

**Status of Report: Public**

**Meeting: CFA Local Pension Board**

**Date: 9 February 2022**

**Subject: Firefighters' Pension Scheme Breaches Register**

**Report by: The Scheme Manager**

**Author: Colin Sharpe, Scheme Manager and Deputy Director of Finance, Leicester City Council**

**For: Discussion**

### **Purpose**

1. To provide an update to the Local Pension Board on the Fire Fighters' Pension Scheme Breaches Register.

### **Recommendations**

2. The Board is asked to note that no breaches have taken place in the reporting period to 31 January 2022.

### **Executive Summary**

3. The Pensions Act 2004 required that the Pension Regulator must be informed of breaches to the law where that breach is likely to be of material significance.
4. A breach is where a legal duty relevant to the administration of the scheme hasn't been or isn't being complied with: this could relate for instance to keeping records, internal controls or calculating benefits.
5. The Pensions Regulator recommends that the pension scheme should have adequate procedures that enable breaches of the law to be considered and reported. This includes having a system to record breaches even if they are not reported to the regulator.
6. No breaches have been identified in the period to 31 January 2022.

### **Background**

7. The following people are required to report breaches to the Pensions Regulator:
  - i. Scheme Manager;
  - ii. Pension Board Members;
  - iii. Employer;

- iv. Professional Advisor;
  - v. Scheme Administrator;
  - vi. Any advisor to the Scheme Manager.
8. No breaches have been identified in the reporting period to 31 January 2022.
9. The Local Government Association has issued some suggested templates for assessing breaches. These have been used to draw up a LFRS breach assessment template, register and associated guidance. The assessment considers the cause, effect, reaction and wider implications of the breach. Each of these is then assessed according to whether it is of material significance by using the Red / Amber / Green assessment tool as recommended by the Pensions Regulator. The assessment should, in normal circumstances be completed within four weeks of the breach first coming to light, signed by the Scheme Manager and reported back to the Pensions Board at the earliest opportunity.

### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Any financial implications for the Authority will be reported to the Corporate Governance Committee.

### **Legal Implications**

11. The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced a framework for the governance and administration of public service pension schemes. This report aims to fulfil the requirement for Pension Board members to assist the Scheme Manager in ensuring that effective administration arrangements are in place.