

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

16 July 2015

Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Local Pension Board

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the process for the appointment of the Independent Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Local Pension Board (LPB) who need to be elected at this meeting.

Background

2. To improve the effectiveness of the LPB, Wiltshire Council chose in the Terms of Reference to have a non-voting independent chairman. This position will use their expert advice to lead and assist the Board.
3. The Terms of Reference also refer to the appointment of a vice-chairman.

Considerations for the Board

Independent Chairman

4. The duties of the Independent Chairman are outlined in paragraph 47 of the Terms of Reference:

47. The chair of the Board:

- (a) Shall ensure the Board delivers its purpose as set out in these Terms of Reference,*
- (b) Shall ensure that meetings are productive and effective and that opportunity is provided for the views of all members to be expressed and considered, and*
- (c) Shall seek to reach consensus and ensure that decisions are properly put to a vote when it cannot be reached. Instances of a failure to reach a consensus position will be recorded and published.*

5. The effectiveness of this role and ultimately the Board will be enhanced by the Chairman having the relevant pension expertise with a thorough understanding of the issues faced by a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
6. Nominations for the role of independent chairman were sought through adverts on the Fund's website and the Wiltshire Council job vacancy website. Nominations packs included the role profile and person specification were issued with a closing date of 15 April 2015.
7. This person cannot have any current employment, contractual, financial or other material interest in the Council, be a scheme employer or member of the Wiltshire Pension Fund or be an elected member of Wiltshire Council.
8. All applicants were reviewed against the published criteria of relative experience and capacity to undertake the role. A shortlist was then drawn up and invited to interview with

the Associate Director (Finance), Head of Pensions, and a representative from the Fund's actuary.

9. Following this process, a preferred candidate, **Howard Pearce** was identified and recommended to the Associate Director (Legal & Democratic Services) and Associate Director (Finance). This candidate was formally recommended to Council and appointed at its meeting on 12 May 2015.

10. Paragraph 45 of the Terms of Reference then state:

45. Full council will appoint the chair to the Board. However, the appointment of the chair shall be subject to the passing of a motion to confirm by a majority of the employer and member representatives of the Board.

11. This appointment will run for a period of 4 years.

12. Therefore the Board is asked to pass a motion confirming the appointment of Howard Pearce to this position.

Vice Chairman

13. The Terms of Reference also state:

46. The Board will appoint the vice chair from amongst its remaining voting members, alternating on an annual basis between an employer representative and a member representative.

14. The purpose of this role is to provide cover should the Independent Chairman not be able to attend a meeting.

15. Therefore, the Board is asked to consider nominations at the meeting, and to appoint a vice chairman for a period of 12 months.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

16. There is no environmental impact of this proposal.

Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment

17. The role of independent chairman is remunerated for the provision of their services and this cost has been included in the budgets of the Wiltshire Pension Fund. There is no allowance or payment for services associated with the Vice-Chairman role.

18. The appointment to both these roles will mitigate the risk of this Board not fulfilling its duties as outlined in the Terms of Reference elsewhere on this agenda.

Legal Implications

19. There are no material legal implications arising from the proposals.

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

20. There are no known implications at this time.

Reasons for Proposals

21. To enable the appointment of an independent chairman and vice chairman to the LPB.

Proposals

22. The LPB is asked to:

- a) approve the appointment of Howard Pearce as independent chairman of the LPB;
- b) request nominations for the role of vice-chairman; and
- c) appoint a vice-chairman for the LPB.

MICHAEL HUDSON
Treasurer to the Pension Fund

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: NONE