

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Annual Meeting	
Date	20 June 2022	
Lead Officer	Clerk	
Contact Officer	Gareth Owens (01745 535286)	
Subject	Appointment of Fire and Rescue Authority Members to serve on the Local Pension Board	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To appoint four Fire and Rescue Authority members to serve on the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Local Pension Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 To appoint four Fire and Rescue Authority members to serve on the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Local Pension Board.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3 Members are asked to:
 - (i) note the information in the report;
 - (ii) nominate four representatives on the local pension board.

BACKGROUND

- 4 The Local Pension Board was established in 2015 following the introduction of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 in relation to the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. The board has to include employer and employee representatives in equal numbers. As a consequence North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority will be required to nominate four members to sit on this board.

INFORMATION

- 5 The Public Service Pension Act 2013 provides for clearer governance arrangements with specific defined roles, the publication of more information on a consistent basis, and administration practices in line with those in the private sector.

- 6 Local Pension Boards are charged with helping the scheme manager (Fire and Rescue Authority) to ensure that the scheme is operated to an appropriate standard and, in particular, will:
- ensure that pension schemes are administered in accordance with all relevant legislation and any directions given to the scheme by the Pensions Regulator
 - assist the scheme manager (Fire and Rescue Authority) in securing the effective and efficient administration of the pension scheme
 - have appropriate knowledge about the scheme they are helping to run
 - ensure that information is available to scheme members and other interested parties so that they can easily see and understand who is a pension board member, how pension scheme members are represented on the pension board and the responsibilities of the pension board
 - prevent a person from being a member of a pension board where they have another interest that could prejudice them carrying out the role.
- 7 The scheme manager (Fire and Rescue Authority) is responsible for appointing members of the pension board. The scheme manager must ensure that no conflict of interest exists at the time of a member's appointment, and while the member continues to serve. Conflict of interest is defined as a financial or other interest which is likely to prejudice a person's exercise of functions as a member of a pension board.
- 8 The Firefighters' Pension Schemes are accounted for in the NWFRA accounts as it is ultimately funded by Welsh Government (WG) in accordance with the relevant legislation. The Treasurer is responsible for certifying the claims to WG and they are audited each year by the external auditors. It would also be appropriate that the Monitoring Officer and Treasurer should have the right to attend or be represented at the local pension board meetings.

Member Requirements

- 9 A member of a public service pension board must be conversant with the rules of the scheme and any document recording policy about the administration of the scheme. As this is a board (rather than a committee) the Authority can appoint officers as well as councillors as the employer representative. Historically the clerk and treasurer have served as employer representatives.

- 10 A member must have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions and any other matters which are prescribed in regulation.
- 11 An e-learning programme is provided by the Regulator to meet the needs of all pension board members.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	Considered not relevant
Budget	Attendance costs will be met from existing allocated budget
Legal	Meetings are held in accordance with the agreed terms of reference. Members are expected to abide by their code of conduct at all times
Staffing	Considered not relevant
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	Considered not relevant
Risks	Considered not relevant