

Report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer

12. Pensions Board Update

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the establishment and activities of the Pensions Board.
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Recommendations

It is recommended that the following areas of progress are noted:

(i) The pensions board has been established and is compliant with the Public Services Pensions Act 2013.

(ii) There have been two meetings of the pensions board.

(iii) Pension board members have attended two training sessions.

(iv) The pensions board has agreed terms of reference and administration systems.

Background

2. The Public Sector Pensions Act 2013 requires scheme managers to provide for the establishment of a pension board from 1 April 2015 to assist the Scheme Manager in:
 - Securing compliance with the Scheme regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme
 - Securing compliance with any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator
 - Any other matters as detailed by the regulations.
3. The Authority established its pension board at the Policy and Resources Committee on 25 March 2015. The authority to implement the pensions board and make appointments to the board was delegated to the Head of Legal Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Update

4. Following my last report to the Policy and Resources Committee on 25 March 2015 the pension board has been implemented. Two employer and two scheme members representatives have been appointed:
 - Richard Lawrence and Martin Rehorn – employer representatives

- Steve Gould and Julian Jenkins – scheme member representatives
5. There have been two meetings held on 16 July 2015 and 19 January 2016. The terms of reference have been reviewed and agreed by the pensions board (refer to Appendix A).
 6. Members will be aware that the pension board members must be conversant with the firefighters pensions schemes and have knowledge and understanding of pensions law. Two training courses have been delivered which will assist the board with identifying gaps in their knowledge.
 7. The board have introduced the following administration:
 - Decision log
 - Risk register
 - Training log
 - All known conflicts of interest are recorded on the conflicts of interest register
 8. A workplan for the board is currently being established.
 9. It is intended to provide the Policy and Resources Committee with an annual update.

Conclusion/Summary

10. This paper provides an update on the activities of the Pensions Board for the Firefighter Pension Schemes (FPS) to assist the Scheme Manager in securing compliance with the Public Services Pensions Act 2013.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues).	The local pension board has been implemented in accordance with the Public Sector Pensions Act 2013 which is a new burden on Fire Authorities.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None.
Risk Management/Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores.	A risk register has been introduced.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter).	None
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?	None

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Contact Officer

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