

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY PENSION BOARD held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 14 April 2016.

PRESENT:

p	Cllr Mark Cooper (Chairman)		
p	Malcolm Eastwood	p	Alex Rhodes
p	Cllr Hannah Hockaday	a	Cllr John Wall

Broadcast Statement:

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Wall.

It was noted that since the previous meeting, Charlie House had resigned from the Board.

30 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members were mindful of their duty to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest was not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and their ability to disclose any other pecuniary or personal interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

Malcolm Eastwood declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as Chairman of the National Firefighters' Pension Scheme National Advisory Board.

31 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2016 were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements.

33 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

34 PENSION ISSUES LOG

The Board received a report from the Chief Financial officer and the Director of Human Resources regarding ongoing issues (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced and the position regarding temporary promotions was clarified following a decision by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It was noted that over 200 cases had been identified and each required individual calculations. Some cases featured scheme members who had already retired and it was anticipated that resolution would be on an individual basis. The Board heard that for a number of reasons, there had been considerable pressure on capacity however support was now in place and the timescales set out in the log were realistic.

The Board received an update on a number of key issues raised in the log, including the FPS briefing sessions, the employment tribunal and the re-employment policy. It was acknowledged that independent pension advice across a number of public sector schemes was not readily available. The Board questioned the level of drop out from the scheme and the number of new starters opting not to join at all. It was confirmed that the level of drop out had not increased and it was agreed to monitor new entrants alongside this.

Members of the Board considered the low uptake of RDS members who had been given the option to purchase retrospective membership of a modified pension scheme. There was concern that this was partially a result of the complexity of the matter, however it was accepted that a considerable number had responded, confirming that the information provided was sufficient. It was noted that on pension matters, individuals held a level of personal responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of data on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:

- That the contents of the report summarising progress toward resolution of the pensions issues for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service be noted.