

Decisions of the Local Pension Board

25 April 2017

Members Present:-

Chairman: Councillor Brian Salinger

Vice Chairman: Geoffrey Alderman

Tom Evans Stephen Ross Salar Rida

Also in Attendance:

Iain Miller – Head of Treasury

Gillian Clellan – Finance Officer

Paul James – Director of Resources Capita

Hem Savla – Substitute Board Member

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th January 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Tom Evans disclosed a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of working for capita as an employee.

3. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

None.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

None.

5. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

7. PENSION ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Paul James (Director of Resources Capita) introduced the report to the Committee and notified Members that any comments or recommendations would be implemented where possible.

Mr Ross requested that the data included in future reports be presented in a more transparent way, with totals of data being included and more information about what the numbers relate to. Mr Evans agreed and asked that the table show comparisons between Barnet's scheme and a normal SLA scheme.

Mr Rida asked whether the current process could be streamlined. Mr James said that streamlining is an on-going process and they will continue to commit to improving this.

Mr James informed the Committee that a formal communications strategy was being drawn up and would be brought back for the Committee. The Chairman asked that a report on this be brought to a future committee meeting and added to the forward work programme. The Chairman said that he felt that whilst as much should be done electronically as possible, it was important to recognise that there will be some people that cannot be targeted electronically, so these individuals must also be kept in mind.

Mr Evans commented on the lack of data in relation to complaints and asked what the numbers of complaints were. Mr James said he would provide statistics on this and a comparison to other Local Authorities in a future report, but there had been no increase in complaints.

Mr Savla enquired what the threshold for 'significant amounts' in respect of benefit statements was. Mr James said he was not sure of the exact figure but it was a small amount. Mr Savla also asked how the risk of those that migrate abroad is managed. Mr James stated Capita have a life certification scheme each year to check that those who have moved abroad are still alive and entitled to receive a pension. He said data on this would also be included in a future report.

Mr Evans requested that Members of the Committee be provided with visibility of performance indicators. Mr James agreed that this could be provided.

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted and made comments on the report.

8. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman asked that the Communications Strategy Report be added to the Work programme to be brought to the next meeting.

The Committee agreed the provisional dates for meetings of the Local Pension Board for 2017-2018.

9. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

The Chairman announced that Iain Millar would be leaving Barnet and that this was his last meeting. He thanked Iain for all the support he has given to the Board.

The Chairman announced that he would become Mayor on the 23rd May and that membership of Committees would be finalised after Annual Council.

The meeting finished at 7.48pm