

London Borough of Islington

Pensions Board - 10 September 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Board held at Islington Town Hall on 10 September 2019 at 6.00 pm.

Present: **Members:** Alan Begg (Independent Member), Mike Calvert, Valerie Easmon-George, Maggie Elliott (Vice-Chair), George Sharkey and Councillor Paul Smith (Chair)

Observer: Councillor Paul Convery

Councillor Paul Smith in the Chair

74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

None.

75 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Item A2)

None.

76 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A3)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

77 PENSION ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE (Item B1)

In introducing his report, the Deputy Pensions Manager highlighted an amendment required to paragraph 3.3 of his report, by the substitution of the figure "90.86%" for the existing figure of "94.86%" in line 1. The reduction in performance since the last quarter reflected the fact that staff in the Pensions Team had had to prioritise work on the Pension Fund valuation.

The Board noted the fluctuations in the numbers of members auto-enrolled into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) from 16.67% in February 2019, 27.85% in April 2019, 3.23% in May 2019 and 4.76% in July 2019. They also noted that, as at 31 July 2019, the Council employed 6648 staff (excluding teachers and public health officers), 813 of whom were not members of the LGPS. A large percentage of these worked in Islington Schools and People Services, where many staff worked casual or part-time hours. A possible reason for staff not participating in the LGPS was that it simply was not practical for people on a lower salary to participate in the Scheme.

With a view to encouraging more members to join the LGPS and identifying the barriers in achieving this, Board members asked the Deputy Pensions Manager to provide a breakdown of part-time and full-time staff who were not in the LGPS for the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the performance of the Pensions Administration Team against key indicators, for the period from 1 May to 31 July 2019, including information on complaints and internal disputes, as detailed in the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources, be noted.
- (b) That the number and age profile of Islington employees who are not members of the LGPS, together with details of the Islington employees who auto-enrolled into the Local Government Pensions Scheme during the relevant period, as detailed in the report, be noted.
- (c) That the numbers of members auto-enrolled into the Local Government Pension Scheme, again as detailed in the report, be noted.
- (d) That the Deputy Pensions Manager provide information in the administration report to the next meeting with numbers of part-time and full-time staff, on a salary of below £15k, 15k to 30k and 30 k and above, who were not enrolled in the LGPS.

78 DRAFT PENSION ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 (Item B2)

The Board noted George Sharkey's verbal information of a climate change rally outside Islington Town Hall on 20 September at 12 noon, to which all were invited.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Pension Fund annual report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources, including the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts, activities and performance, be approved for submission to the external auditors.

79 FORWARD PLAN (Item B3)

Members of the Board discussed the availability of information to members of the Scheme, such as benefits to a partner in the event of a death in service and the length of time during which benefits could be made to dependents. The Board wished to see how information could be easily accessible to members of the Scheme. The general consensus was that the ideal place for such information was the Pensions site on the Council's website.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of Appendix A to the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources, detailing proposed agenda items for future meetings, be approved.
- (b) That the Deputy Pensions Manager submit a report to the next meeting of the Board detailing all the information currently available to members on the Pensions page of Islington's website and proposals for future inclusions.
- (c) That the latest LGA briefing on LGPS Community, appended to the report, be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

CHAIR