

Minutes

Local Pension Board

Date: 23 January 2026

Time: 12 noon

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr M Pollard (in the chair), Cllr F Shaheen, John Roberts (Scheme Manager Representatives). Ryan Binks and Mick Ferries (Scheme Member Representatives).

In Attendance:

James Clarkson (Technical Advisor)

Apologies:

Jim Davies (Scheme Member Representative)

18.Chairs Announcements

Welcome to Mick Ferries as a new Scheme Member Representative to be appointed at the next meeting of the Full Authority

19.Admission of the Public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the public and press.

20.Urgent Items

There were no urgent items

21.Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

22.Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 July 2025

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record

23.Local Pension Board (LPB) Activity Report

Members considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services/Monitoring Officer which gave details of the LPB activity for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025.

Members challenged the report author regarding the significant delays in issuing the remedial service statements and also requested further information on the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) stage 2 referral process.

Resolved

That the report be noted

24.Scrutiny and Review

The Director of People and Culture submitted information on the following areas for scrutiny and review:

Discretions – For the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025, the scheme manager has not been required to exercise their discretionary power.

Pensions Breaches register – For the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025, 2 breaches of the law have been identified. These were due to West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) being unable to issue the annual benefit statements by the legal deadline of 31 August 2024 for 47 active members and 429 deferred members. Details attached at appendix B and C to the report now submitted.

Pensions Risk register – attached at appendix D to the report.

Compliance deadlines – key milestones of the pension administrative cycle were set out as follows:

- TPR Scheme Return (2025) – 3 December 2025
- Year End deadline (2025/26) – 30 April 2026
- Annual Benefit Statements (2025) deadline – 31 August 2025
- Pension Saving Statements (2024/25 tax year) deadline – 6 October 2025
- TPR Survey (2025) – TBC
- Pension Re-enrolment – 30 November 2025

Members discussed the timeline of reporting material breaches to the regulator. The report author updated Members on the formation of a new oversight scrutiny board which will seek to hold the administrators to account and implement measures to ensure deadlines are met, introduce uniform requirements and provide an additional

layer of scrutiny. Members noted the marginal improvements that have been made to date, including issuing high priority statements and recruiting staff to deal with the backlog.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

25. Legislative Update

Members received a report of the Director of People and Culture which provided an update regarding the following legislation;

- Update to member contribution structure
- Pensions Dashboards
- Budget 2025

Members commented on the updated contribution rates and noted that some staff are a little disgruntled. The timeline of communications was confirmed by the report author which included a 3 month notice period. Members were advised a marginal system was considered by government but it was discarded as not comparative with any other pension schemes and very complicated to introduce and maintain. Members were advised that as overtime is not pensionable it will not affect the payment boundaries, although crewing allowances are and it is planned to introduce a mechanism to smooth out the increases over a 12 month period.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

26. Age Discrimination Remedy

Members received a report of the Director of People and Culture which gave an update on the implementation of the age discrimination remedy.

Members challenged the report author to confirm the approximate numbers taking the 12 week period to repay their contributions.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

27. Matthews Remedy

Members received a report of the Director of People and Culture which gave an update on the implementation of the Matthews remedy.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

28.Pension Ombudsman – Update

Members received a report of the Director of People and Culture which confirmed that in the period 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025, one update has been provided on Pensions Ombudsman decisions (full details at appendix A to the report now submitted).

Members challenged the report author to comment on the possible effect the Ombudsman decision will have on WYFRS employees

Resolved

That the report be noted.

29.West Yorkshire Pension Fund – Key Performance Indicators

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of People and Culture which advised of West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) performance in key areas for the year to date.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

30.Firefighter Pension Scheme Bulletins 94 - 99

Consideration was given to the content of bulletins 94 – 99.
It was noted that all applicable actions have been completed.

Resolved

That the content of bulletins 94 – 99 be noted.

31.Scheme Advisory Board Minutes of Meeting held on 18 June 2025

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Scheme Advisory Board at meeting held on 18 June 2025 be noted.

Chair