

**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	Lincolnshire Pension Board
Date:	18 July 2019
Subject:	Border to Coast Pension Board Chairs Meeting

Summary:

This report sets out the minutes from the Border to Coast Pension Board Chairs meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2019.

Recommendation(s):

That the Board note the minutes from the meeting.

Background

**Meeting of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Local Pension Board
Chairs**

Date and Time: 22 May 2019 11.00am

Venue: Border to Coast Offices, Floor 5, Toronto Square, Leeds

Minutes

Present: Deirdre Burnett – Cumbria
Roger Buttery – Lincolnshire
Guy Lonsdale – East Riding
Gerard Moore – Bedfordshire and Northumberland
David Portlock – North Yorkshire
Jill Thompson – South Yorkshire
Jim Woodingfield – Tyne and Wear

In Attendance: Nicholas Wirz – Scheme Member Representative on the
Border to Coast Joint Committee
George Graham – Fund Director SYPA – facilitator

Apologies: Keith Bray – Warwickshire
Nicholas Harrison - Surrey

1. Border to Coast Joint Committee Scheme Member Representative Feedback

NW provided feedback on the first meeting he had attended in March where he had been made welcome and had contributed to the debate. He raised some concerns about the balance between part 1 and part 2 items and his ability to communicate to scheme members and the apparently differing practices between administering authorities about the making available of the information contained in the Joint Committee papers to Pension Board and Pension Committee members. Colleagues would take these issues back to their authorities and seek to encourage the adoption of best practice. DB indicated that as the substitute scheme member representative she would like to be able to attend the Joint Committee solely to observe in order to be prepared should NW be absent, GG undertook to follow this up.

2. Governance of Border to Coast (to cover processes, liaison and more formal governance issues)

Board Chairs compared practice around the sharing of information with Board's and Committee's with regard to Border to Coast activity. Some concern was expressed about the need for clearer information on savings and the costs incurred to be available within all elements of the governance structure. GG outlined for information the broad roles of the key groups in the governance arrangements and Board Chairs identified the key role within the checks and balances of the Statutory Officers and would follow this up within their own authorities.

3. The Hymans Review of LGPS Governance

Board Chairs discussed the motivation behind the SAB conducting this review at this particular point in time and whether they were seeking to address an issue that was perhaps more apparent than real. In discussion particular concerns were raised about the level of elected member turnover and the lack of strong and enforceable requirements around learning and development.

4. Sharing Practice –

a. Relationship between the Board and the Pensions Committee (Authority)

In general Board Chairs attended and observed meetings of the Committee, although it was less common for the Committee Chair to attend the Board. Relationships were generally felt to be good, although some Boards still had to be quite assertive about their role.

b. Typical Board Agendas

Boards generally focussed their attention around the key areas of TPR attention.

- c. Engagement with the Pensions Regulator
DB provided feedback on Cumbria's experience of this which had been broadly positive, if reminiscent of CPA.
- d. Recruitment and retention of members
Most Boards were in the process of filling vacancies and there was some discussion about the most effective route for securing representation of the major councils (i.e. officers or members).
- e. Maintaining knowledge and skills
It was felt that Board members took their knowledge and skills requirements seriously and there was a considerable amount of joint activity with committees although there did not seem to be issues around organising Board specific activity if required.

Next Meeting: During the Border to Coast Conference either 10th or 11th October 2019 in Leeds (time tbd, with a request to avoid any sessions and perhaps do it at the end of the formal proceedings)

Conclusion

Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Yes

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Pension Fund has a risk register which can be obtained by contacting the author of this report.

This report was written by Claire Machej, who can be contacted on 01522 553641 or claire.machej@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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