

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Management Board Policy Forum Meeting

Minutes

21 March 2019

Attendance

Secretary General, Mr Feeney, Mr Menton, Mr Downes, Ms O'Reilly, Mr Lowry, Mr Brazel, Mr Moloney, Mr Cagney, Mr Quinn, Ms Coleman, Dr Fallon-Byrne, Ms Hennessy, Ms Godkin

1. Minutes of Management Board Policy Forum on 26 February 2019

The draft minutes of the last meeting of the Policy Forum were agreed.

2. Single Pension Scheme: Future Options and Recommendations

Ms Hennessy attended the Management Board Policy Forum to provide information on the current status of the implementation of the Single Pension Scheme; present findings from the assessment of future options for administration of the Single Scheme; and discuss recommendations and next steps. Mr Menton introduced this item to the Management Board and outlined the decision points now arising in relation to Single Pension Scheme Administration Project (SSAP).

Ms Hennessy provided an overall update on the Single Pension Scheme, which now includes 118,000 members, and gave an overview of the number of members by sector and levels of compliance. The various phases of project work undertaken following the Government Decision in 2017 were outlined, along with key assumptions underpinning the examination of future options for the administration of the Scheme. An essential requirement identified was that administrators across the public sector need access to detailed data on members from all employments in order to administer the scheme.

A number of options have been assessed in terms of the future administration of the Scheme. These options were presented in terms of their key features, accountabilities, benefits and limitations.

There was an extensive discussion of the complex issues arising in relation to the Scheme and its administration. This discussion addressed, amongst other things, included the specifics of the legislation underpinning the Scheme, the significant element of change management involved, the requirement for specific expertise and capability to manage an ICT development project, and related issues.

At the request of the Secretary General, the relevant Divisions (headed by Mr Menton, Mr Lowry and Mr Quinn) are to undertake some further detailed work to address the issues

arising in the discussion. The outcome of this work is to be submitted back to the Management Board in the next 1-2 months.

Next Meeting: 11 April 2019