors' benefits in any cases where ex-employees have passed away.                             |        |
|      | A copy of the LGA guide on: 'Pensionable pay – implementing remedy and unresolved issues' had been circulated to Board members.   |        |
| 6.   | Risk Register Update  |        |
|      | The Risk Register was reviewed and the following points noted:  |        |
|      | • PEN003 – GP to check with SL if this should have been archived.   |        |
|      | <ul> <li>PEN010 – MR and SL to review and implement additional control measures if<br/>deemed necessary.</li> </ul>   |        |
|      | • PEN011 – agreed to archive as not considered to be a risk.  |        |
|      | • PEN013 – it was agreed to increase the likelihood score from 2 to 3.  |        |
|      | SL to update the Risk Register accordingly.   | SL     |
| 7.   | Composition of Scheme Membership/KPIs/Data Scores/Completed Processes   |        |
|      | Scheme Membership   |        |
|      | All active members are now in the 2015 scheme. MR and SL plan to do some further work tidying up the presentation of the figures. There are currently 3 WT staff who are not members of the scheme. The take-up for On-Call is c. 93%.  | MR/SL  |
|      | Data Scores   |        |
|      | 3   |        |

| Item |   | Action |
|------|---|--------|
|      | These do not currently form part of our quarterly update from WYPF but have to be requested separately. HWFRS are part of a group of 7 FRSs asking for this to be added to the monthly update but as the majority didn't want it, this is unlikely to happen. Scores don't show anything of concern. We are hoping to persuade some other FRSs to share their data so we can see how we compare.  |        |
|      | <u>KPIs</u>   |        |
|      | There have been 3 breaches in terms of KPIs with WYPF: deferred benefits set up<br>on leaving, pension estimates and death in retirement (MR noted he is awaiting<br>further detail from SL on this). MR has suggested we look at target dates to ensure<br>they are realistic and undertook to follow this up with SL.   | MR/SL  |
|      | There have been no breaches with any of the overriding disclosure time limits.  |        |
| 8.   | IDRPs / Breaches  |        |
|      | <u>IDRPs</u>  |        |
|      | Items 1 – 18 have been archived.  |        |
|      | There are currently 3 ongoing IDRPs: 2 around remedy and 1 around pensionable pay. MR noted the Ombudsman is not interested in pursuing anything around remedy.   |        |
|      | It was agreed that item 20 could be archived – SL to action.  | SL     |
|      | Breaches  |        |
|      | MR noted that item 12 related to a member whose On-Call record had been aggregated with their WT record; this has now been disaggregated to ensure there are two separate records. We have written to the individual.   |        |
| 9.   | Decisions Log   |        |
|      | SL to add the following to the Decisions Log:   | SL     |
|      | <ul><li>Changes to the Risk Register recorded under item 6 above.</li><li>Archiving of item 20 on the IDRP log.</li></ul>   |        |
| 10.  | Immediate Detriment   |        |
|      | MR confirmed that all the financial data for our cases has now been submitted to WYPF who have confirmed they are happy with what we have produced. We are ahead of the field in terms of submitting this data. SL is currently going through a separate exercise with people who left without ID to ensure this data is correct. We are confident we will be in position to deal with remedy in accordance with the timescales that have been set out (ie. 1 <sup>st</sup> October) and will issue comms accordingly. MR noted there will be some issues to resolve around interest charges. |        |
|      | exercise and feel we are in a strong place.   |        |

| Item |  | Action |
|------|--|--------|
| 11.  | AOB<br>No issues were raised.  |        |
| 12.  | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b><br>Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 1030 hrs (in person or via MS Teams) |        |