

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING: 20 JULY 2015

**SUBJECT: LOCAL PENSION BOARD FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME (FPS)
2015: CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY AND THE
PERSONNEL ADVISOR TO THE AUTHORITY**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the outcome of consultation with the representative bodies regarding the membership of the Local Pension Board (LPB referred to as 'the Board') for the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014: S.I. 2848/14 (the Scheme), and other associated pension schemes by the 1st April 2015.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Fire Authority meeting on 23 March 2015 members agreed to establish the Board by the 1st April 2015 and approved the draft terms of reference of the board (minute 80/15 refers).
- 2.2 With respect to the terms of reference the Authority agreed to an initial board membership of four; two employer and two employee representatives.

3 FEEDBACK AND PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Following the Authority meeting on 23 March 2015 the Chief Fire Officer undertook further consultation with the respective employee representative bodies regarding the membership of the Board. The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in particular, proposed that the membership should be raised to provide a wider representation of the workforce. In their proposal the FBU requested that an additional employee representative be added to the Board membership. If approved the membership would be required to increase by two, with an additional employer representative nominated to the Board to maintain the balance set out in the Regulations.

- 3.2 In the interests of inclusivity and effective employee relations, it is recommended that the proposed increase in board members be approved by the Authority, increasing membership from four to six.
- 3.3 Subject to Members approval of the above, amended draft Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix A to reflect this proposal as follows:
- 3.3.1 Sections 5, 6, 10 and 14 have been amended to reflect the proposed increase of one employer and one employee representative respectively.
- 3.3.2 Section 7 has been amended to reflect the recent inclusion of retired members as eligible representatives.
- 3.3.3 Section 10 has been amended to allow a wider employer group to be nominated to the board.
- 3.3.4 Section 51(f) has been incorporated.
- 3.4 Members are advised that proposed nominations for employer and employee representatives are as follows:-

Employers

Cllr Jim Perry – Chair
ACO Chris Lowther
GM Tony Markwell

Employees

Russ King – FBU Secretary
Chris Moore - FBU
Keith Carruthers – FOA Representative

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 At the Authority meeting on 23 March 2015 members approved a budget of £5,000 to cover the anticipated costs of managing this Board. Subject to Members approval of 3.2 above, the budget allocation will need to be revised to £7,500 to cover cost of training and reasonable expenses for the additional members.

5 STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

- 5.1 Links to Goal 4 - To deliver a modern, effective service, ensuring value for money with staff who reflect the communities we serve.

6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality implications resulting from this report.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no health and safety implications from this report.

8 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 8.1 Further consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders.
- 8.2 Consultation has been undertaken with SCC Pensions team and Legal Services and associated comments incorporated within this report.

9 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The establishment and running of the Board is the responsibility of the Authority as Scheme Manager and is intended to create stronger governance of matters relating to the Firefighter Pension Scheme 2015 (as proposed), including the administration and decision making processes.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members are requested to:
- a) Note the content of this report;
 - b) Approve the increase in membership of the Local Pension Board to six, as set out in sections 3.2 to 3.3 of this report and endorse the appointments to the Board as set out in 3.4;
 - c) Approve the increase in budget, as set out in 4.1 of this report, to support the work of the Local Pension Board;
 - d) Approve the amended Draft Terms of Reference for the Local Pension Board; in line with the highlighted changes set out in section 3.3 of this report;

- e) Receive further reports as necessary.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- The Public Service Pension Act 2013
- The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014 – S.I. 2848/14
- Pension Board of Tyne And Wear Fire Authority - Terms of Reference (Amended Draft Attached)