

Cumbria Local Pension Board (LGPS)

Functions

To assist the Administering Authority of the Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme to secure compliance with:-

- The regulations covering administration of a local government pension scheme;
- Other legislation relation to the governance and administration of the LGPS; and
- The requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the LGPS.

And to

- Ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS.

To have a policy and framework to meet the knowledge and understanding requirements of section 248A of the Pensions Act 2004.

In their role in assisting the Administering Authority as described above, the Board shall report twice yearly to the Pension Committee on matters reviewed and suggestions for their consideration. Where the Board is concerned that due consideration has not been given to matters of non-compliance the Board may submit a report for consideration by the Audit and Assurance Committee as the body designated by the Administering Authority with the capacity to investigate such matters on its behalf.

The Board is constituted under the Public Service Pension Act 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2014 and is therefore not subject to the requirements of s.101 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Board has no remit as a decision making body but is established to assist the Administration Authority fulfil its functions which shall be deemed to cover all aspects of governance and administration of the Pension Fund.

Board Membership

Equal representation between scheme employers and scheme members is required. The Cumbria Local Pension Board will have three scheme member representatives and three scheme employer representatives. Three Member representatives, three employer representatives, substitutes are not permitted.

Appointment of Board members - To ensure an open and transparent selection process and to ensure the Administration Authority meets its obligation to ensure appointed members have the relevant experience and capacity, the selection process will be through application, matching to a role profile and interview. The Appointment Panel will consist of the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Appointment of the Chair / Vice Chair – the Administering Authority will appoint the Chair and the Vice Chair. The roles will be split with one being a scheme representative member rep and one being a scheme representative employer rep and this will be alternated on a two yearly cycle,

Appointments will be for four years and there will be no limit on the number of times a member of the board can seek to be reappointed.

The three employer representatives will be allocated 1 to the County Council; 1 to the District Councils and 1 for all other employers in the Fund.

The three scheme member representatives will be selected to ensure all membership groups within the Fund are covered.

Reimbursement of reasonable expenses for attendance at meetings and training sessions will be per the Council's agreed policies and rates for Elected Members. All such costs will be met directly by the Pension Fund.

Relevant experience and capacity – the administering authority must ensure that each person appointed to the Board has the relevant experience and the capacity to represent the employers or members (as appropriate) of the Fund. Initially this will be done through selection by the Administration Authority but, following appointment, it is a member's individual responsibility to ensure they attend all training etc. to enable them to continue to fulfil the experience and capacity requirements. Full training will be provided and all reasonable costs will be met by the Fund. To ensure compliance with the above a general level of attendance at meetings and training events is required.

Board Operating Structure and Codes of Conduct

- The Board will be quorate if 25% of designated members (i.e. 2) are in attendance.
- Prior to appointment to the Board all members will be required to sign up to the Board's Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy. As a body representing the public interest the Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy of members of the Local Pension Board will be aligned to those applicable to Members of the Pension Committee and is available on the Councils Website.
- The Board will meet as a minimum twice a year. Meetings will be held during normal working hours and will predominantly be held within County boundaries.
- Where required, a minimum of 2 Board members (one from the scheme member representatives and one from the scheme employer representatives) or the Administering Authority can request a special meeting be convened. Notice of ten working days must be given.
- Creation of Working Parties / Sub Groups – as a non-decision-making body the Board have no authority to establish Working Parties / Sub Groups.
- Voting rights – Each member shall have an equal vote and, should it be required, the Chair will have the casting vote.

Commissioning of Service providers and Advisors

- All Board members have the right to access the support of the experienced Local government Pension Scheme Independent Advisors, however due regard has to be taken of securing value for money and as such whether in the first instance Officers could provide the assistance required.
- Items of expenditure by the Board must have prior approval from the Section 151 Officer.

Role of Officers

- Reasonable secretarial and professional support will be provided by Officers of the Administering Authority. Costs associated with this will be directly charged to the Fund.

Publication and Data Protection

- As a general principle meetings will be open to the public.
- Paper or electronic versions (as requested) of all agendas and papers will be provided to all members of the Board prior to a meeting. The Chair can accept that items be tabled on the day should such a need arise.
- As a matter of policy the Pension Fund has adopted the principals of paperless working, therefore as a matter of course public access to all agendas, public papers and minutes etc. will be available on the Council's website. On request alternative media versions are available.
- The County Council as the Administration Authority is the registered data controller of the Cumbria LGPS, and as such all policies and practices in this regard applicable within the County Council are directly applicable to the Board.