

**LGPC MINUTES  
MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2017  
AT ETC Venue, ONE DRUMMONDS GATE,  
LONDON, SW1V 2QQ**

**PRESENT**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Cllr D Le Gal      | Chair & Scheme Advisory Board          |
| Cllr K Quinn       | Scheme Advisory Board                  |
| Cllr D Renard      | LGA                                    |
| Cllr S Blackburn   | LGA                                    |
| Cllr M Headley     | LGA                                    |
| Cllr G Edwards     | LGA                                    |
| Cllr J Jamieson    | LGA                                    |
| Cllr J Fuller      | LGA                                    |
| Ms N Mark          | Scheme Advisory Board Adviser          |
| Ms A Greenslade    | Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) |
| Mr L McKenzie      | Observer (SPPA)                        |
| Mr K Gerard        | Technical Group representative         |
| <b>Secretariat</b> |  |
| Mr B Holloway      | LGPC                                   |
| Mr C Hargrave      | LGPC                                   |
| Ms L Bennett       | LGPC                                   |
| Mr K White         | LGPC                                   |
| Ms E English       | LGPC                                   |

**1. NEW MEMBERS**

As this was the first meeting of the Committee since the LGA appointments, the Chair welcomed new members and introductions were made. No declaration of interest was noted.

Con Hargrave (CH) provided a short summary on the role of the Committee for the benefit of new members.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Houston, Cllr S Taylor, Mr D Murphy and Ms K Linge. Ms A Greenslade attended the meeting as substitute for Ms K Linge and Mr McKenzie attended as an observer from SPPA.

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2017 were noted.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee noted that, with the Chair's agreement the subscription levy for this year was agreed at the same level as last year and invoices had been sent out.

## **5. INCENTIVISING THE 50/50 SECTION**

The Committee noted the key points from Item B. In particular that whilst it would be permissible for an LGPS employer to offer financial incentives to encourage their members to join the 50/50 section, employers should be aware of a number of important legal and practical considerations which may impact on the cost savings that an employer could achieve.

It was agreed the paper would be brought to the attention of the SAB at the afternoon meeting and fed into the work the Board is currently undertaking on the take up of the 50/50 section.

## **6. SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND LEGAL CHALLENGES**

Lorraine Bennet (LB) presented the key points from Item C, in particular highlighting:

- a number of legal judgements that have been handed down in recent months which bring into question the current rules of pension schemes with regards to the provision of survivor pensions
- the actual and potential wider impact of these judgements on the LGPS and the possibility of further legal challenges

The Committee agreed that the financial cost and administrative impact of equalising all future survivor benefits should be considered further before agreeing to support the SAB in making recommendations to DCLG and HMT that all public service pension schemes be amended to remove any differences in benefits for new survivor benefits.

It was agreed that costings should be obtained from GAD with a view to a doing a proper cost/benefit analysis for equalising survivor benefits. It was also noted that administering authorities will need guidance on how to proceed if the proposal is taken forward.

The above will be reported to the SAB at the afternoon meeting for them to take forward.

## **7. REGULATIONS UPDATE E&W**

Lorraine Bennett (LB) and Con Hargrave (CH) presented the key points for the Committee to note from Item D, in particular highlighting:

- Automatic enrolment – new brief guide issued
- TPR fined an LGPS fund £1,000 for failure to complete its annual scheme return
- Exit payment cap and recovery – consultation on draft regulations due in the autumn

- Exit payment reform – Government is still minded to progress the further reform of exit payments, however, the exact details and timings are not yet known
- GDPR [EU's General Data Protection Regulation] is due to come into force May 2018. The Secretariat circulated a brief overview of the new requirements commissioned from Squire Patton Boggs in July and are currently seeking a legal view on a number of specific questions that have been raised in relation to the LGPS. The Communication Working Group is working on template documents that will be available in early 2018. The Committee agreed that these templates should be uploaded to [www.lgpsregs.org](http://www.lgpsregs.org) and also [www.lgpsboard.org](http://www.lgpsboard.org)
- LGPS statistics 2016/17 – DCLG have published their annual statistics based on SF3 data
- September 2017 rate of CPI – announced as 3%.

## **8. SAB REPORT E&W**

The Committee noted the key points from Item D which was presented by Bob Holloway (BH).

## **9. REGULATIONS UPDATE SCOTLAND**

Annette Greenslade (AG) and Lorimer McKenzie (LM) presented the key points for the Committee to note from Item F, in particular highlighting:

- Third Sector and pension liabilities – the SAB are looking into this area as it is a significant issue for Scottish funds – over 50% of membership in the Strathclyde and Lothian funds are in the third sector
- IDR process – SPPA are looking to introduce a single stage process for the other Scottish public service pension schemes. They will keep the Committee updated with progress.
- A governance review is being undertaken looking at the training of local pension boards with a view to achieving a higher standard from local pension boards.

## **10. REGULATIONS UPDATE NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Committee noted Item G. Mr Murphy asked for any observations or comments that members may have to be emailed to him for reply in his absence.

## **11. TRAINING AND CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Karl White (KW) updated the Committee stating that he is in the process of attending the regional Pension Officer Groups to ascertain their training needs. He is working on a training programme which will include employer, administering authority and governance training. He is also looking to develop a training webpage and online micro training for employers.

Elaine English (EE) reported that the Annual Trustees' Conference, now to be named Governance Conference, is currently being looked into with York being a

potential location. EE is to update the Committee on the conference arrangements at the next meeting.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

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