

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

27 MARCH 2017

1. THE PENSION REGULATOR - PUBLIC SERVICE GOVERNANCE SURVEY 2016

Report of the Pension Board

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Audit Committee, as Scheme Manager for the Firefighters pensions schemes, notes the content of this report and its Appendix which has been sent from the Pension Board.
- 1.2 THAT the Audit Committee note that the Pension Board, with its new independent Chair, is working collaboratively with other Fire Services in the Region to ensure a cost effective approach to training for the Pension Board and Pension Administrators as provided as appropriate.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to the Audit Committee, as Scheme Manager of the Authority's Fire Pension Schemes, to consider the recommendations of the Pension Board in relation to The Pensions Regulator Public Service Governance Survey 2016.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The role of the Pension Board is to assist the Scheme Manager secure compliance with Scheme regulations, the Pensions Regulator and other specified matters.
- 3.2 The Scheme Manager has agreed the 'Terms of Reference' for the Pension Board.
- 3.3 As part of the 'Terms of Reference' the Scheme Manager may refer matters to the Pension Board for its consideration and

recommendation.

- 3.4 As part of the 'Terms of Reference' The Pension Board may make recommendations to the Scheme Manager.
- 3.5 The Scheme Administrator has completed The Pension Regulator Public Service Governance Survey in conjunction with the Pension Board.
 - 3.5.1 The Pensions Regulator Public Service Governance Survey is attached at Appendix 1.
 - 3.5.2 The response to the Survey will also be considered as part of the next Pension Board meeting and form part of the training gap analysis.
- 3.6 The Pension Board agreed to reconsider the survey at future dates to assist to identify improvement made.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Terms of Reference for the Pension Board which has not identified any concerns requiring a full Equality Impact Assessment.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Public Services Pensions Act 2013 outlines the role of the Pension Board.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Public Services Act 2013
West Midlands Fire Service Pension Board Terms of Reference
The Pensions Regulator

The contact name for this report is DCFO Phil Hales, telephone number 0121 380 6907.