

# **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

## **PENSION BOARD**

**6 February 2017**

### **PENSION SECTION SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

1. **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS'**  
**PENSION SCHEMES MEMBERSHIP AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
**DECEMBER 2016**

| Scheme   | Actives | Deferred | Pensioners<br>(Including<br>Dependants) |
|----------|---------|----------|---|
| 1992     | 410     | 225      | 2,495                                   |
| 2006     | 10      | 124      | 3                                       |
| 2015     | 897     | 8        |   |
| Modified | 3       |          | 3                                       |

2. **ANNUAL ACTIVITY LEVELS**

2.1 During the last twelve months (1/1/2016 to 31/12/2016) the following levels of activity have been experienced:-

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Age Related Retirements                   | 63 |
| Ill Health Retirements                    | 5  |
| Opt outs                                  | 12 |
| Other leavers                             | 8  |
| New Joiners                               | 2  |
| Applications to Transfer in/out           | 19 |
| Inter-brigade Transfer Requests processed | 5  |
| Cash Transfer Payments made               | 1  |
| Transfers not completed                   | 15 |

- 2.2 The section has also processed the requests shown in the table below and achieved the levels of performance shown.

| <b>Request type</b> | <b>Received</b> | <b>Responded to</b> | <b>Average Response time (days)</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Benefit Estimate    | 111             | 81                  | 127                                 |
| CETV for Divorce    | 30              | 14                  | 170                                 |
| General Information | 138             | 83                  | 107                                 |

3. **RISK REGISTER**

An updated risk register is included as part of this month's meeting.

4. **ANNUAL BENEFIT STATEMENTS**

Annual Benefit Statements were not issued by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. The reasons for this and a recovery plan were detailed as part of an Emergency Pension Board meeting.

5. **INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE (IDRP)**

During the period we received one dispute relating to the provision of information to an active member aged 60. The members complaint was rejected by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

## 6. **OPT OUT LEVELS AND REASONS**

West Midlands Fire Service has experienced the levels of Opt outs shown in the following table during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

| Month     | 1992 Scheme | 2015 Scheme | Total | Primary Reason  |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------|---|
| January   |             |             |       |   |
| February  |             | 2           | 2     | Not Known   |
| March     |             | 1           | 1     | Not Known   |
| April     |             | 1           | 1     | Not Known   |
| May       |             | 1           | 1     | Not Known   |
| June      |             |             |       |   |
| July      |             | 1           | 1     | Not Known   |
| August    |             |             |       |   |
| September |             | 1           | 1     | Not Known   |
| October   | 1           | 2           | 3     | 92 Member opt out to take benefits as he had reached age 60 |
| November  |             | 1           | 1     | Not Known   |
| December  |             | 1           | 1     | Not Known   |

Anecdotaly the reason for opting out appears to be cost. Of those opting out of the 2015 scheme none were new recruits.

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