



PENSION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR POLICE PENSION BOARD FOR SURREY

Version adopted and approved on 20/01/16

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to set out the Terms of Reference for the Police Pension Board for Surrey (the Board).

The Board was established on 1 April 2015 by Chief Constable Lynn Owens, as Chief Constable of the Surrey Police (the “Scheme Manager”) according to section 5 of Act and regulation 13 of the 2015 Regulations.

Temp Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave has given his approval of these Terms of Reference on 20/01/16.

Section 21 of these Terms of Reference explains the defined terms used in these Terms.

2. POWERS OF THE POLICE PENSION BOARD

The Board will exercise all its powers and carry out its duties in accordance with the law and these Terms of Reference.

3. AMENDMENT OF THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Subject always to the Act and Regulations, the Board may amend any term of these Terms of Reference where, in its reasonable judgement, such amendment would promote the efficiency and smooth working of the Board.

A Board Member may propose an amendment at any meeting of the Board. The Board Member shall have informed the Chair of his or her proposal and the Chair shall have included the proposal in the meeting agenda and / or papers circulated prior to a meeting of the Board. Such amendment shall be made where a majority of the Board Members present and voting at any meeting are in favour of the proposal.

4. FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

The role of the Pensions Board is, under regulation 13(1) of the Regulations, to assist the Scheme Manager:

to secure compliance with:

- the Regulations;
- any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Police Pension Scheme (the “Scheme”) (and any statutory pension scheme that is connected with it);
- any requirements imposed by the Pension Regulator in relation to the Scheme (and any statutory pension scheme that is connected with it); and
- in the performance of the Scheme Manager’s functions under the Regulations.

The Scheme Manager considers that “assisting the Scheme Manager” should be interpreted as helping the Scheme Manager in his/her management or administration of the Scheme pursuant to sections 4 and 5 of the Act and the Regulations.

This shall include, but shall not be limited to, doing, in a timely manner, such work and tasks as requested by the Scheme Manager in relation to such aspects of governance and administration of the Scheme as the Scheme Manager determines.

The specific functions of the Board as determined by the Scheme Manager above the Board’s core statutory role are set out in Annex A to these Terms of Reference.

5. COMPOSITION OF THE PENSION BOARD

Membership

The Board shall consist of a minimum of 6 voting members (who must be Employer or Employee Representatives) and maximum of twelve, and be constituted as follows:

- There shall be a Chair (Employer) and a Deputy Chair (Employee) appointed by the Scheme Manager who also have the power to vote.

- The Chair shall appoint at least 4 members of the Board and there shall be an equal number of Employer Representatives and Employee Representatives. The Chair may appoint any Independent Member to the Board.
- Board Members should be able to demonstrate their capacity to attend and complete the necessary preparation for meetings and participate in training as required.
- Employee Representatives shall either be scheme members, active or deferred or pensioner or have capacity to represent members of the scheme.

Appointment and Removal of Chair and Deputy Chair

The scheme Manager has a responsibility under the Regulations to appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board for a term not exceeding a period of 3 years.

- Where the Scheme Manger does not appoint an independent Chair:
- the office of Chair must be filled alternatively by an Employer Representative and an Employee Representative; and
- Where the Chair is an Employer Representative, the Deputy Chair must be an Employee Representative, and vice versa.

If the Chair or the Deputy Chair's term of office:

- terminates by natural expiry, the Scheme Manager may re-appoint the Chair or the Deputy Chair for a further term as set out above; or
- terminates for any other reason, the Scheme Manager will appoint another person to replace the outgoing party externally or from the existing membership of the Board.

The Chair will ensure that meetings are properly conducted according to these Terms of Reference and other relevant procedures adopted by the Board and the decision of the Chair on all points of procedure and order shall be final.

The role of the Deputy Chair is to assist the Chair in carrying out their functions and to carry out those functions if the chair is not present.

The Chair or Deputy Chair may delegate any of their functions apart from the responsibility to appoint Board Members.

Appointment and Removal of Board Members

The Chair of the Board shall appoint the Employer Representatives and Employee Representatives, subject to the approval of the Scheme Manager.

The eligibility and selection criteria for selecting Board Members and details as to how Board Members are to be removed are set out in the Police Pension Board Members Appointment and Removal Rules at Annex B.

6. DECISION MAKING AND ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Meetings, Agendas and Minutes

The Chair of the Board will prepare an agenda of the Board prior to each Board meeting.

Notice of meetings should be provided to all Board Members at least 1 month in advance of each meeting. If a Board Member decision is required as a matter of urgency a shorter notice period will be used. Where a Board Member cannot attend a meeting called urgently, there is a procedure set out in section 8 below for the appointment of substitute attendee.

