

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2018

1. PENSIONS BOARD – AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE

Report of the Chair of the Pensions Board.

RECOMMENDED

That the Audit Committee as Scheme Manager approve the amended Terms of Reference for the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority – Pension Board.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval of the amended Terms of Reference for the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (WMFRA) Local Pension Board. The amended Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Audit Committee as Scheme Manager, has delegated its responsibility for ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Firefighters Pension Scheme for the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority to the Pension Board.
- 3.2 The Pension Board assists the Scheme Manager to secure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Pension Scheme for the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.
- 3.3 The Pension Board was set up in 2015, and the Terms of Reference have therefore been reviewed by Members of the Pension Board to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

3.4 The proposed changes as highlighted in the Appendix are as follows:

3.4.1 The Pension Board shall consist of 7(5) members and be constituted as follows:

3.4.2 There will now be 3(2) employer representatives and 3(2) scheme member representatives elected, of which, one should be a retired member.

3.4.3 The Chair of the Pension Board will be determined by the Scheme Manager.

3.4.4 Other than by ceasing to be eligible as set out above, a Board member may only be removed from office during a term of appointment by:

- Scheme Member representatives – recommendation by other scheme member representatives and unanimous agreement of all of the other Members.
- Employer representatives by the decision of the Service or on leaving the employment of the Service.

3.4.5 The Board shall have a formal quorum when at least one scheme member representative and one employer representative are in attendance.

In the absence of the Independent Chair, a Chair person will be selection on a rotational basis between the scheme member and employer representatives.

3.4.6 There will be four (two) Pension Board meetings a year to be held quarterly (six monthly)

3.4.7 Each elected/appointed member of the Pension Board will have an individual voting right, but it is expected the Pension Board will, as far as possible reach a consensus. The Independent Chair of the Pension Board will not have any voting rights.

3.4.8 Pension Board papers, agendas and minutes of meetings will be published on the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority website (CMIS). These may, at the discretion of the Scheme Manager, be edited to exclude items on the grounds that they are deemed as being confidential for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998, and other relevant data protection legislation (such as General Data Protection Regulations).

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out because the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The role of the local Pension Board as defined by section 5(1) and (2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of the report.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Audit Committee 7 September 2015
Pension Board 20 July 2017
Meeting of Pension Board 24 April 2018

The contact officer for this report is Neil Chamberlain,
Independent Chair of the Pensions Board