

Scottish Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board

28th June 2022 (by video-conference)

MINUTES

Present

Brian Robertson (Chair), David Parker (Scottish Borders); Simon Watson (UNITE), Stephen Smellie (UNISON), Annette Drylie (GMB), Alan Wilkinson (SPPA), Kimberly Linge (SPPA), Jonathan Sharma (COSLA - Joint Secretary); Catherine McFadyen (Actuary); Richard McIndoe (LGPS Funds); Stewart Clanachan (SPDS); Martin Booth (Directors of Finance); Laura Collis (LGPS Funds), Sarah Watters (COSLA); Ed Gordon (COSLA); Martin Booth (Glasgow City Council); Bruce Miller (Lothian Pension Fund); Simon Mountford (Scottish Borders Council); Kenny Dick (Care Inspectorate); Laura Collis (NE Scotland Pension Fund).

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the meeting.

Apologies were noted from Wendy Dunsmore, Davena Rankin, and Lynne Robertson.

2. Conflicts of Interest

SW highlighted his recent election as a councillor for transparency but stated this was not a conflict of interest.

3. Minute of Previous Meeting

DP noted a correction to the minute regarding structural review. DP advised that the employers members would like to send a letter either with or without the agreement of the employees members.

SW noted that no letter has been presented to the SAB.

It was agreed to arrange a separate meeting to discuss a potential letter.

4. SPPA Update

The SAB received an update from KL on the SPPA paper. The updated highlighted the merger of Lothian and Falkirk Pension Boards. It was suggested that a presentation be made to the SAB regarding the merger. The SAB agreed that this would be a good idea once the merger has been formally approved.

The SAB also agreed that Joint Secretaries would follow up on this separately.

5. Structure Review Project

SW suggested an extra meeting to discuss this item. It was agreed this would be held at 13:30 on the 26th July and invitation would be sent by EG.

Post meeting note – this meeting was postponed, and the item will be picked up at the SAB meeting on August 31st.

6. Pre-Breach Mechanism

The SAB received an update on what had been previously agreed. The SAB also received an update regarding a meeting between SW and JS and the English and Welsh Board after which they will feedback to the wider SAB. There were no further comments.

7. Workplan

JS presented an update on the workplan. There were no further comments.

8. Financial Report

The Employers Side outlined a need for the SAB to agree levy contributions from pension funds for 2022/23. In considering a suitable levy the SAB questioned whether existing contributions are commensurate and, for instance, reflective of the current size of Pension Funds. It was agreed that the joint secretaries would check what was agreed about the levy initially by the SAB and also to see what methodology is currently being used by the English and Welsh Board, with a refreshed allocation proposal to be brought to the SAB.

9. Annual Report

The Employers Side reported that English and Welsh SAB officers are assisting with preparation of the Scottish SAB Annual Report for 2020/21. This is expected to be finalised within the next 2 weeks, after which it will be shared with the SAB.

10. AOB

The Trade Union Side raised the issue of proposing the next Chair of the SAB. It was agreed that BR would remain until the 26th July meeting, with a new Chair (from Employers Members) and Vice Chair (from Employees Members) to be confirmed for the August SAB meeting.

SS asked whether there were any figures available regarding ill health appeals against the decisions of funds and local authorities. KL advised that a report would be available within the next couple of weeks collating some of these figures.

AD asked the SAB as to the potential impact of the proposed National Care Service on local government employee pensions. The SAB heard from members that it would be good to keep the issue noted for future reference and that there would be a COSLA

Special Leaders meeting on 4th July to discuss the NCS. The SAB agreed to keep the National Care Service as an item for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

31 August 10:30-12:30