The Chair may decide to convene a meeting by conference call or other electronic means in accordance with these Terms as set in section 7 of these Terms below.

Board Members will be required to notify the Chair of any agenda items at least 7 working days in advance of the meeting. All agenda items are at the desecration of the Chair.

The agenda and any papers for the Board will be issued at least 5 working days (where practicable) in advance of the meeting except in the case of matters of urgency.

Minutes of each meeting, including all actions and agreements, will be recorded and circulated to all Board Members within 10 working days after the meeting. These minutes will be subject to formal agreement by the Chair taking consideration of comments by Board Members (which may be done electronically between meetings).

The minutes may, at the discretion of the Chair, be edited to exclude items on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as required under the Data Protection and Information Security Policy (Part 2), if edited, the finalised minutes shall show redacted extracts.

7. LOCATION AND TIMING

Subject to the ability of the Board to meet by telephone or by other electronic means as set out below, the Board will normally meet at Police Head Quarters, in Guildford, Surrey.

The Board may meet in person, by telephone or by other electronic means, so long as each Board Member can contribute to the business of the meeting.

The Board will meet 4 times in each calendar year on a 3 monthly cycle. The Chair may call or agree to call, additional meetings in exceptional circumstances.

There shall also be ability for the Chair, with the consent of the Board membership and/or the Scheme Manager to require a special meeting to be convened on notice.

8. QUORUM AND APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES

A meeting of the Board is quorate when:

- at least 4 Members are present one of whom is the Chair or Deputy Chair and
- there are an equal number of Employer and Member Representatives present

All Board Members are expected to regularly attend meeting. Records of attendance of all Board Members will be maintained and reported to the Scheme Manager on an annual basis.

Substitute members can be appointed to the Board subject to completion of nomination process and at the discretion of the Chair.

If for any reason a Board Member cannot attend a Board an appointed substitute (as long as they are representing the same group as the Board Member that they are substituting, can attend and vote at the meeting in their place. Such substitution only remains valid for the meetings that the Board Member cannot attend.

9. VOTING AND DECISION-MAKING

Where all the Board Members are present at the meeting, and a decision is required, the decision will be taken on approval of a majority of Board Members present at the meeting.

Where not all Board Members are present at any given meeting of the Board but the meeting is quorate, unanimous approval of all Board Members present is required.

The Board Members may also make decisions by written resolution signed by all the Board Members. The Chair shall determine this on a case by case basis and shall ensure that all Board Members receive full information to make a proper decision. The Board may exercise this power where it is impracticable to take a decision in a given meeting of the Board.

Each Employer and Employee Representative on the Board has an individual voting right for each matter put to vote.

An Independent Member does not have a voting right unless they are appointed as the Chair or Deputy Chair.

If there is a tied vote on any issue, the Chair has a casting vote.

The results of any voting outcomes will be reported in the Board Minutes.

Creation of Working Groups/Sub-Boards

The Board has the power to set up working groups or sub-boards on whatever terms that the Board reasonably determines.

If the Board decides to create a working group or sub-board than it will prepare terms of reference for each of these sub-committees in a timely way.

10. BUDGET

The Board will have a budget for the following purposes:

- Reasonable fees and expenses for Board members;
- Reasonable legal, technical and other professional advice;
- Cost of secretarial support;
- Reasonable accommodation and administrative support to conduct its meetings and other business accommodation costs;
- Training for members; and
- Anything else that the Scheme Manager reasonably determines.

The terms of the budget are set out in the Board's "Budget, Fees and Expenses" document. The amount of the budget shall be as notified to the Board by the Scheme Manager on an annual basis.

11. FEES AND EXPENSES

Fees and expenses of Board Members will be as set out in the Board's "Budget, Fees and Expenses" Document.

12. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Board Members shall always act within these Terms of Reference and in accordance with the Board's "Conflict of Interest Policy".

Though members of the Board include representatives of specific categories of stakeholder (i.e. scheme members and employers) each Board Member is required to have due regard to the role of the Board as outlined in these Terms of Reference.

Accordingly all members are expected to work jointly with the key purpose of assisting the Scheme Manager in the management or administration of the Scheme, putting aside any individual views they may have in their private capacity or professional role. However, this should not prevent Board Members from sharing their knowledge on how matters might impact specific stakeholders of the scheme.

The Chair of the Board must be satisfied that the Board is acting within:

- the conflicts of interest requirements of the PSPA and the Regulations; and
- in the spirit of the Pension Regulator's Code of Practice no. 14 in relation to conflicts of interest; and
- in accordance with the Board's "Conflict of Interest Policy".

