

13 October 2017

Pensions Scheme Board Chair

Purpose

For information.

Summary

Malcolm Eastwood, Chairman of the Firefighters Pension Scheme National Advisory Board will attend the meeting.

Recommendations

Fire Commission members are asked to note the paper as background to the presentation.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officer: Lucy Ellender
Position: Adviser
Phone no: 0207 664 3321
Email: Lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk

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Pensions Scheme Board Chair

Background

1. The Chairman of Firefighters Pension Scheme (England) Advisory Board (the “Board”), Malcolm Eastwood, will attend the meeting to the work of the pensions scheme advisory board and the role of fire and rescue authority members in administering the pensions scheme.

About the Scheme Advisory Board

2. The Firefighters Pension Scheme (England) Advisory Board (the “Board”) is a body set up under [Section 7 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013](#) and The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015.
3. The purpose of the Board is to be both reactive and proactive to carry out the following functions:
 - 3.1. Provide advice in response to a request from the Secretary of State on the desirability of making changes to this scheme and any connected scheme.
 - 3.2. Provide advice to scheme managers and local pension boards in relation to the effective and efficient administration and management of this scheme and any connected scheme.
4. It will seek to encourage best practice, increase transparency, coordinate technical and standards issues, and build positive relationships with stakeholders and industry bodies – such as the [Home Office](#), the [Pensions Regulator](#) and the [Government Actuary’s Department](#) (GAD).
5. The Board is required to submit an annual budget to the Secretary of State each year for approval. Once approved the budget for the Board is funded via a statutory levy on Fire and Rescue Authorities, based on a cost per active member of the schemes.

Biography – Malcolm Eastwood CBE, CStJ, QFSM, FIFireE

6. Malcolm enjoyed an enviable career serving for 35 years in the Fire & Rescue Service with the West Riding County Fire Service, culminating in his appointment as Chief Fire Officer of the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service at the age of 40. He subsequently took command of the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service in 1995 where he served until his retirement in 2004.

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7. Besides his 'Day Job', Malcolm worked at National level with the Chief Fire Officers Association, CFOA and the Association of Principal Fire Officers (APFO). Since his retirement from the Service in 2004, Malcolm has continued his work with CFOA and APFO with whom he represents retired Principal Fire Officers.
8. He currently sits as a Scheme Member on the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority Pensions Advisory Board and in January 2016 was appointed as the Chairman of the Firefighters Pension Schemes National Advisory Board, a voluntary position answering to the Secretary of State for Police and Fire within the Home Office.

Implications for Wales

9. This is a devolved issue and Wales has its own Pension Scheme Advisory Board.

Financial implications

10. There are no financial implications.

Next steps

11. Members are asked to:
 - 11.1. Note the role of the Chair of the Firefighters Pensions Schemes National Advisory Board;
 - 11.2. Consider what internal controls within their FRA would ensure the appropriate delegations and management of that delegation are in place; and
 - 11.3. Ensure that their FRA obtains a regular report from the Local Pension Board.