

Minutes

Local Pension Board

Date: 3 July 2026

Time: 12 noon

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr J Garvani (in the chair) (as substitute for Cllr Downes), Cllr S Wood, John Roberts (Scheme Manager Representatives). Jim Davies, Ryan Binks and Mick Ferries (Scheme Member Representatives).

In Attendance:

James Clarkson (Technical Advisor)

Apologies:

Cllr Downes (Scheme Manager Representative)

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair 2026/27

Resolved

That Cllr R Downes, Scheme Manager Representative, be appointed Chair of the Local Pension Board for the 2026/27 year; and

That Cllr S Wood, Scheme Manager Representative, be appointed Vice Chair of the Local Pension Board for the 2026/27 year.

2. Membership of the Local Pension Board 2026/27

Scheme Member Representatives

Ryan Binks

Jim Davies (FBU)

Mike Ferries

Scheme Manager Representatives

Councillor Ryk Downes

Councillor Sarah Wood

CFO John Roberts

3. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items

4. Admission of the Public

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

5. Declarations of Interest

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

6. Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 January 2026

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2026 be signed by the Chair as a correct record

7. Terms of Reference – Annual Review

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer to review the Terms of Reference for the Local Pension Board which has been adopted by the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Resolved

That the report be noted

8. Local Pension Board (LPB) Annual Report 2025/26

Members considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services/Monitoring Officer which gave details of the Local Pension Board (LPB) activity for the previous year

Resolved

That the report be noted

9. Local Pension Board (LPB) Activity Report

Members considered a report of the Director of People and Culture which gave details of the LPB activity for the period 1 December 2025 to 31 May 2026.

Members challenged the report author to provide a summary of the staff who have decided to opt out of the scheme.

Resolved

That the report be noted

10. 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 December 2025 to 31 May 2026, the scheme manager has been required to exercise their discretionary power in 5 cases, details can be found in Annex A to the report.

Pensions Breaches register – For the period from 1 December 2025 to 31 May 2026 no new breaches of the law have been identified. Details of the breaches for the current and previous financial years can be found in Annex B to the report

Pensions Risk register – Since the previous meeting of the LPB there have been no changes to the register and the current risk register can be found in Annex C to the report.

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

- TPR Scheme Return (2026) – November/December – TBC by TPR
- Year End deadline (2026/27) – 30 April 2027
- Annual Benefit Statements (2026) deadline – 31 August 2026
- Pension Saving Statements (2025/26 tax year) deadline – 6 October 2026
- TPR Governance & Administration Survey (2026) – January/February - TBC by TPR
- Pension Re-enrolment – 30 November 2028 (triennial)

A member of the Scheme Manager Representatives challenged the Scheme Member Representatives to comment if they had identified any significant changes from the legacy updates. It was noted that the updates had been considered and that the associated remedies had been reviewed through the scrutiny and review process.

The Scheme Member Representatives acknowledged that staff are not happy with the change in pensionable age but agreed that the board had acted in line with Government decisions. Members discussed the progresses made by the sector wide scrutiny board and the support provided to members to minimise risk, but noted the main challenge is the current administrators of the scheme and their ability to manage their backlog.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

11. Pension Ombudsman – Update

Members received a report of the Director of People and Culture which confirmed that an update has been provided on 1 Pensions Ombudsman decision that was published

in the period 1 December 2025 to 31 May 2026. (Full details at appendix A to the report now submitted).

Resolved

That the report be noted.

12. 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
- SCAPE Rate Change
- Annual Pension Increase

Members commented on the recent release of commutation factors and noted concerns about the inconsistent way in which information had been issued. The matter had been referred to during a judicial review and raised by the Chair of the Scheme Advisory Board. Members noted that a timetable is to be developed to ensure future notifications are issued in a timely and consistent manner. In the meantime, Members suggested that transitional arrangements should be considered.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

13. 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 which administration system is used by WYPF, as the delays to software updates has caused significant issues.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

14. Matthews Remedy

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

Members discussed the latest news that claims could be back dated and the potential issues due to the restricted availability of records prior to April 2005.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

15.Training and Development

Members received a report of the Director of People and Culture regarding training and development for Local Pension Board members. The report reminded members that they are responsible for maintaining appropriate knowledge and understanding of the pension scheme rules and its administration, so that they can effectively carry out their duties as Board members. Members were encouraged to attend relevant training sessions provided by The Pensions Regulator and the Local Government Association. Dates for these sessions will be circulated to Members.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

16.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.

Members were pleased to see RAG rated targets which enabled greater focus on the improvements required.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

17.Firefighter Pension Scheme Bulletins 100 - 105

Consideration was given to the content of bulletins 100 - 105.

It was noted that all applicable actions have been completed, with the exception of:

- Ensure updated HMRC unauthorised payments offsetting spreadsheet is in use
- Issue communications to members survivors about new entitlements by 1 June 2026.

Which are both in progress.

Resolved

That the content of bulletins 100 - 105 be noted.

18.Scheme Advisory Board Minutes of Meeting held on 11 September 2025 and 11 December 2025

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Scheme Advisory Board at meeting held on 11 September 2025 and 11 December 2025 be noted.

Chair