

## **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**2 SEPTEMBER 2019**

1. **REQUEST OF MEMBER TO DISCONTINUE PAYMENT OF PERIODICAL CONTRIBUTIONS - NEW FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME (2006)**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

Recommended that the Committee in their role as Scheme Manager, consider the request (Appendix 1) and decide if it can be accepted as required by the rules of the New Firefighters Pension Scheme (2006).

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to provide the details of the request of a Firefighter to discontinue payment of his periodical contributions under the rules of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (2006).

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Part 11, Chapter 2, Paragraph 8 of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006, shown below, states that:

- (1) An authority may —
  - (a) at the request of a firefighter member who has elected to purchase additional service by the payment of periodical contributions; and
  - (b) solely on the grounds of his financial circumstances, agree to discontinue the making of deductions from his pay by way of such contributions.
- (2) Where the firefighter member and the authority agree that deductions should be discontinued for a period not exceeding six months ("the discontinuance period"),

Ref. AU/AU/2019/Sept/11408191

the authority shall resume the making of deductions as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of that period or, at the request of the firefighter member, at such time before the end of that period as may be agreed.

- (3) Where the firefighter member and the authority agree that deductions should be discontinued for a period of six months or more, the member's election under rule 6 shall be treated as cancelled with effect from the date of the agreement.
- (4) The period of additional service purchased up to the date on which the last contribution was deducted shall be treated as if it were the period ascertained in accordance with the formula:
  - $A \times \frac{B}{C}$ , where —
  - A is the number of 60ths of additional service which the firefighter member elected to purchase,
  - B is the period in respect of which contributions have been made, and
  - C is the period in respect of which contributions would have been made in accordance with the election (disregarding for this purpose any deemed cancellation under paragraph (3)).
- (5) Subject to paragraph (6), where—
  - (a) deductions were discontinued under paragraph (2), and
  - (b) the firefighter member wishes to purchase additional service referable to the discontinuance period, a deduction of an amount equal to the aggregate of the contributions that would otherwise have been made in respect of that period shall be made on the same occasion as the first resumed deduction is made.
- (6) Where the firefighter member's rate of pay at the end of the discontinuance period is less than at the beginning of that period, deductions in respect of the discontinuance period shall be made at the rate that

would have applied if deductions had been made from his salary during that period.

- 3.2 The request, attached as Appendix 1, has been received from a member of the New Firefighters Pension Scheme (2006).
- 3.3 The Committee are asked to consider and decide if this request can be accepted.

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications from making a decision in this matter.

#### 6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct Financial Implications of making a decision on this matter.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Firefighters Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006

The contact name for this report is ACO Sarah Warnes, (Strategic Enabler – People) telephone number 0121 380 6004.

PHIL LOACH  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Ref. AU/AU/2019/Sept/11408191

## Appendix 1

### **To the Scheme Manager, Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006**

I am currently paying £306.03 into my pension with a voluntary additional payment of £106.67 for added years in order to bridge the gap of approximately 2 years I fell short on in completing 40 years' full pension payments.

As I transferred my British Armed Forces pension into the West Midlands Fire Service upon joining in 2009, also to assist in narrowing the gap.

As it stands now my pension payments are £306.03 with the additional voluntary payment of £106.67, totalling £412.70 a month, that I have been paying into my pension for the last 10 years approximately.

I now wish to cancel my additional payment of £106.67 to put into my home as I feel this is more beneficial to me.

Apologies for any inconvenience.

Ref. AU/AU/2019/Sept/11408191