

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced the requirement to have a Local Pensions Board to assist in the good governance of the scheme. The Buckinghamshire Pension Fund established the Board by the deadline of 1 April 2015 and the Buckinghamshire Pension Board's first meeting took place on 21 July 2015.

The Board currently meets three times per annum and consists of 4 Employer and 4 Member representatives, although there has been an unfilled vacancy for both a scheme employer representative and a scheme employee representative at some point during 2017/18. Attendance at meetings has been high, with an attendance rate of 90%.

All members of the Board have equal voting rights.

On 31 March 2018, the Board members were:

Scheme member representatives

- Peter Dearden
- Steve Mason (Chairman)
- Joe McGovern
- *Vacant post*

Scheme employer representatives

- Bev Black
- Roona Ellis (Vice Chairman)
- Ian Thompson
- Lisa Wheaton

Members of the Board are required to disclose any declarations of interest at the beginning of each Buckinghamshire Pension Board meeting.

In accordance with Section 248a of the Pensions Act 2004, every member of the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Pension Board must be conversant with the rules of the scheme (the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations), and any document recording policy about the administration of the scheme which is for the time being adopted in relation to the scheme.

Pension Board members must also have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions, and such other matters as may be prescribed.

Accordingly, all members of the Board are encouraged to take advantage of the many training opportunities notified to them by Pensions Officers and to maintain their core knowledge via self-study using the Pension Regulator's Public Services toolkit for online learning. This includes modules on conflicts of interest, managing risk and internal controls, maintaining accurate member data, maintaining member contributions, providing information to members and others, resolving internal disputes and reporting breaches of the law, and is regularly updated by the Regulator during the year.

Other training opportunities offered to and undertaken by Board Members include:

- LGA Trustee Fundamentals training and Cross Pool Open Forum
- Barnett Waddingham Board Member Seminars
- Employer Training, and
- In-house training as a result of a training needs analysis exercise

At the end of its third year since inception, the Board looked back at a busy and varied 12 months:

The Board undertook annual reviews of:

- their Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct Policy, Conflicts Policy and the Knowledge and Understanding Framework,
- the Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2016/17 and
- the CIPFA Pensions Administration Benchmarking performance.

At each meeting of the Board, reports were presented and considered regarding:

- Pension Fund Administration Performance Statistics,
- Pension Fund Administration Year-end Updates,
- Pension Fund Committee agenda and minutes,
- Updates from Officers regarding the progress in implementing the Brunel Pension Partnership as part of the Government LGPS Investments reform agenda,
- The BCCPF Employer's Newsletter for each quarter.

In addition, the Board Chairman attended meetings of the Pensions Committee in an 'observer' capacity, including additional meetings regarding developments in the Brunel Pension Partnership process, and had regular meetings with senior Officers to review ongoing Administration issues.

Chairman to insert report/comments

It is recognised that the core functions of the Board are to assist the Administering Authority in securing compliance with the Regulations, any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme, any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme, and to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme. All Board activities are targeted toward fulfilling this role.

Chairman to insert closing statement