

REPORT AUTHORS **CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND HEAD OF
FINANCE/TREASURER**

SUBJECT: **PENSION BOARD UPDATE**

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Background Papers: FRA report on Pension Boards in March 2015

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		FINANCIAL	✓
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	CORE BRIEF	
	New	OTHER (please specify)	

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

To update Members on the progress of the Authority's Pension Board, following the report to the Fire and Rescue Authority in March 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to consider and acknowledge the progress that has been made.

1. Background

1.1 The paper that was presented to the Fire and Rescue Authority on 31 March 2015 had the following recommendations approved:

1. That a Local Pension Board is established with effect from 1 April 2015 with its first meeting to take place within four months;
2. That the attached draft terms of reference are approved for review by the board at its inaugural meeting;

3. For membership of the board to consist of a minimum of four, two Individuals who are members of the scheme and two employer representatives who are not involved in compliance who are above Group Manager or Scale 15;
 4. That the Head of Finance/Treasurer holds the position of one employer member and who also acts as Chair;
 5. That one member is nominated by the Fire Brigades Union;
 6. Two remaining posts are advertised internally for interested members;
 7. For a provisional budget of £2,500 to be allocated to support the establishment of boards and to cover training, expenses facilities time and administering costs;
 8. To clearly define, with an addition to the scheme of delegation, delegated authority to the Chief Fire Officer to act as the Scheme Manager on behalf of the Authority making decisions on a day to day basis ensuring the delivery of the firefighters' pension schemes;
 9. To provide Members with an update on progress at the October 2015 Fire Authority Meeting.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the progress on the establishment of the Authority's Pension Board.
2. Progress to Date
- 2.1 As required, the first meeting of the newly created Pension Board did take place within four months from 1 April 2015. The first meeting was held on 22 June 2015. There has also been another meeting on 14 August 2015, with the next meeting scheduled to take place on 19 October 2015.
- 2.2 The membership of the Board is detailed below:
- Firefighter – Crew Commander Stopsley
 - Service Operational Commander – Head of Safety and Strategic Projects
 - Service Operational Commander – Head of Training and Development
 - Retired Firefighter
 - Head of Finance/Treasurer – Chair
- 2.3 The agenda items to date have included training, establishing the list of core documents, terms of reference, website requirements to make key documents and information available, annual pension statements review, management, administrative and governance arrangements of the scheme.
- 2.4 The main Pension Board training course has been attended and a training needs analysis will now follow. However, it is anticipated that further externally provided training will be required for the board members.
- 2.5 The Pension Board will cover the firefighters pension schemes. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is covered by the Bedford Council Pension Board.

2.6 The DCLG's Scheme Advisory Board is in the early stages of being set up, with the position of Chair being recently advertised. The purpose of the Board is to encourage best practice, increase transparency and coordinate technical standards within the Firefighter's Pension Scheme. This is a requirement under the same legislation as Pension Boards. Appointments to the board are made by the Secretary of State.

3. Summary and Next Steps

3.1 The Pension Board will continue to meet at least three times a year. The frequency of meetings will be more in the first year as the board establishes itself.

3.2 A training needs analysis will be undertaken and appropriate training sought to close any gaps identified.

3.3 Progress will continue on the areas covered to date and importantly the review of the management, administration and governance of the scheme.

4. Implications

4.1 There are no further implications.

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