

In Confidence

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Sector Pensions Authority (PSPA) on 12 October 2015 at 09:30 in the PSPA Meeting Room, Goldie House, Douglas.

Present: PSPA

Mr J Carter (Chair)
Mr J P Shimmin, MHK (Vice Chair)
Mr E Holmes

In Attendance: Mr I T Murray

Mr I W C Burnett (Secretary)
Ms K C Brondon

Apologies: Mr T P Wild, MLC

**Minute Minute
No**

54/15 Conflicts of Interest

Mr Shimmin confirmed his status as a deferred member of the Teachers' Pension Scheme and a member of the Tynwald Members Pension Scheme.

The remainder of the Board noted his position, but concluded his input would be valuable for agenda items relating to Teachers Pensions and Tynwald Members Pensions.

55/15 Matters Arising

Board Membership

The Board noted that the vacant Board Position had been advertised amongst the various Trade Unions on the Isle of Man, and noted the closing date for applications was 6 November 2016.

The Executive confirmed that as the appointment was made by the Council of Ministers under Section 5 (3) of the Public Sector Pensions Act 2011, it was the Cabinet Office that oversaw the process of appointment, and that the PSPA did not have any involvement in the appointment of its Board Members.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Board noted that a response to the proposal relating to the proposed new pension provisions for Teachers had been sent. It was understood that the PSPA's response was to be discussed by the Trade Unions, but to date no response had been received from the Teaching Unions. The Executive considered that this was due to a number of new representatives having been appointed by the Trade Unions, and as such the response had been delayed.

Police Pension Reform

The Board noted that the proposals for the Police Pension Regulations had been circulated to the Police Representatives and the Department of Home Affairs, and that an initial discussion had been held with the members of the Police Joint Consultative Committee. The Board noted that once the members of the JCC had considered this it would seek to submit a joint response to the PSPA.

56/15 Risk register review

The Risk Register was reviewed and the changes that had been made since the previous meeting of the Board were noted.

It was suggested that the Chair and Chief Executive might conduct a radio interview to clarify issues around public sector pensions and the Vice-chair agreed to take this forward.

57/15 Reform of the Tynwald Membership Pension Scheme 1995

The Board considered a memorandum dated 5 October from the Director of Operations regarding proposals relating to the Tynwald Membership Pension Scheme.

The Board noted the response that had been received from the Emoluments Committee in relation to the proposals for reforming the Scheme, and in particular that the Committee had requested that after the next General Election Tynwald Members would join the Unified Scheme and therefore the management of Tynwald Members Pensions would fall under the PSPA.

The Board considered and approved the request to commence the drafting of, and consultation upon, an amendment to the Isle of Government Unified Scheme (GUS) based upon these proposals.

The Board also agreed that, before commencing the drafting of an amendment scheme, the views of Treasury and the Council of Ministers should be secured.

58/15 Public Sector Pensions Committee

The Board received a verbal update from the Chief Executive in respect of the work of the Committee.

The Board noted that the next meeting of the full Committee was due to be held on 23 October 2015. The Board noted a number of meetings of the Technical Sub-Committee were due to take place on 19 October 2015 and, that in the view of the Executive, progress was being made within the sub-committee. The Board noted the proposal that following the meeting on the 19th the Technical Sub-Group aimed to produce a feedback report for consideration at the main Committee meeting on the 23rd.

The Board, being mindful of the requirement to report back to Tynwald in February 2016, asked that the Committee was reminded of this timeframe at the next meeting, and that the Committee's work should focus on reaching a position whereby the PSPA could report back to Tynwald within those timescales.

59/15 Judicial Pension Scheme

The Board considered a letter dated 2 October 2015 from the Chairman concerning whether or not he should recuse from participating in any negotiations in relation to the reform of Judicial Pensions.

It was considered that, given work had not yet commenced on reforming the Judicial Pension Scheme, the letter should be noted, but considered at a later date once work on the Judicial Scheme commenced.

60/15 Local Government Scheme

The Board noted that the Executive had been asked to conduct a review of the Governance Procedures for the Isle of Man Local Government Scheme by Douglas Borough Council, (the Managers of the Scheme).

The Board sought confirmation as to whether the PSPA was permitted to do this work. The Executive outlined that as it was not giving advice, but rather providing comment on the processes that were in place, it was viewed that it would be permissible to carry out this work. However, the Executive stated that it would confirm the position with the Attorney General's Chambers.

61/15 Hospice Employer Contributions

The Board noted that Hospice Isle of Man had contacted Treasury with regard to having to meet the increase Employer Contributions being put in place in relation to the Unified Scheme. The Board noted that Hospice was currently paying an employer contribution of 7% and that Treasury had agreed that that Hospice could meet the increase in contributions on an incremental basis with the rate of Employer contributions increasing from 1% per year until it reached the full 20% contribution.

Date of Next Meeting

The Board agreed the next meeting would take place on **Monday 9 November 2015** starting at **09:30 am**.

The meeting closed at 10:45