

Pension Board

Minutes of the Pension Board held on 23 March 2021 held via Video Conference

Pensions Board

Robert Gould (Chair)
Caroline Mason
Colin Chiverton
Ian Brindley
Will Lidbetter
Hywel Tudor
Peter Smith

Officers

Craig Martin
Marion Maloney
Maureen Grant

Secretariat

Kathryn Lewis

Guest

Peter Kellett
Derry Gallagher

Apologies

John Lelliott
Emma Howard Boyd
Karen McWilliam (Aon)
Rachael Cunningham

1.0 Chair's introduction and apologies for absence

1.1 Robert Gould welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were noted from John Lelliott, Emma Howard Boyd, Karen McWilliam and Rachael Cunningham.

2.0 Declarations of interest

2.1 No further declarations were given.

3.0 Minutes of the Pension Board held on 25 March 2020

3.1 The minutes of the 25 March 2020 Pensions Board meeting were noted and were previously approved by correspondence on 2 June 2020.

4.0 Review of Pensions Committee meetings in 2020/21

4.1 Marion Maloney provided an overview of policies agreed over the past year and major milestones, including the business plan around Brunel, Robert Gould's appointment as Chair of the Brunel Oversight Board, and EAPF winning the 'Best Pension Fund in the United Kingdom' award at the IPE Awards 2020.

4.2 Marion noted that despite the impacts of Coronavirus, governance has worked well. She noted that Pensions Committee attendance level and commitment from members continues to be high.

- 4.3 Ian Brindley commented that working online has worked well but highlighted the missed nuance of connecting with other members face-to-face and that reconnecting activities should be planned in once this is possible.
- 4.4 Colin Chiverton raised concern over pinch points in the EAPF team and the criticality of vacancies, noting that this represents a high risk due to increasing workloads. Craig Martin agreed that team resource levels are a risk and that the team now have a Grade 7 structure in place and will be reviewing the rest of the team. Robert Gould noted he is in discussions with Craig on this issue.
- 4.5 Peter Smith commented that he has now received an iPad and he thanked the EAPF team for their technical support and help in highlighting the relevant information.
- 4.6 Hywel Tudor commented that the volume of paper sent to the Committee is very high and noted his preference for concise cover papers with executive summaries that pick out the key figures. Craig Martin confirmed that producing a light version of the paper pack that contains only cover pages, and a separate more detailed pack that members can dive into for further reading if they wish, is something he is exploring.
- 4.7 Craig Martin noted that should Pension Board members require better IT or further support to let the team know.
- 4.8 Robert Gould acknowledged that despite the challenges of the past year major progress has been made. He thanked all members of the Pension Board for their work.
- 5.0 Any other business**
- 5.1 No other business was raised.
- 6.0 Date and time of next meeting**
- 6.1 The date of the next annual meeting would be in March 2022, at a date to be agreed in due course.

Meeting closed at 14.10