

**SURREY LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION BOARD
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER**

The actions and recommendations tracker allows Board Members to monitor responses, actions and outcomes against their recommendations or requests for further actions. The tracker is updated following each Board. Once an action has been completed, it will be shaded out to indicate that it will be removed from the tracker at the next meeting.

Date of meeting and reference	Item	Recommendations/ Actions	To	Response	Progress
17 January 2020 A1/20	Matthews / Retained Project Administration Update (1 September 2019 - 31 December 2019)	Implement of modified pension scheme arrangements	Scheme Manager	<p>April 2023: A communication will be sent to all affected members to confirm no further action is due to take place until the legislation is implemented in October 2023.</p> <p>July 2023: A communication was sent to all affected members on 24 May 2023, advising further updates will follow once legislation confirmed. A poster, to inform members who believe they are eligible for the exercise but have not heard from the Pensions Team, are encouraged to make contact accordingly, was sent to all Station Commanders to display on Station Boards.</p> <p>November 2023: The legislation has been finalised and came into force on 1 October 2023. The LGA have provided draft communications to send to members and the first phase of the GAD calculator will be released to FRAs in November 2023. Letters including Expression of Interest forms were issued to members on 1 November 2023.</p>	Ongoing

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				<p>February 2024: FRAs have a legal duty to contact eligible members. The SFRS pension team have employed the services of ITM, a mortality and tracing specialist, to reach out to a number of individuals who have not yet responded.</p> <p>April 2024: The tracing exercise is still being arranged as the pensions team need to look into any potential data protection issues due to the type of personal data being shared. A similar trace was done by the LGPS at Surrey which will hopefully speed up the process. The pension team have started and will continue to calculate and send information to members who have shown an expression of interest, however due to low resource backlogs have built up. Further contact will be made to members to manage their expectation.</p>	
<p>30 April 2020 A20/20 (Informal meeting due to Covid-19)</p>	<p>GMP Exercise Administration Update (1 January 2020 - 31 March 2020)</p>	<p>The Pensions Support & Development Manager will liaise with the Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Support on the next steps concerning the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) reconciliation - the new Project Manager to assist.</p>	<p>Scheme Manager</p>	<p>February 2023: The data extracts from XPS were not provided in time to the Service which meant Mercer would not be able to complete the rectification exercise prior to the pensions increase. Mercer are reviewing the data extracts, additional costs will be incurred for the work completed. It is anticipated the project will be finalised by the end of 2023.</p> <p>April 2023: Mercer and XPS are in communication with each other to confirm the template to use and the data that is required. It is still hoped the project will be completed before the end of 2023.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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				<p>July 2023: XPS have explained that they do not feel it is their responsibility to check the benefit specification template. The Service have contacted their legal party to determine if Weightmans may be able to carry out this exercise.</p> <p>November 2023: Weightmans have reviewed the benefit specification and are liaising with Mercers with a view to final sign off.</p> <p>February 2024: It was noted at the Board meeting that officers were awaiting a final update from XPS. The representative from XPS confirmed that a report had been received from Mercer and XPS were due to meet with Mercer for a discussion.</p> <p>April 2024: A further update request has been made to XPS/Aptia (Mercer). XPS have confirmed that Aptia will come back to the pensions team when able.</p>	
25 November 2021 A7/21	Address Update XPS Administration - Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Pension Board Report	For the Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Support to work with XPS to use a tracing service to confirm addresses for those past retirement or within two years of retirement.	Scheme Manager	February 2023: XPS submitted in January the data to their supplier for the address tracing exercise. A verbal update should be provided at the Local Pension Board meeting. XPS will write to the old and the new addresses to confirm the correct address to use.	Ongoing

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				<p>April 2023: XPS have confirmed in their report, that there are several addresses returned. The team at XPS are working through the returns and a verbal update will be provided at the Board meeting.</p> <p>July 2023: XPS have confirmed that this project is continuing with their provider. A revised file is due to be submitted in June. Mortality screening costs are also being considered.</p> <p>February 2024: XPS confirmed at the Board meeting that a basic unit price had been received and that they were awaiting information on the scheme members that needed to be covered.</p> <p>April 2024: XPS have confirmed tracing for 'gone away' members will continue. We have confirmed with XPS that this will now form part of the Pensions Dashboard preparations and will be picked up under the work done for that. This will avoid duplication and additional work/cost. XPS will keep the pension team informed.</p>	
28 July 2022 A7/22	<p>Member Email Address Update</p> <p>XPS – Surrey Fire & Rescue Pension Board Report</p>	<p>The Board suggested for work to be carried out to try and obtain email addresses for all members, allowing for information to be circulated when needed and potentially reducing the risk of losing contact when members move to a different address. The Scheme Manager agreed to</p>	Scheme Manager	<p>February 2023: This is an extensive piece of work and currently there is not the resource to do this. However, the uptake of members creating an account on the member's self-service portal continues to increase which provides a further platform to gain information from members.</p>	Ongoing

