



Minutes

Name of meeting	ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AUTHORITY FIRE FIGHTERS PENSION BOARD
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2019 COMMENCING AT 2.00PM
Venue	CONFERENCE ROOM 4, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Employer Representatives	Cllrs Reg Barry, Tig Outlaw
Scheme Member Representatives	Nigel Probert (Chairman)
Officers	Sarah MacDonald - Democratic Services Officer (notes) Matthew Collier - Employment Services Lead Officer Jo Thistlewood - Technical Finance Manager
Apologies	Ross Singleton

21. [Election of Chairman](#)

The current Chairman had reached the end of his year as Chairman. He indicated that he did not wish to stand for re-election for the following year due to other commitments, however he agreed to take the Chair for the day's meeting and was duly elected.

RESOLVED:

THAT Nigel Probert be re-elected as Chairman for the day.

22. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2018 be approved.

23. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations made.

24. [Public Question Time](#)

There were no questions received

25. [Workplan 1 and 2](#)

The Technical Finance Manager asked for this item to be brought forward on the Agenda for the following reasons.

- Secretary of State approval had been sought for a new combined fire authority. Once granted it was expected that within the next 12 months the existing fire authorities (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) would be combined, and the individual pension schemes would be dissolved, with new combined schemes replacing them. Therefore, the Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service Pension Board (IWFPB) had a limited life.
- As the Chairman wished to resign from his role on the board, a new scheme member representative would need to be found and would need to obtain the necessary knowledge and understanding to fulfil the role. In addition, one of the existing board members would need to take on the role of Chairman.
- Governance was unlikely to change within the next 12 months, with most of the work focussed on providing information and membership data to the new combined authority. The council would still have responsibility for running the schemes through the IW Pension Fund Committee (IW PFC) as scheme manager.
- The Technical Finance Manager had spoken to colleagues in Hampshire and the Local Government Association (LGA) fire pensions expert who had both agreed that it may be difficult to get a new scheme member for a short time.
- It had been proposed to set up an informal combined fire pension board with Hampshire in the interim period prior to the set-up of the combined fire authority, which the Technical Finance Manager would be attending.

26. The Technical Finance Manager advised that if the Board were in agreement with her suggestion, there would be no need to consider Item 5 on the Agenda (Terms of Reference), to appoint a new scheme member representative or to elect a new Chairman, and any liaison with Hampshire could be done through the IW PFC. On combining with Hampshire, there would be one pension scheme, which would be likely to have a scheme member and/or employer representative from the Isle of Wight.

27. It was noted that there were currently 343 scheme members and they could be kept informed without a formal consultation.

28. The Board were concerned that the fire authorities were not due to combine for another 12 months and the scheme would need representation in the interim period. They believed that the Pensions Regulator and LGA should be consulted before any final decision was made and agreed that the board should carry on as it was and that a replacement scheme member should be sought.

29. The Technical Finance Manager agreed to discuss further with the relevant authorities and report back as soon as possible. The next IWFPB meeting was scheduled for June 2019.

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposal be accepted in principle and put forward on the basis of approval by the Pensions Regulator and the LGA, after discussion with the Technical Finance Manager, and that any final decision be deferred until feedback had been obtained.

30. **Terms of Reference for the Firefighters' Pension Board**

The Technical Finance Manager advised that the Terms of Reference had not been amended, other than on Page B-5 item (v) the word 'local' had been removed.

RESOLVED:

THAT the terms of reference be noted.

31. **Membership numbers**

The number of people who were undecided had reduced and was now down to seven. All of the 2006 members had transitioned to the 2015 scheme. The board would continue to be kept updated on membership numbers.

It was reported that the pension increase had been implemented this month and finalised on the day of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report and membership numbers be noted.

32. **Automatic Re-Enrolment 1 May 2019**

It was reported that this was the second re-enrolment, which happened every three years. There would be communication to those members who had previously opted out that they would be re-enrolled unless they had completed an opt-out form within the last 12 months. Communications would be published through both the Fire Service Routine Notice, and the council's internal newsletter, The Vine.

There was a legal requirement to collect one month of contributions from re-enrolled members, but it would be reimbursed in June if an opt-out form was submitted.

Cllr Outlaw agreed to speak to the Island's senior fire officer to ensure that his officers were aware of the situation.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

33. **Members' Question Time**

There were no written questions received.

CHAIRMAN