

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme

5 June 2023

Administration update - 1st year review

Recommendation

That the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board notes and comments on the administration report provided by West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) for the work they have undertaken to administer the Firefighter Pension Schemes for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 From 1st April 2022 WYPF have provided the administration service for WFRS. As part of this service a monthly report is provided by WYPF, which give details of the work they have undertaken, key performance indicators and other relevant information regarding the membership of the Firefighter Pension schemes.
- 1.2 This report also provides a round up for the 1st year since the transfer of this service.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The last report received by WYPF is for the period up to 30th April 2023 and is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The report has been shared with stakeholders at the Council.

4.3 In relation to KPIs, the following are not being delivered to target:

Pension Estimate 0 (1 case out of 1 late)

Those with an intended retirement date within the next 3 months are treated as a priority.

Life Certificate 66.67% (1 out of 3 cases late)

For Issue of Life certificate for existence checks, any deal in this could lead to an overpayment of pension.

4.4 1st year review – A lot of work has been undertaken to improve the service provided to members of the Firefighter pension schemes in the last year, which is creating more confidence within the membership regarding the information they receive in respect of their pension benefits.

4.5 There has been a marked improvement in the transfer of pay data to West Yorkshire for active members, and the Council's payroll have now established a routine to supply a monthly e-return via the WYPF portal.

4.6 WYPF are also part way through completing the reconciliation work for pensions in payment. So far 100 cases have been reviewed with 74 underpayments identified and 24 overpayments identified. For the underpayments it has been identified that pensions increases have not been applied correctly; these pensions have been amended and all arrears paid to members. For overpayments there are a mixture of reasons why these have occurred. For cases where the overpayment relates to the GMP rectification exercise, it has been agreed that no recovery of overpayments will be made. This is in line with instruction from the Home Office that was issued in 2018. This has also been ratified by the Leader of the Council. For all other overpayments the Council will review on a case-by-case basis and seek to recover any overpayment where appropriate.

4.7 There is also a more joined up approach from Stakeholders at the Council with regard to the responsibilities relating to decision making and knowledge sharing. A stakeholder group now has monthly meetings to review information supplied by the LGA and actions are distributed accordingly. There is less of a single person reliance, and the group work together to establish key responsibilities for each team.

4.8 The communication of key messages to members is done via liaison with the Pensions Administration Delivery Lead, Fire Administration Contract Manager and Fire Service management, to ensure messaging is clear and directed to the right individuals.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – April 2023 monthly report

Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s):

Other members: Cllrs Jenks and Gifford