

## APPENDIX A TO REPORT AGC/23/22

### Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority

#### Local Pension Board Annual Report 2022-23

## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The purpose of this Annual Report is to provide information about the status of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority Local Pension Board for Scheme Members (employees and pensioners) and for the Scheme Manager (the Authority) together with a summary of issues considered in the relevant period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023).
- 1.2. In accordance with Section 5 and s.30 (1) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and Regulation 4A of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015, the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority Local Pension Board was established in February 2015 to provide advice on the effective and efficient administration and management of the various firefighter pension schemes.
- 1.3. The Report includes commentary on the following:
- A summary of the work undertaken by the Local Pension Board during 2022-23
  - Detail of areas investigated and how these areas were dealt with
  - Any conflicts of interest and how these were managed
  - Any identified risks and other areas of potential concern
  - Any expenses and costs incurred by the Board
  - Gifts and hospitality received by members of the Board
  - Training for Board members

## 2. **MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD**

- 2.1. During 2022-23, the Local Pension Board comprised of nine members as follows:

### ***Scheme Manager Representatives:***

- Mike Pearson - Chair (Director of Governance and Digital Services)
- Shayne Scott (Director of Finance)
- Councillor David Thomas
- Satnam Singh Rai (Independent Co-opted Member)

### ***Scheme Member Representatives:***

- Peter Redbourn (term expired June 2022)
- Phill Gillbard
- James Leslie
- Ben Redwood
- Greg Webb (term started June 2022)

2.2. In addition to the above, the following officers supported the Board and regularly attend Board meetings:

- Zoe Smyth (HR Reward & Benefits Manager and Delegated Scheme Manager)
- Mareena Anderson-Thorne (HR Pensions Officer)
- Steve Yates (Democratic Services Manager) Resigned March 2023
- Hannah Singleton (Executive Support Team Leader)

2.3. The Board met on three occasions during 2022-23, as listed below:

- 22 June 2022
- 07 September 2022
- 07 December 2022
- March 2022 was cancelled.

### **3. WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD**

3.1. During 2022-23 the following matters were undertaken/considered:

- Review of actions log
- Management of Risk Register
- Management of Work Programme
- Development of Training records and annual Training Plan
- Reviewed and updated the Self-Assessment using the Pension Regulator Tool
- Individual training using the Pension Regulator e-learning modules
- KPI Performance Measures (data collection and reporting)
- Received regular updates from the Scheme Manager, Scheme Administrator, and the Scheme Advisory Board
- Reviewed arrangements for reporting potential breaches of the law
- Monitoring arrangements for dealing with 'Immediate Detriment' cases arising from the age discrimination ruling in the McCloud/Sargeant judgement
- LPB Annual report 2021-22

#### 4. **IDENTIFIED RISKS AND BOARD ACTIONS**

4.1. Risks identified for 23-23 can be found [here](#).

4.2. Review of open actions can be found [here](#)

#### 5. **STATUTORY BREACHES**

5.1. Two statutory breaches were reported to the Regulator during the period.

#### 6. **DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WEBSITE**

6.1. Further information regarding the Local Pension Board can be found on the Service website:

<http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/AboutUs/Pensions/index.cfm?siteCategoryId=2&T1ID=193>

#### 7. **SCHEME MEMBERSHIP**

7.1. The scheme membership numbers are now included in the monthly reports from the Scheme Administrator. Membership numbers as of 31 March 2023, were:

<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Active Members</b>	<b>Deferred Members</b>	<b>Pensioners</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Preserved Refund</b>	<b>Leavers Options Pending</b>
Devon and Somerset Fire (1992 Scheme)	0	54	915	160	1	0
Devon and Somerset Fire (2006 Scheme)	1	407	140	17	9	1
Devon and Somerset Fire (2006/RDS Scheme)	0	70	210	3	0	1
Devon and Somerset Fire (2015 Scheme)	1601	689	45	16	8	26
Devon and Somerset Fire (2015/RDS Scheme)	65	7	5	0	0	2

7.2. The Delegated Scheme Manager reports at each Board meeting details of membership numbers; opt out numbers; new starters; and retirements.

## **8. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

8.1. Members of the Local Pension Board are required to declare any personal, prejudicial, or conflicts of interest. Board members are asked at each meeting to declare any conflicts that may have arisen.

8.2. There have been no declarations made by any Board members, advisor, or attendee at any meeting of the Board during the relevant period.

## **9. EXPENSES AND COSTS**

9.1. Total Local Pension Board expenditure for 2022-23 was, therefore, limited to the “co-optees” allowance of £500 per annum paid to the Independent Employer Representative in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Authority’s Approved Scheme of Members Allowances made under those Regulations.

## **10. GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

10.1. No declarations of gifts or hospitality were made by members of the Board during the relevant period.

## **11. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

11.1. Board members have completed e-learning modules on the Pension Regulator’s website. Details of each Board member’s training is published on the Service website.

11.2. Monthly updates from the scheme administrator, the West Yorkshire Pension Fund, and the LGA’s monthly Firefighters Pensions Schemes Bulletin are shared with Board members.

11.3. Completion of individual training needs analysis records are used to identify common topics of interest, which is now included on each meeting of the Board. Additional training sessions on subjects similarly derived from the training needs analysis records are also provided.

## **12. LEGISLATIVE AND ADVISORY UPDATES**

12.1. In accordance with statutory requirements, members of the Board have been provided with regular legislative updates together with updates from the Pension Regulator and the Scheme Advisory Board. The following have been provided during 2022-23:

- TPR guidance on public service internal controls checklist.
- Guidance on treatment of 'Immediate Detriment' cases arising from the age discrimination ruling in the McCloud/Sargeant judgement.
- Guidance on treatment and implications of the Matthews/O'Brien case (Second options exercise)
- An Introduction to Pensions Dashboards
- Firefighters Pensions Schemes Bulletins No. 56 to 67 inclusive, setting out updates and news on a range of issues relating to Firefighters Pensions Schemes.