Each Board Member, or a person proposed to be appointed to the Board, (as well as attendees participating in the meeting) must provide the Scheme Manager with such information as he or she is reasonably requires for the purposes of demonstrating that there is no conflict of interest.

13. ADVICE AND INFORMATION

The Board may appoint professional advisers, or other advisors to advise the Board on such matters that the Board determines. This will be on a 'as required' basis. For the avoidance of doubt, any expert adviser is not a Board Member.

The process for their appointment and agreeing their fees shall be on terms as the Board determines and are set out in the Fees and Expenses document.

If the Chair appoints an independent individual to the Board, he or she shall support the Board in its role and responsibilities.

The Board should request such information and documents from the Scheme Manager that it requires to carry out its functions. The Scheme Manager will be required to consider positively all reasonable requests in relation to the role of the Board whilst being mindful of value for money. The Scheme Manager shall inform the Board as soon as reasonably possible of his or her decision in relation to any request of the Board and shall carry out anything required of him/her in relation to this as soon as reasonably possible.

14. KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Under the requirements of the PSPA, a member of the Board must be conversant with:

- the rules of the Scheme and
- any document recording policy about the administration of the Scheme which has been adopted in relation to the scheme.

In addition, a Board Member must have knowledge and understanding of:

- the law relating to pensions; and
- any other matters which are prescribed in regulations.

The degree of knowledge and understanding referred to above is that appropriate for the purpose of enabling the individual properly to exercise the functions of a member of the Board.

It is for individual Board members to be satisfied that they have the appropriate degree of knowledge and understanding to enable them to properly exercise their functions as a member of the Board and therefore must comply with the Board's Knowledge and Understanding and Training Policy and participate in such personal training needs analysis or other processes that are put in place in order to ensure that they maintain the required level of knowledge and understanding to carry out their role on the Board.

15. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The "Code of Conduct" shall apply in relation to the standards of conduct of Board Members.

16. REPORTING ON THE BOARD'S ACTIVITIES

The Chair shall provide the approved minutes of each meeting to the Scheme Manager and produce an annual report on the Board's activity.

The Chair shall also report to the Surrey Police and PCC Joint Audit Committee.

17. REPORTING BREACHES ETC.

The Board shall report breaches of law in accordance with its "Reporting Procedures Policy".

18. ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC AND PENSION BOARD INFORMATION

The following will be entitled to attend Board meetings in an observer capacity:

- Officers or advisers of the Force or other employers involved with the management of the Scheme subject to approval in advance by the Chair, or on request of the Chair;
- Any other person requested to attend by the chair;
- Any other person subject to approval in advance by the Chair;
- Members of the press and public can attend the meeting but the Chair reserves the right to hold part of the meeting in private (Part 2) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the Data Protection and Security Information Policy.

Any such attendees will be permitted to speak on request of the Chair

19. INDEMNITY/INSURANCE

Indemnity Insurance will be provided to members of the Board by the Local Authorities (Indemnity for Members and Officers) Order 2004

20. REVIEW, INTERPRETATION AND PUBLICATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

These Terms of Reference have been agreed by the Board and will be reviewed annually.

The Terms of Reference are only effective once the Scheme Manager has provided confirmation that it approves them.

Changes to these Terms of Reference will only be approved by the Board, with the Scheme Manager's approval; and will be made in accordance with section 3 above of these Terms of Reference.

21. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

The following words apply to the Terms of Reference:

“2015 Regulations”	Means the Police Pension Regulations 2015
“Act”	Means the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.
“Board Member”	Means a member of the Board (this includes a reference to an Employer Representative, Employee Representative and an Independent Member).
“Chair”	Means the appointed chairperson of the Pension Board.
“Code of Conduct”	Means the code of conduct adopted by the Board.
“Code of Practice”	Means The Pensions Regulator's Code of Practice no. 14 entitled “Governance and administration of public service pension schemes”.
“Conflicts of Interest”	Is as defined in the Act.
“Conflicts of Interest Policy”	Means the policy on conflicts of interest as adopted by the Board.
“Deputy Chair”	Means the appointed deputy chairperson of the Board.
“Employee Representative”	Means a person appointed to the Board for the purpose of representing employers for the Scheme and any connected Scheme.
“Employer Representative”	Means a person appointed to the Board for

	the purpose of representing employers for the Scheme and any connected scheme.
“Independent Members”	Means neither an Employer Representative or a Member Representative.
“Police Pension Board Member Appointment and Removal Rules”	The document adopted by the Board setting out the nomination and selection procedure and how Board Members are to be appointed and removed.
“Reporting Procedure”	Means the procedure adopted by the Board setting out the Board’s procedure for reporting breaches of law and other matters.
“Scheme Manager”	The Chief Constable
“Scheme”	The Police Pension Scheme.
“Knowledge and Understanding and Training Policy”	Means the training policy as adopted by the Board

All references to job titles of officers are to officers within the Force unless otherwise stated.

