



**Staffordshire**  
**Pension Fund**  
Local Government Pension Scheme

Pension Services

# **Pension Board Annual Report 2016/2017**

Version 1.0



## **Introduction**

This is the second annual report from the Staffordshire Pensions Board, the Board having been established by Staffordshire County Council Pensions Committee during spring 2015.

The Board is required by The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 to assist the Administering Authority, to secure compliance with the LGPS Regulations and help ensure that the Staffordshire Pension Fund is managed and administered effectively and efficiently and complies with the Code of Practice on the governance and administration of public service pension schemes issued by the Pension Regulator.

## **Executive Summary**

The opinion of the Board is that they currently have no concerns about the Staffordshire Pension Fund, its administration or the newly created LGPS Central.

## **Board Members**

The Board consists of six members, three representing Scheme members and three representing employers drawn from employer organisations. However, one member resigned during the year because of a change in employment. Despite considerable effort to fill the vacancy, it was not possible to complete the process during the year.

### **Employer Representatives**

Councillor Gordon Alcott - Cannock Chase District Council

Corrina Bradley - Financial Services Manager at Staffordshire Fire & Rescue and Board Vice-Chair

Christina Washington - Chief Finance Officer at St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust

### **Scheme Member Representatives**

Susan Lees - Unison Representative (Resigned 19 August 2016)

Tim Legge - Retired Scheme member

Ian Jenkinson - Retired Scheme member and Chair of the Board

## **Meeting Attendance**

The Board has met on four occasions during the year and attended joint training events and briefings with the Pensions Committee. In addition, one or more of the members have attended every Pension Committee and Pension Panel meetings to ensure that there is a full understanding of the decisions made and discussions undertaken.

Meeting	15 Jul 2016	21 Oct 2016	9 Dec 2016	17 Mar 2017
Gordon Alcott	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Corrina Bradley	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Susan Lees	<b>X</b>	<b>Resigned</b>	<b>Resigned</b>	<b>Resigned</b>
Tim Legge	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Ian Jenkinson	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>X</b>
Christina Washington	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Apologies</b>

### **Work Programme**

During this second year Board members have monitored the Fund's Triennial Valuation, the development of the LGPS Pooling arrangements and compliance with the Regulations.

Our view of the triennial valuation is that it has been properly carried out. It has taken a sound and fair view of the funding requirements of the scheme and produced an appropriate scale of contributions to meet the needs into the foreseeable future. This should result in the Funding Level increasing (the Funding Level is the extent to which the Fund can meet its liabilities). In addition, it is pleasing to note that, the value of the Fund has grown throughout the past year and this has also resulted in the Funding Level increasing.

The LGPS Pooling arrangements have been progressing throughout the year. The Board has received regular reports and discussed the risk register for the, proposed, LGPS Central. This appears to be properly managed and we have no concerns at present. Board members attended a workshop, in Wolverhampton, along with Board members from the other schemes in LGPS Central, we have received copies of their Annual Reports and note that there is no cause for concern at present.

Along with the Pension Committee we were disappointed to learn that the Staffordshire scheme is unlikely to be an immediate beneficiary of LGPS Central. However, we note that financial savings have already been made by closer officer working across the Central pool and expect that even more savings should arise in future years.

It will be recalled that, in our previous report, the Board had sought information about comparisons between the Staffordshire scheme and other LGPS schemes. This has not been followed up in any detail because other work took precedence. However the Triennial Review and the Pooling Arrangements do provide valuable information that we will investigate during the coming year.

A full set of minutes and information about the Board is available at <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=994>

### **Matters Reported to the Board**

The Board has a responsibility to report upon any matter that appears to be materially significant. It was reported in December that some scheme employers were not compliant with the timescales for supplying information to the Fund because their payroll arrangements were in transition to new providers. This was discussed at two successive meetings. It is not yet resolved but is expected to be finally resolved during the coming year. The Board will continue to monitor the situation.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest arose during the current year.

### **Training**

The Board has a statutory duty to monitor its own training needs to ensure that each member has the knowledge required to exercise their responsibilities. To that end the Board has collectively attended training events and individually undertook training through The Pension Regulators Public Service Toolkit and has adopted the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework to audit their understanding. All members have now completed the Regulators training and have completed a skills audit which is shown at Appendix A.

Training will continue to be targeted to the developing needs of the Board and its work programme.

### **Costs and Expenses**

The costs and expenses of the Board are met as part of the administration costs of the Fund. The total costs during this financial year relating to training and travel expenses were £1,095.45.

Ian Jenkinson,

Chair of the Staffordshire Pension Board  
June 2017

# Pension Services

Pension Board Training – Appendix A



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In an attempt to ensure that training was delivered efficiently and effectively by focusing on the key knowledge areas. CIPFA has developed, with the assistance of expert practitioners, frameworks covering the knowledge and skills requirements for officers and elected members/non-executives involved in the administration of public service pension schemes.

Staffordshire Pension Fund Officers carried out an assessment of the Pension Board, to discover what each individual member felt that their understanding was of the key knowledge areas that had been identified by CIPFA. In turn this would feed into the Training Plan for the coming 12 months. These training requirements have been discussed with the Scheme Actuary and will be delivered accordingly.

The objective is to improve knowledge and skills in all the relevant areas of activity of a pension board and assist board members in achieving the degree of knowledge appropriate for the purposes of enabling the individual to properly exercise the functions of a member of the pension board as required under Section 248a of the *Pensions Act 2004*, as amended by the *Public Service Pensions Act 2013*.

The key Skills are as follows:

Pensions Legislation

Public Sector Pensions Governance

Pensions Administration

Pensions Accounting and Auditing Standards

Pensions Services Procurement and Relationship Management

Investment Performance and Risk Management

Financial Markets and Product Knowledge

Actuarial Methods Standards and Practices

The graph below shows the 'collective' competence of the whole Board following training throughout the two years since formation.

### Collective Competencies for each segment across all Board members

