

Local Pension Board – Terms of Reference

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Local Pension Board ('the Board') is to assist the London Fire Commissioner ('the Commissioner') in their role of Scheme Manager:
 - a. To secure compliance with legislation relating to the governance and administration of the firefighters' pension schemes (the schemes), and any requirements imposed by the Pensions' Regulator in relation to the firefighters' pension schemes; and
 - b. To ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the firefighters' pension schemes.
2. The Board shall have the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions, e.g. (1) request relevant information from the Commissioner's officers responsible for the administration of the schemes; (2) make recommendations in respect of the administration of the schemes.
3. The Board has no executive authority in respect of the administration of the firefighters' pension schemes.

Membership

4. The membership of the Board will be:
 - a. Four employer representatives, comprising officers of the Commissioner who are members of the Top Management Group or Group Commanders, appointed by the Commissioner. Employer representatives must have the capacity and understanding to represent the Commissioner's role as an employer on the Board.
 - b. Four employee representatives, comprising three nominated by the Fire Brigades Union and one nominated by the Fire Officers Association. Employee representatives must have the capacity and understanding to represent all scheme members on the Board.
 - c. An independent chair to be appointed by the London Fire Commissioner.
5. Prospect may nominate one representative to be an observer at Board meetings with speaking rights.
6. Board members may be represented by a previously named substitute at Board meetings when necessary. Substitutes for employee representatives must be members of the corresponding trade union, and employer representatives must be members of the Commissioner's Top Management Group or Group Commanders. The number of named substitutes available will be no greater than the number of Board members for which the category of Board member has nomination rights on the Board. Named substitutes must comply with the Board's Terms of Reference provisions in relation to Conflicts of Interest, and when fulfilling duties in relation to the Board as a substitute they are subject to the same obligations as Board members. Amendments to Board members or the named substitutes must be approved by the Commissioner.
7. Board members must always act in the interests of the schemes and not seek to promote the interests of any stakeholder group above another.
8. The Chair shall be appointed by the London Fire Commissioner for a period of four years.

9. The Director for Corporate Services, the General Counsel, and the Director of Pensions of the London Pensions Fund Authority, or their nominated representatives, will be standing advisers to the Board.
10. The term of office of Board members shall be three years, which may be renewed. Nominations for membership must be received by the Commissioner one month before a member's tenure expires. The Commissioner shall have the power to replace Board members between appointments. A Board member may be replaced as a result, for example, of a conflict of interest, or no longer being available to carry out the functions of a Board member.
11. Board members are subject to, and must abide by, relevant codes of conduct. Board members must maintain appropriate confidentiality in respect of any matter related to their duties.
12. Board members will be entitled to claim reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred through discharging their Board responsibilities.

Knowledge and Understanding (including Training)

13. Knowledge and understanding must be considered in light of the role of the Board to assist the Commissioner as detailed above. The Board will designate a person to establish and maintain a policy and framework to address the knowledge and understanding requirements that apply to Board members. The policy and framework shall set out the degree of knowledge and understanding required as well as how knowledge and understanding is acquired, reviewed, and updated.
14. Board members shall attend and participate in training arranged in order to meet and maintain the requirements set out in the Board's knowledge and understanding policy and framework.
15. Board members shall participate in such personal training needs analysis or other processes that are put in place in order to ensure that they maintain the required level of knowledge and understanding to carry out their role on the Board.

Conflict of interest

16. No Board member shall have a conflict of interest, i.e., a financial or other interest which is likely to prejudice the member's exercise of functions as a member of the board (but does not include a financial or other interest arising merely by virtue of membership of the scheme or any connected scheme).
17. All members of the Board must declare to the Commissioner on appointment and at any such time as their circumstances change any potential conflict of interest arising as a result of their position on the Board.
18. On appointment to the Board and following any subsequent declaration of potential conflict, the Commissioner shall ensure that any potential conflict is effectively managed in line with both their internal procedures and the requirements of the pensions regulator's codes of practice on conflict of interest for Board members.

Frequency and conduct of meetings

19. The Board will meet four times a year. The Chair may call other meetings as necessary.
20. The meeting will only be quorate when at least 50 per cent of the employer representatives, and at least 50 per cent of the employee representatives are present.
21. The Board should aim to reach decisions by consensus. Where consensus is not achieved, this should be accurately recorded by the Chair, reflecting the outcome of the debate.

Amendment to the Terms of Reference

22. These terms of reference may be amended by regulation or in consultation with the Board by the Scheme Manager.

Contact the Local Pension Board

If you have any queries about the Board's terms of reference, please contact the London Fire Commissioner's team at governance@london-fire.gov.uk