

Report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Pensions Board Update (Fire Pension Schemes)

Purpose of report

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

Recommendations

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

- (i) The Pensions Board continues to be compliant with the Public Services Pensions Act 2013.***
- (ii) There have been two meetings of the Pensions Board.***
- (iii) Pension Board members have attended one training session and have been completing online training modules hosted by The Pensions Regulator.***

Background

2. The Public Sector Pensions Act 2013 requires scheme regulations 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 & Resources Committee.

Update

4. Following my last report to the Policy and Resources Committee in February 2017, there have been two meetings, held on 24th April 2017 and 9th October 2017.

5. During the year one Employee Representative resigned and has been replaced.
6. Board Members attended a training day on 19th July 2017. Training was provided by Eversheds Sutherland and covered Governance Requirements, Roles and Responsibilities and Taxation in relation to Pension Schemes. Board Members have also been completing on-line modules provided by The Pension Regulator. There are six modules which cover Conflicts of Interest, Risks and Internal Controls, Scheme Record Keeping, Maintaining Contributions, Providing Information to Members, Internal Dispute Resolution and Reporting Breaches.
7. A Breaches Policy has been circulated and is expected to be adopted and signed off at the next meeting.
8. In October the Board Advisor attended the LGA's Firefighters Pension Scheme Annual Conference where presentations were given by The Scheme Advisory Board, The Pension's Regulator, The Local Government Association and the Pensions Ombudsman.
9. The Board agreed that they will maintain an oversight of the Tender Process that the Scheme Manager is undertaking to source the provision of an alternative Pension Administrator.
10. The Pension Regulator's 'Public Service Governance Survey' was completed and submitted in November 2017.

Conclusion/Summary

11. 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

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