

**Scottish Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board
Special Meeting**

17th March 2022 (by video-conference)

MINUTES

Present

Simon Mountford, Brian Robertson (Chair), David Parker (Vice Chair), Simon Watson, Davena Rankin, Brian Strathie, Stephen Smellie.

In attendance

Tracey Russell (LGPS Funds), Alan Wilkinson (SPPA), Kim Linge (SPPA), Jonathan Sharma (COSLA - Joint Secretary); Sarah Watters (COSLA).

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Cameron Rose, Annette Drylie, Wendy Dunsmore, Lynne Robertson and Andy Thomson

2. Conflict of Interest Declarations

None noted.

4. HMT Consultation on cost control options

The SAB noted the paper which outlined HM Treasury's consultation on cost control remedy and that an extension to the date of this SAB meeting had been offered.

During discussion the SAB felt that, even with the short extension, the comments already shared with SPPA and HMT were as far as the SAB could go without further information, in particular the financial implications of each option are unclear.

The SAB therefore agreed SPPA's offer for GAD to provide further clarification at the April SAB meeting.

5. Pre-breach mechanism working group

At the February SAB it was agreed to set up a working group to look at cost control pre-breach mechanism. The joint secretaries requested 2 SAB Member nominees (Employer/ Employees) to join the group.

The SAB agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair would join the working group, which would include the joint secretaries and relevant SAB advisers.

6. Structure Review Project

The SAB considered a paper from the Employers Members on taking forward the Structure Review Project, following on from discussion at the February SAB meeting, where it was agreed that the Employer and Employee Members would give this further consideration and for a Special meeting to be held to conclude this.

Whilst agreement was not reached on the full proposals in the Employers paper, there was broad consensus that the review had reached a breakpoint and that a pause would allow for the SAB to present the work to date (evidence gap analysis) to the Scottish Government and to seek further direction from the Minister. This noting that further work could be of a significant scale and requiring substantial resource.

The SAB therefore agreed to write to the Minister and that the joint secretaries would do first draft of a letter to discuss with the Chairs. The letter would present the gap analysis work and seek views from the Minister on next steps.

The SAB also agreed to formally thank Pat and Hugh (and Brian) for their work, with a letter to go from the Chairs.

It was felt important to equally recognise the valuable work done by the technical focus group members when writing.

9. AOB

Chair of April SAB – the SAB noted that the role of Chair and Vice Chair is due to swap over from April. However, given that imminence of the local government election, which would have a bearing on Employers Members representation, it was agreed that Brian would continue as Chair for the April meeting and for David to continue as Vice Chair. New nominations would be sought post the election.

The SAB noted that Brian Strathie will be standing down after the April meeting, due to work priorities elsewhere.

Responsible Investment – Stephen updated on the E&W SAB's RIAG Group and noted that there was nothing of immediate concern, but that the Scottish SAB observers will continue to have a close eye on any developments.

It was agreed to circulate a link to the papers and for this to be on the agenda for a future meeting.

There was some discussion on support for the SAB going forward and that a framework of support could be looked at. The joint secretaries would consult on this and come back with paper re enhanced support for a future SAB meeting.

Future Meeting Dates for Noting:

Wednesday 20th April (10.30am); Tuesday 28th June (10.30am); Wednesday 31st August (10.30am); 30th November (10.30am)