



West Yorkshire  
Fire & Rescue Service

# LOCAL PENSION BOARD

## Annual Report 2019 - 2020

**OFFICIAL**

Ownership: Legal and Governance

Date Issued:

Version:

Status: Draft



# Revision and Signoff Sheet

## Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Comments
		V1 – initial draft	To submit to Local Pension Board for final comment and recommendation for approval to HR Committee on 10 July 2020.

## Reviewers

Name	Version Approved	Position	Organisation	Date
Nicola Houseman		Committee Manager	WYFRA	16/4/20

## Distribution

Name	Position	Organisation
Local Pension Board		West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Human Resources Committee		10 July 2020

## Document Properties

Item	Details
Document Title	LOCAL PENSION BOARD
Author	Administrator
Creation Date	10 July 2019
Last Updated	16 April 2020

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## 1 Foreword

The purpose of this Annual report is to provide a source of information about the status of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Local Pension Board for Scheme members and for the Scheme Manager together with a summary of issues considered in the relevant period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)

In accordance with Section 5 and s.30 (1) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and Regulation 4A of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015, the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Local Pension Board was established in February 2015 to provide advice on the effective and efficient administration and management of the various firefighter pension schemes.

[The Local Government Pension Scheme for Green Book employees is monitored by a separate Local Pension Board established by the West Yorkshire Local Government Pension Scheme and does not form part of this Annual Report].

The Report includes commentary on the following;

- A summary of the work undertaken by the Local Pension Board during 2019 – 20
- Detail of areas investigated and how these areas were dealt with
- Any conflicts of interest and how these were managed
- Any identified risks and other areas of potential concern
- Any expenses and costs incurred by the Board
- Gifts and hospitality received by members of the Board
- Training for Board members
- Breaches
- Scrutiny and review

Information has also been categorised in parts of this Annual Report on the basis of the following Classifications

Classification	Action
	Outstanding
	Partially complete
	Complete

## 2 Membership and meetings of the Board

2.1 The West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Local Pension Board comprises 4 members as follows;

2 x Scheme Member representatives (Paul Drinkwater and Chris Lawton)  
 2 x Scheme Manager representatives (Councillors Peter Harrand (Chair) and Angela Wenham)

(plus Non-voting Officer Adviser(s) as appropriate)

- 2.2 The Board has met on 2 occasions in the 2019 – 20 year with an additional meeting by email on 20 April 2020.

### **3 Work undertaken by the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Local Pension Board 2019 – 20**

- 3.1 The work undertaken by the Board during the course of the year has been defined by the Terms of Reference approved at the 24 June 2016 meeting of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

- 3.2 Appointment to the Pensionable Pay working group at the behest of the Local Government Association and appointment to the Scheme Advisory Board's Benchmarking and Effectiveness Committee

- Chris Lawton (Scheme member representative)

- 3.3 During the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 the following items were also considered by the Board;

- Updates on the work and levy associated with the national Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) & its sub-committee (Ensuring the effectiveness of the Local Pension Board)
- Pension Fund – Key Performance Indicators and corporate risks
- Discretions made by the Scheme Manager
- Annual benefit statements (including Annual Benefit Survey 2019)
- Review of Terms of Reference
- Pension Risk Register
- Compliance breaches Register
- Response to SAB survey 2019 on effectiveness of Local Pension Boards (including West Yorkshire position statement)
- Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) reconciliation
- Data Improvement Plan (administered by West Yorkshire Pension Fund)
- Pension Ombudsman sample cases
- Legislative updates
- Firefighter Pensions England bulletins
- Response to The Pensions Regulator survey 2019
- Constitution of, and succession planning for, the Board

- 3.4 Each Activity report includes detail on the number of;

- pension scheme members across the various schemes
- number of new scheme members
- retirees
- pensioner members
- deferred members
- IDRPs stage 1 and 2 complaints
- Opt-outs

- Pension estimates requested / processed
- Compliance and complaints

3.5 Each agenda also includes the following standing items;

- legislative update (see section 10.)
- scrutiny and review (including discretions, breach and risk registers)
- Pensions ombudsman cases (see section 9.)

## 4 Specific investigations and Board resolutions

4.1 A summary of the areas considered during 2019 – 20 which warranted further investigation and action and the relevant outcomes are detailed in the table below.

Meeting	Summary	Outcome / resolution	Completed
31 January 2020	Terms of reference to be revised and approved by Full Authority	Constitution and succession planning – increase Board to 6 Members and consider appointment of an independent member	

## 5 Conflicts of interest

5.1 As statutorily required, members of the Local Pension Board complete a Declaration of Interests. The register is maintained by the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Committee Services section. Members of the Board reviewed their Declarations in July 2019.

5.2 There have been no declarations made by any member, adviser or attendee at any meeting of the Board during the relevant period.

## 6 Identified Risks and areas of concern

6.1

Meeting	Summary of risk	Outcome / resolution	Completed
4 December 2015	Ongoing pension dispute –	FBU legal case upheld in Court – Government lost an appeal.	

6.2 IDRPs Stage 1 and 2 complaints are included as appropriate in the Activity report at each meeting of the Board.

6.3 Breaches – the reporting system was bedded in during the course of the year and advice sought with regard to the level of breach required to be escalated.

## 7 Expenses and Costs

7.1 11 September 2019 Rail £65.07 Pensionable Pay Working Group

7.2 There has been no additional expenditure or costs incurred within the relevant period for the administration of the Board.

## 8 Gifts and Hospitality

8.1 There have been no declarations of gifts or hospitality received by Members of the Local Pension Board during the relevant period.

## 9 Training

9.1 It is a statutory requirement of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 that members of the Local Pension Board should have the capacity to become conversant with, and develop a knowledge of, detailed related issues in order to effectively carry out their duties.

9.2 The following training has been provided during the course of the year to Local Pension Board members;

- Pensions Regulator e-learning package
- Monthly bulletins from LGA Pension Advisory Service
- LGA National training programme – update / refresher training

9.3 One standing item on the Local Pension Board agendas is consideration of relevant Pension Ombudsman cases. The summaries provided and Ombudsman decisions serve as a learning tool for LPB members.

9.4 During the course of the year, the following cases were reviewed;

9.4.1 Mrs N – ill health benefits (Derbyshire County Council)

9.4.2 Mr I – ill health benefits (Torfaen LGPS)

9.4.3 Mr N – widow benefits (Police Pension Scheme)

9.4.4 Mr N – administration (Lancs. FRS)

9.4.5 Mrs H – payments (Hants. LGPS)

## 10 Legislative updates

As a statutory requirement, members of the Local Pension Board have been provided with regular legislative updates.

10.1 The following have been provided during the relevant period;

- Transitional protections and legal challenge
- Revised GAD factors
- Exit payments

- Auto-enrolment

## **11 Scrutiny and review**

11.1 Members are required to scrutinise areas relevant to the administration of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

11.2 The following areas were scrutinised during the relevant period;

- Pension Risk and breaches policy
- Discretions
- Breaches register
- Pension Risk register
- Compliance deadlines