



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland CFA - Local Pension Board held at County Hall, Glenfield on Wednesday, 25 January 2023.

PRESENT

Mr. J. T. Orson CC (in the Chair)

Cllr. Hemant Rae Bhatia

Adam Taylor

In attendance

Callum Faint, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Paul Weston, Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Colin Sharpe, Pension Scheme Manager
Helen Scargill, West Yorkshire Pension Fund
Gemma Duckworth, Democratic Services Officer, Leicestershire County Council

14. Apologies.

An apology for absence was received from Graham Vaux.

15. Minutes.

The minutes of the Local Pension Board held on 10 November 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

16. Conflicts of Interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare conflicts of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

17. Scheme Manager's Update.

The Board received a report of the Pension Scheme Manager which provided an update on the local management and administration of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, including the approach to payment of the immediate detriment remedy for category 2 retired members. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 4' is filed with these minutes.

Members were informed that no breaches had been identified for the period to 31 December 2022. The risk register had been reviewed, with no significant changes proposed.

The local management and administration of the scheme continued. However, data gathering relating to immediate detriment and the retained firefighters second options exercise was a substantial task and required some knowledge of fire pensions and payroll. Supplementing the existing team was a key concern; the options were being explored with finance and payroll colleagues.

With regard to immediate detriment, HM Treasury had made the Public Service Pensions (Exercise of Powers, Compensation and Information) Directions 2022 which had come into force on 19 December 2022. These did not change the position regarding the 'early' payment of Category 2 immediate detriment ahead of October 2023.

A query was raised whether any change in position would be made after October 2023 if further direction had not been received, as it was felt important to consider the impact on those members who weren't in receipt of payments. In response, the Scheme Manager reported that it was the intention to deal with Category 2 members as early as possible, and if assurance was received before October 2023, the payments would be actioned. The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer reiterated that the remedy would be dealt with once the legal mechanisms allowed this to ensure that personnel received what they were entitled to.

The Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022 stated that, with effect from 1 October 2023, all in scope members must be rolled back into their relevant legacy scheme, and reformed service, for the remedy period, should be kept as an underpin.

The Regional Pensions Adviser was looking at how Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire were reviewing an earlier choice process in relation to retained firefighters. This had primarily arisen from an IDRPs in Derbyshire. It was stated that personnel should now be given an opportunity to revisit their choice regarding their modified deferred pension, and it was felt that the vast majority would be included in the legislative changes after October 2023. Further details would be presented to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Mr Orson CC and seconded by Councillor Bhatia that the update be noted.

18. Scheme Administrator's Update.

The Board received an update from the Pension Scheme Administrator on the administration of the Firefighter Pension Scheme since the last meeting. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 5' is filed with these minutes. Members were informed of the following:

- The Monthly Client Reports had been issued for November and December.
- There had been a national focus on the Sargeant remedy and Matthews case. Letters had been produced and sent to relevant Scheme members following confirmation of who would be eligible under Sargeant to inform them of the in scope remedy. For those who were deemed out of scope, advice had been given that if the individual had been employed by an alternative public sector pension scheme, they could be in scope for this period and to inform West Yorkshire Pension Fund of this.
- An update from the national Scheme Advisory Board would be presented to the next meeting.
- There had been issues relating to payroll data returns and West Yorkshire Pension Fund would produce additional information for the payroll provider to ensure greater compliance with deadlines. It was the intention to produce a specific spreadsheet for month 12 returns before this was sent to West Yorkshire Pension Fund.

- There had previously been delays with commencing Annual Benefit Statements and it was the aim to start producing these in May 2023, so as not to tie up staffing capacity approaching October 2023 and the expected Remedy legislation.
- West Yorkshire Pension Fund had appointed Euan Miller as Managing Director and David Parrington had been appointed as the Pension Fund Representative for the Fire Authority.

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Mr Orson CC and seconded by Councillor Bhatia that the update provided on the administration of the firefighter pension scheme be noted.

19. Employee Representative's input.

A request for training was made. This would be arranged to take place following the local Council elections in May. It was suggested that the LGA could provide a pre-planned training session.

20. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority Local Pension Board will be held on 7 June 2023 at 10.00am.

10.00 - 10.26 am
25 January 2023

CHAIRMAN