

Meeting of the Board 9 January 2020

ITEM 6

Scheme Advisory Board: April 2020 to March 2024

Advisors and Committees

Background

1. At the board meeting on 30 November 2016¹ the board agreed to appoint
Board Advisers and observers [Paper 3, Item 8²]
Board Committees [Paper 4, Item 10³]
Boards budget committee [Item 5]
2. The chair of the scheme advisory board is appointed for a four year term, it is proposed that the governance of the scheme advisory board should also follow this four year cycle commencing from 1 April 2020.
3. This paper has been drafted to allow the board to re-appoint these positions for the term commencing 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024 in line with the proposals below.

Advisors and observers

4. The current board advisers and observers are;

Non-voting advisory members⁴

Legal Adviser; Jane Marshall, Weightmans appointed following a procurement process

Actuarial Adviser; First Actuarial, appointed following a procurement process

Practitioner Adviser; Chair of the Firefighters Pensions Technical Committee, currently Helen Scargill, West Yorkshire Pension Fund⁵

¹ <http://www.fpsboard.org/images/PDF/Meetings/30112016/Minutes30112016.pdf>

² <http://www.fpsboard.org/images/PDF/Meetings/30112016/Item-8-30112016.pdf>

³ <http://www.fpsboard.org/images/PDF/Meetings/30112016/Item-10-30112016.pdf>

⁴ Appointed under [Regulation \[4F\(4\)\]](#)

...The chairman of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Advisory Board may, with the agreement of the Board, appoint a maximum of three persons to be non-voting advisory members of the Boards.

⁵ Item 3, Technical Group Minutes 10 April 2018 -

<http://www.fpsregs.org/images/Tech/Meeting18/Minutes100418.pdf>

Non-member adviser⁶

Clair Alcock, Senior Pensions Adviser, LGA

Observers

Home Office officials
Invited guests

Definition of advisors and observers

5. Board Advisors

Advisors shall be persons appointed in either a personal capacity or as a representative of a recognised professional firm to provide formal or professional advice to the Board in either written or verbal format both within and outside of Board meetings

6. Board observers

Observers shall be persons invited to attend Board meetings in order to enhance the communication from and feedback available to the Board with regard to scheme stakeholders not otherwise represented on the Board.

Appointment process from 1 April 2020

Paid Advisors

7. In order to comply with LGA procurement process, it is proposed to re-tender for the legal adviser and actuarial adviser positions for the four year board term from 2020. This does not stop the current advisers to submit a tender response.

Practitioner advisor

8. It is proposed to continue to appoint the Chair of the Firefighters Technical Working Group as a practitioner adviser. This position is currently held by Helen Scargill⁷, and is an unpaid role.

Non-member adviser

9. It is proposed to continue to appoint the LGA Senior Pensions Adviser as advisor to the board in a non-member role.

⁶ Regulation [4F(4)] does not limit the number of advisers that the board could invite to provide advice to the board, simply that only 3 can be appointed as members.

⁷ As appointed by the technical group on 10 April 2018 for a three year term - <http://www.fpsregs.org/images/Tech/Meeting18/Minutes100418.pdf>

Board observers

10. The Home Office and colleagues from devolved government boards have observer seats.
11. Invited Observers; It is proposed that any Board member can in advance of the next meeting propose (with reason) that a particular person can attend in an observer capacity. Any such invitation to be subject to the agreement of the chair.
12. Uninvited Observers; From time to time colleagues request to observe a Board meeting. These requests are generally accepted unless the agenda has confidential items on the agenda. Any requests from colleagues to attend should be subject to the agreement of the chair.

Board decision

13. The board are asked to agree the proposals.

Board Committees⁸

14. The current board committees and chairs are

Cost Effectiveness, chaired by Cllr R Phillips
Local Pension Board Effectiveness, chaired by Tristan Ashby
Administration and Benchmarking, chaired by Des Prichard

15. Each committee should have at least two members from the Scheme Advisory Board with an equal employer and employee representative split. A scheme advisory board member should chair each committee.

16. There are current vacant employer positions on the following boards

Administration and Benchmarking⁹
Local Pension Board Effectiveness¹⁰
Cost effectiveness¹¹

17. The committees have co-opted representatives of Fire Pensions from the following stakeholder groups to reflect a balanced cross section of views, who act in the interests of the FPSs as a whole and not in the interests of any organisation they may represent.

- Technical Practitioner Community
- Senior FRA Finance
- Senior FRA HR
- Employee and Employer representatives of Local Pension Boards

Board Decision for committees from 1 April 2020

18. Board members are asked to consider whether they wish to continue these committees for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024

19. Board members are asked to consider whether they wish to review committee membership from 1 April 2020, in particular the balance of board members who sit on the committees.

⁸ <http://www.fpsboard.org/index.php/board-committees>

⁹ <http://www.fpsboard.org/index.php/board-committees/administration-and-benchmarking>

¹⁰ <http://www.fpsboard.org/index.php/board-committees/local-pension-board-effectiveness>

¹¹ <http://www.fpsboard.org/index.php/board-committees/cost-effectiveness>

Board Procurement Committee

20. Under items 5 and 8 of the board meeting on 30 November 2016, it was agreed a budget committee and adviser selection committee would be formed.

21. It is proposed from 1 April 2020 that one committee should be formed to agree procurement of services. This should be formed of the chair of the scheme advisory board, two employee representatives and two employer representatives.

Board decision

22. The board are asked to agree the proposals and nominate members for the committees.

Board Secretary
06 January 2020