

APPOINTMENTS BOARD

Thursday, 14th February, 2013 at 10.30 a.m.

In a Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Towe (Chairman)
Councillor Ansell
Councillor Barker
Councillor Chambers
Councillor S. Coughlan
Councillor Thomas

602/13 **Appointment of Chairman**

Resolved

That Councillor Towe be appointed Chairman of this meeting only.

Councillor Towe in the Chair

603/13 **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

No appointment was made to this position.

604/13 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

605/13 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest, however, various Members indicated that they were a part of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

606/13 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Pension Schemes - Automatic Enrolment and Transitional Delay

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Lisa Hemus, Senior Manager, HR Direct Services and Andrew Pugh, Pensions Control Adviser, were in attendance and presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

In particular, Lisa confirmed that there would be no disadvantage to any Member of the pension scheme by approving the transitional delay. Implementing the transitional delay, however, would save the Authority a substantial amount of money and administrative work which would otherwise have to be funded from the Council's budget.

Lisa responded to some general questions from Councillor Towe in relation to the consequences of implementing the scheme and how Members would be affected.

Councillor Chambers then expressed his concern in relation to the short timescale involved as a decision was required by 1st March, 2013 and the Appointments Board had to make recommendation to Council at its meeting on 21st February, 2013. Furthermore, speaking in his capacity as a Member of the Audit Committee, Councillor Chambers stated that he would have liked to have been made aware of this during the consultation period.

Finally, Councillor Chambers wished to know what the Trade Unions had felt about this matter when it had been explained to them during the consultation process. Lisa acknowledged Councillor Chambers's points and explained that the report had been to Corporate Management Team and then subsequently the Employee Relations Forum before coming to Appointments Board.

Lisa went on to explain that the Unions at Employee Relations Forum were supportive of the implementation of the scheme as they had appreciated that no Members would be at a detriment. Furthermore, the Unions also acknowledged the financial and administrative impact such a scheme would place on the Council.

In closing, Lisa advised the Board that the Audit Team had been fully involved with this process and were currently reviewing it at present.

Councillor Chambers then asked if what was being proposed was fully in accordance with the law. Lisa replied that it was.

Following some more general questions on the report it was,

Resolved

That the Appointments Board recommends that Council approve the transitional delay of the Pensions Automatic Enrolment Scheme until 1st October, 2017 which will in turn avoid a potential financial strain of approximately £4.6 million per annum on the Authority.

608/13

Private Session

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Board considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

609/13

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2013 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2013, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Board, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 10.42 a.m.

Chairman

Date