

Decision Maker: PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 11 September 2023

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

Title: LOCAL PENSION BOARD - APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Contact Officer: Kerry Nicholls, Democratic Services Officer
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Chief Officer: Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the Pensions Committee to appoint two Scheme Member Representatives to the Local Pension Board as Board Members.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That Lesley Rickards and Gill Slater be formally appointed as Scheme Member Representatives to the Local Pension Board for four-year terms of office commencing 11 September 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: No Executive decision.
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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*): 6,509 current employees; 6,019 pensioners; 6443 deferred pensioners as at 31 March 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
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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 Scheme Member Representatives to be appointed by the Pensions Committee (this responsibility was held by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee prior to May 2021). and two Employer Representatives to be appointed by Full Council. 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 There are currently two vacancies for Scheme Member Representatives. Expressions of interest were sought from the Departmental Representatives of the London Borough of Bromley and from the relevant Trade Unions (GMB, Unite and Unison) with further nominations sought via an advert placed on the Local Authority's website and by way of a written appeal to all scheduled and admitted bodies.
- 3.6 An expression of interest was received from existing Scheme Member Representative, Lesley Rickards who was formally appointed a Scheme Member Representative of the Local Pension Board by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee at its meeting on 16 May 2019 for a four-year term ending 30 June 2023. She has attended all but one meeting of the Local Pension Board convened during her four-year term of appointment and has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Board.
- 3.7 Gill Slater has expressed interest in being appointed as a new Scheme Member Representative. Further information regarding this nominee can be viewed at Appendix A.
- 3.8 There is currently one vacancy for an Employer Representative for which nominations 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 – Gill Slater

I am interested in a position as a Scheme Member employee representative of the London Borough of Bromley Local Pension Board.

Whilst I was unable to attend the Pensions Training Session held in December 2022 and do not currently have a detailed knowledge of pensions and the Local Government Pension Scheme, I have previously asked questions about the pension scheme, both as a member of the scheme and separately as a Trade Union Representative and as Vice-Chair of the Local Joint Consultative Committee.

I have worked for Bromley since 1988 and, whilst at 56 I am still some way off retirement, I have a strong interest in the pension scheme. I appreciate that training will be required in addition to attending the three meetings a year and have sought the agreement of my line manager, who has confirmed that is acceptable should I be appointed.