

Council

15 December 2020

Appointment of Chair of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board

Recommendation

That Council approve the appointment of Mr Martin Rehorn, Director of Finance and Treasurer for Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, as the Chair of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board for a period of 3 years.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The current Chair of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board has notified the County Council that he wishes to step down from his position. In response, a process has been undertaken to identify a suitable candidate to take on this role. Following a robust process involving officers and representatives from the Staff and Pensions Committee and Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Mr Martin Rehorn, Director of Finance and Treasurer for Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, has been identified as the new appointee.
- 1.2 The appointment requires ratification by Council in accordance with the terms of reference of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board.

2. Basis and Makeup of the Board

- 2.1 The requirements of the Public Services Pensions Act 2013 were implemented by the Firefighter Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 and require the establishment of a Local Pension Board for Fire Authorities.
- 2.2 The Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board has responsibility for assisting the Scheme Manager in securing compliance with all relevant pensions laws, regulations and directions and the Pension Regulator's codes of practice. The operations of the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board are guided by a Terms of Reference which are approved by Council.
- 2.3 Pursuant to those Terms of Reference, the membership of the Local Pension Board is to consist of seven members to include:
 - i) Scheme Member Representatives x 3
 - ii) Employer Representatives x 3

iii) Independent Representative x 1

- 2.4 In the case of the Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board, the role of Independent Representative is held by the Chair of the Board.
- 2.5 The recommendation to appoint Mr Rehorn as Chair of the Board arises from a robust process of assessment that considered suitability for the role followed by an interview conducted by officers representing Finance and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, and a meeting with Councillors representing the Staff and Pensions Committee and Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- Councillor Kam Kaur (Chair of Staff and Pensions Committee)
 - Councillor Adrian Warwick (Chair of Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
 - Councillor Bill Gifford (Member of Staff and Pensions Committee)
 - Councillor Neil Dirveiks (Member of Staff and Pensions Committee)
- 2.6 As background, Mr Rehorn is the Finance Director and Treasurer of Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, a position he has held for 17 years, and where he is the Scheme Manager for the Firefighters' Pension Schemes (FFPS). Prior to this, he held senior positions at both Surrey Police Authority and West Midlands Police Authority. Martin has a wealth of experience in the field of Fire Pensions, having been involved in the implementation of the 2006 and 2015 Fire Pension Schemes at Hereford and Worcester, and various other legislative changes over the years. At a national level, he is a member of the FFPS Scheme Advisory Board's Administration and Benchmarking Sub-Group; the LGA's FFPS Technical Group; the HMI of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Technical Advisory Group, and the National Fire Chiefs Council's Finance Co-ordination Committee.

3. Financial Implications

None

4. Environmental Implications

None

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 If agreed the decision would have immediate effect.

Background Papers

None

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The report was not circulated to members prior to publication.