22. STANDARD AGENDA

The standard agenda will consist of the following:

- Conflicts of interest
- Review of minutes, actions and decisions made since the last Board meeting
- Review of reports from Equinity paymaster and Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)
- Financial reports
- Risks and Issues Register
- SLA and service performance reports if applicable
- Feedback from stakeholders, including any members forum
- Details of any complaints about the scheme administration
- Any other business acceptable to the Chair.

ANNEX A

Functions of the Board above it's core statutory role

The purpose of the Board is to assist the Scheme Manager in the following matters above the Board's core statutory role:

1. set the scope and direction of the administration and any new strategic approach.
2. scrutinise the level and quality of governance and administration, challenging and directing service providers to improve performance of administration tasks, focus on continuous improvement and value for money and identify opportunities to enhance the range and quality of communication with and assistance for members of the Scheme;
3. challenge the performance of the service providers; benchmarking the scheme administration, identify and promote good practice and address any areas of weakness with the service providers;
4. establish the effectiveness, efficiency and value for money of Scheme administration;
5. oversee the procurement of administration services , making recommendations on the scope of the service, budget, evaluation criteria and signing off preferred provider proposals;
6. commission additional services from the administrator to meet changing needs of the membership and employers.
7. ensure the scheme administrator supports the employers to communicate the benefits of the Scheme;
8. ensure that the administrator supports the Scheme's members with a range of tools to improve their understanding of the pension benefits;
9. develop and manage an internal controls risk management framework;
10. work with the Scheme's administrator to improve pension data quality;
11. oversee the development of processes and systems to incorporate any new statutory requirements;
12. oversee and provide challenge to Scheme budget forecasting;
13. ensure that an effective audit strategy is in place for the scheme and approve and monitor audit delivery plans;
14. monitor common areas of complaints and disputes, addressing issues arising from cases referred to the internal dispute resolution procedure and/or the Pension Ombudsman; and
15. any such other matters as the Scheme Manager determines from time to time.

ANNEX B

Police Pension Board Appointment and Removal Rules

These rules set out the procedures which have been agreed and adopted by the Board for the appointment and removal of Representatives (i.e. the Employer and Member Representatives and Independent Board Members).

Appointment of Representative Board Members

Nomination and selection procedure

Representative Board Members will be chosen by way of a two state nomination and selection process as follows:

Nomination Process

The Employer Representative Board Members are nominated by the Scheme Manager.

Individuals are only eligible to be nominated as a Board Member if they meet the Eligibility Criteria is as follows:

- The Employer Representatives must be the Chief Finance Officer for the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, the Head of Employee Services for Surrey and Sussex Police and the Chief Finance Officer of Surrey Police
- The Employee Representatives must be a member of the Surrey Police Federation, the Superintendence Association and a current member of the scheme.

Selection Process

If more Board Members have been nominated than are required, the Chair of the Board will select who will serve on the Board.

Term of Office and Removal of Representative Employer and Member Representative Board Members

- Employer and Employee Representatives are appointed for a period of 3 years from the date of establishment of the Board or the date of their appointment, if later.
- The period may be extended up to 3 years if jointly agreed by the Scheme Manager and Chair.
- Any Board Member may be re-appointed for further terms in line with the nomination process above

An appointment will automatically cease if:

- A Board Member no longer meets the Eligibility Criteria;
- A Board Member has a conflict of interest which, in the opinion of the Scheme Manager (on the advice of the Chair), cannot be managed in accordance with the Pension Board Conflict of Interest Policy;
- A Board Member dies or, in the opinion of the Board, becomes incapable of acting; and
- A Board Member wishes to resign, and has given one month's notice in writing to the Chair.

Further, if a Board Member fails to attend meetings or otherwise comply with the requirements of being a Board Member, for example fails to attend the necessary knowledge and understanding training, then the Chair of the Board and the Scheme Manager can decide, whether the member should be given an opportunity to change their behaviour. Where issues of the nature arise, the Chair will hold an initial informal discussion with the Board Member about these concerns.

Where a vacancy arises for a representative member mid-term the nomination process will apply.

Review of the Rules

The Board will keep these Terms of Reference under review having due regard to the 2015 Regulations, the Code of Practice and guidance (statutory or otherwise). The Board will amend these Terms of Reference as and when it sees fit in accordance with section 3 of these terms.