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		consider this and report back to the Board.		<p>February 2024: No update on this area due to the other tasks within the team which have taken priority.</p> <p>April 2024: Work email addresses for all active members have been supplied to XPS. The pensions team will work with XPS to provide any further information they hold once other priorities ease.</p>	
<p>27 April 2023</p> <p>A6/23</p>	Risk Register	SFRS to be provided with an update on the McCloud Age discrimination legislation and whether preparations were expected to be ready in time for the scheduled implementation in October 2023.	XPS / Scheme Manager	<p>July 2023: A meeting took place between the Pension Team and XPS on 21 June 2023. Currently, there are no expected impacts to members or anticipated delays with the preparations for implementation of the legislation in October 2023.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that orders had recently been laid before parliament and asked that Members were briefed on any issues within the next few weeks following the July meeting of the Board.</p> <p>November 2023: The legislation came into force on 1 October 2023. The Pension Team are working on a further data collection exercise to extract member historical tax information from payroll records. This is needed to input in the GAD calculator. There have been 3 retirements, in October, in scope of remedy and their benefits have been processed and paid on time, in accordance with the Remedy legislation.</p> <p>February 2024: The pension team continue to liaise with XPS to ensure all relevant information is available to prepare Remediabale Service Statements (RSS) to each cohort of members.</p>	Ongoing

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				<p>April 2024: In March the pensions team supplied the data for the first cohort of membership to XPS and will continue to do so when requested. XPS will continue to update on the progress of the RSSs.</p>	
<p>6 July 2023 A7/23</p>	<p>Scheme Manager Report</p>	<p>SFRS to provide the year-end data for the 2022 – 2023 financial year to XPS in order to send out annual Benefit statements by 31 August 2023 and to ensure member records and projections are correct.</p>	<p>Scheme Manager</p>	<p>July 2023: Due to annual leave, the introduction of the new payroll system, the month the pay award was paid to SFRS staff and how the data needs to be extracted from SAP, the deadline of 15 May 2023 to send the data to XPS was not achieved. The Pensions Team has been informed the data is likely to be ready by 31 July. XPS have been notified of this and has received confirmation this should not impact the creation of annual benefit statements.</p> <p>November 2023: Year-end data and pay award data was submitted to XPS on 7 August 2023. However, Annual Benefit Statements were not published by the deadline of 31.8.23, due to the introduction of new payroll software and associated issues with extracting the relevant pay data. This incident has been assessed in accordance with the Pension Regulator guidelines and will be recorded, by the Pension Team, as an internal breach of responsibilities. The ABS's are expected to be published by XPS by the end of November 2023.</p> <p>February 2024: The Annual Benefit Statements were not published by the end of November 2023. This was due to challenges in extracting the correct pay data following implementation of new payroll software as well</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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				<p>as ensuring the two back dated pay awards were allocated correctly. The Pension Team worked collectively with payroll to resolve the errors and the year end data was submitted to XPS on 14 January 2024.</p> <p>The representative from XPS confirmed at the Board meeting that they expected the Annual Benefit Statements to be online by close of business on 9 February 2024.</p> <p>April 2024: The ABSs were uploaded to member records in March 2024, and members were informed by the pensions team by email on the 28 March 2024. As mentioned previously, this is an internal breach under TPR guidelines and has already been recorded by the team.</p>	
A1/24	Scheme Manager Report	In regard to the McCloud - Age Discrimination Remedy, officers agreed to provide a report on progress against the plans for those who retired before October 2023 outside of the meeting.	Scheme Manager	April 2024: The pensions team will request details from XPS about how these cases will be treated.	
A2/24	Scheme Manager Report	It was agreed to include an update on the progress of the Annual Benefit Statements for 24/25 within a future Scheme Manager Update Report. It was further agreed to circulate the log of exceptions with members of	Scheme Manager	April 2024: Work is currently being carried out by payroll/the pensions team to provide end-of-year data to XPS for the production of the combined ABS/RSS for 2024.	

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		the Board for consideration at a future meeting.			

COMPLETED RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS/ACTIONS – TO BE DELETED

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24 February 2023 A3/23	Member Tracing XPS – Surrey Fire & Rescue Pension Board Report	To provide the Board with detail on the number of deferred members that were past retirement age and had not been in contact with XPS.	XPS / Scheme Manager	<p>April 2023: XPS have confirmed in their report of one member who exceeds normal pension age for a deferred beneficiary. This member is based overseas. Actions will be taken by XPS to locate this member.</p> <p>July 2023: the representative from XPS explained that they had not received a response from the scheme member who was believed to be overseas. The Chairman asked that XPS continue with their efforts to contact the scheme member.</p> <p>February 2024: the representative from XPS confirmed at the Board meeting that information would be provided outside the meeting.</p>	Ongoing
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				April 2024: XPS have confirmed the member has been contacted and further work is no longer required.	
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