

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 17 July 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: LOCAL PENSION BOARD - APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Contact Officer: Kerry Nicholls, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 0208 461 7840 E-mail: kerry.nicholls@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from full Council to appoint two Employer Representatives to the Local Pension Board as Board Members.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That Emma Downie and Chloe West be formally appointed as Employer Representatives to the Local Pension Board for four-year terms of office commencing 17 July 2023.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable.
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Pension Fund
 4. Total current budget for this head: TBC
 5. Source of funding: Contributions to the Pension Fund
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (*current and additional*): The Local Pension Board comprises two Employer Representatives and two Scheme Member Representatives. The Board is supported by the Head of Pensions Shared Service.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended)
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Decision by Full Council.
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
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Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
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Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Not Applicable
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Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*): 6,499 current active members, 7,557 deferred pensioners and 6,017 pensioner members (for all employers in the Fund) as at 31 May 2023.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Under the Public Service Pension Act 2013, all public sector pension schemes are required to establish a Local Pension Board (LPB) to assist in the governance of the pension scheme and to provide challenge and accountability to the administration and management of public sector pension schemes.
- 3.2 The establishment of the Local Pension Board and its Terms of Reference for the London Borough of Bromley were formerly approved by full Council on 23 February 2015.
- 3.3 In accordance with Regulation 107 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013, the Board must consist of an equal number of Employer and Scheme Member Representatives with a minimum number of four Board members in total.
- 3.4 The current Terms of Reference for the Local Pension Board states that the Board shall consist of four Board members comprising two Employer Representatives and two Scheme Member Representatives. Board members will ordinarily serve a term of four-years, except where they are appointed to replace an outgoing Board member mid-term, in which case they will complete the balance of the existing four-year term. Board members may express the wish to be reselected at the end of their term.
- 3.5 For the purpose of appointing Employer Representatives to the Board, nominations will be sought from all fund employers including the London Borough of Bromley before formal appointment is made by Full Council. Expressions of interest to become Scheme Member Representatives will be sought from Trade Unions and Departmental Representatives as well as by advert and written appeal to all scheduled and admitted bodies and will be formally appointed by the Pensions Committee.
- 3.6 Emma Downie was formally appointed an Employer Representative of the Local Pension Board by full Council at its meeting on 22 May 2019 for a four-year term ending 30 June 2023. She has attended all meetings of the Local Pension Board convened during her four-year term of appointment and has previously served the Board as Chairman. Emma Downie has been nominated for reappointment as an Employer Representative by the London Borough of Bromley as a Scheme Employer within the Bromley Fund.
- 3.6 Chloe West has been nominated for appointment as a new Employer Representative by the London Borough of Bromley as a Scheme Employer within the Bromley Fund. Further information regarding this nominee can be viewed at Appendix A.
- 3.7 A report requesting the appointment of a Scheme Member Representative for a four-year term ending 10 September 2027 will be put to the next meeting of the Pensions Committee on 11 September 2023. There remains one vacancy for a Scheme Member Representative on the Local Pension Board for which expressions of interest are being sought.

4. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's Pension Fund is a defined benefit scheme operated under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations for the purpose of providing pension benefits for its employees.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Although permitted under Regulations, Local Pension Board members are not paid an allowance. As set out in the terms of reference, remuneration for Board members will be limited to a refund of actual expenses incurred in attending meetings and training.
- 5.2 As the administering authority the Local Authority is required to facilitate the operation of the Local Pension Board including providing suitable accommodation for Board meetings as well as administrative support, advice and guidance. This is currently done within existing in-house resources.
- 5.1 Any costs arising from the establishment and operation of the Local Pension Board are treated as appropriate administration costs of the scheme and, as such, are chargeable to the Pension Fund.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All Local Government Pension Scheme employers and members must have an equal opportunity to be nominated to become Board members through an open and transparent process.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 provides primary legislation for all public service schemes including the LGPS 2014.
- 7.2 The LGPS (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 were laid before Parliament on 28th January 2015 and came into force on 1st April 2015.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Impact of Vulnerable Adults and Children; Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications; Impact on the Local Economy/Health and Wellbeing; Customer Impact; Ward Councillor Views.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Local Pension Board – Appointment of Board Members (GP&L Committee 6 May 2019 / Council 22 May 2019) Public Service Pension Act 2013 LGPS Regulations 2013 LGPS (Amendment)(Governance) Regulations 2015

Supporting Statement – Chloe West

I started working for Local Government in 2017 as a Finance Trainee. My first role was within the Pension and Treasury team for another Local Authority. During my time in this team, I had many technical accounting responsibilities as well as producing committee reports and attending actuarial meetings. Some of my technical tasks included reconciliations of admitted and scheduled body contributions and producing the Annual Pension report for the statement of accounts. I then obtained a post in the financial control team working under the Chief Accountant but was moved across last financial year to cover long-term sickness of the Pensions Accountant for the year end processes.

I joined the London Borough of Bromley in December last year as the VAT Officer for the organisation, working within the Technical Control team alongside our Pension Accountant. I am a part qualified CIPFA student and being part of the Pension Board fits with my knowledge and interests and would give me relevant working experience alongside my studies towards being a chartered accountant.