CUMBRIA FIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

Minutes of the first Meeting of the Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board held on Wednesday, 8th June at 2:00pm at Cumbria FRS HQ, Carleton Avenue, Penrith, CA10 2FA

PRESENT:

Employer Representatives
Barry Doughty - CCC(Chair)
Gary Strong - CCC

Employee (member) Representatives
Mark Nicholson - Active/Deferred & FBU member

Also in Attendance:-

Steve Healey - Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Fiona Miller - Senior Manager - Pensions & Financial Services
Julie Dole - Finance Manager - Regulatory & Benefits
Graham Leech - Technical Lead – Pay & Rewards

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Graeme Higgins – Active & FBU member and Julie Crellin – Assistant Director (Finance) s151 Officer.

2 MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE

Fiona Miller explained that Graeme Higgins has reluctantly tendered his resignation from the Board, and officers are proposing a mailshot to the active membership inviting applications to the board. She further explained that the terms of reference did not allow for substitutes. Barry Doughty confirmed the application process should proceed as a matter of urgency and expressed his disappointment to lose a valuable member of the Board.

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

4 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
There were no press or public in attendance.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 24th November 2015 were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

6 FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings of the Board are proposed:

- 14th October 2016 at 2pm
- April 2017- to be confirmed

7 THE PENSION’S REGULATOR – SURVEY OF PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION SCHEMES DECEMBER 2015

Consideration was given to a report by the Assistant Director – Finance regarding the Pensions Regulator survey of Public Service pension schemes carried out between July and September 2015. The Regulator expects well-run schemes to have appropriate tools and processes for all nine areas addressed in the Code of Practice no. 14 (the Code).

The Cumbria scheme has fulfilled many of the requirements of the Code, and is continuing to establish appropriate procedures to ensure high standards of governance. It is anticipated the Regulator will closely monitor Fire and Rescue Schemes in coming months. The intention being to use its educate approach to help Funds with compliance and addressing key risks.

Discussions ensued regarding the absence of guidance or standardised practices due to the absence of National Scheme Advisory Board (NSAB) still being in its infancy. BD confirmed he has previously raised concerns with both Government and non-Government ministers. It was noted the NSAB had been formed in February, and BD suggested that GS take it up further with Conservative ministers and MN to take it up through the FBU. Officers were requested to provide a list of concerns to be raised.

PART 2: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

8 DISCRETIONS POLICY

Consideration was given to a report by the Assistant Director – Finance on the proposed discretions policy. An overview on the proposed policy was given. Once agreed the policy would be approved by the Chief Fire Officer, as per the delegations to him in the County Council’s Constitution.
9  MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

Members were given an overview of the monitoring report. The annual YPS performance data to 31st March 2016 was reviewed. Members were advised of the revised arrangement with Lancashire County Council for the discharge of administration functions, which became effective from 1st February 2016. Updates will be provided to future meetings to monitor uptake.

10  ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A range of issues pertinent to the Board were discussed.

Meeting finished at 16:00pm.