

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/24/10
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	16 FEBRUARY 2024
SUBJECT OF REPORT	REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD
LEAD OFFICER	Clerk to the Authority (& Monitoring Officer)
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That Satnam Singh Rai be reappointed as the Independent Member of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority's Local Pension Board for a further term of four years effective from 19 December 2023.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This report advises upon the proposal to reappoint the existing Independent Member of the Local Penions Board for a further term of four years from 19 December 2023.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	The Independent member is paid an allowance in accordance with the Authority's approved Scheme of Members' Allowances and provision is included within the Revenue Budget.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	None
APPENDICES	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Report DSFRA/19/14 and Minute DSFRA/9

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Authority's Local Pensions Board (dealing only with Firefighters' Pensions Schemes) was established at the Authority meeting on 20 February 2015 (Minute DSFRA/46 refers) in compliance with the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment)(Governance) Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"). The Board is responsible for assisting the Authority (as Scheme Manager):
 - (a). to secure compliance with:
 - (i) the Regulations;
 - (ii) any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of Firefighters' Pension Schemes; and
 - (iii) any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to Firefighters' Pension Schemes; and
 - (b). to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of Firefighters Pension Schemes.
- 1.2. The Regulations provide that it is the responsibility of the Scheme Manager to determine membership of the Local Pensions Board and the manner in which members of it are to be appointed and removed. The Regulations also provide that there must be a minimum of 4 on the Board and that there must be an equal number of employer (i.e. Scheme Manager) representatives and member (i.e. Scheme beneficiary) representatives.
- 1.3. In establishing the Board, the Authority reserved the power to appoint employer representatives and delegated responsibility for undertaking a process for and appointing employer representatives to the Head of Human Resources (or equivalent post-holder). At the outset, the Board comprised total of four members (two employer and two member representatives). The Authority resolved that the employer representatives should be the Clerk (and Monitoring Officer) and the Treasurer (as proper financial officer).
- 1.4. At its meeting on 15 February 2019, the Local Pensions Board agreed to ask the Authority to approve an increase in overall size of the Board from 6 to 8 members (comprising four employer and four member representatives) i.e. one additional employer representative and one additional member representative. The main reason for this was that, given Board's quorum requirements (currently four, to comprise two employer and two scheme member representatives), it had been necessary to cancel Board meetings owing to unavailability of the required attendees. The Board had discussed reducing the quorum requirement to three but had been unable to reach consensus on this. The Board had agreed, though, that a potential solution might be to increase the overall size of the Board and, subject to this being approved, the quorum requirement moving forwards would be 50% of the membership i.e. four attendees, to comprise at least one employer and one member representative.
- 1.5. The Authority agreed to increase the size of the Authority from 6 to 8 at its meeting held on 7 June 2019 – Minute DSFRA/9 refers – as per the resolution below:

- (a). that the Authority Clerk and Monitoring Officer be re-appointed as a Scheme Manager representative on the Local Pensions Board for a further four-year term of office (to expire in 2023);
 - (b). that the overall size of the Board be increased from 6 to 8 (one additional Scheme Manager and one additional Scheme Member representative) and in this respect:
 - (i) the Clerk to the Authority be delegated authority to undertake a process to identify and appoint a relevant external person with the requisite subject matter knowledge and experience to serve as a Scheme Manager representative;
 - (ii) the external post be remunerated at a level of £500 per annum plus travel and subsistence expenses;
 - (iii) that it be noted that the Head of Human Resources has delegated authority to undertake a process to identify and appoint Scheme Member representatives to the Board;
 - (c). that the revised quorum arrangements for the Board (50% of the membership, to comprise at least one Scheme Manager and Scheme Member representative) be approved.
- 1.6. Satnam Singh Rai was appointed as an Independent Employer Representative on the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority's Local Pension Board with effect from 19 December 2019 for a term of four years. The term expired on 18 December 2023. There is provision for Satnam to be reappointed for a further term of up to four years subject to him being willing to be re-appointed.
- 1.7. Satnam has been contacted and has indicated his willingness to be reappointed for a further term of four years.
- 1.8. The Authority is asked to reappoint Satnam Singh Rai as the Independent member of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority's Local Pension Board for a further term of four years effective from 19 December 2023.

SAMANTHA SHARMAN
Clerk to the Authority (& Monitoring Officer)

