

County Council

26 September 2023

Appointment of Scheme Member Representative to the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme

Recommendation

That Council approve the appointment of Mr David Vazquez, as a Scheme member representative on the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following a call for expressions of interest to members within the fund and a robust selection and interview process involving officers and the Chair of the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board, Mr Martin Reohorn, David Vazquez has been identified as the new Scheme member representative on the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.
- 1.2 This appointment requires ratification by Council in accordance with the terms of reference of the Pension Board

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 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.

4.2 The Fire and Rescue Local Pension 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.

4.3 Pursuant to those Terms of Reference, the membership of the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board is to consist of seven (7) members to include –

- (i) Scheme Member Representatives x 3
- (ii) Employer Representatives x 3
- (iii) Independent Representative x 1

4.4 In the case of the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board, the role of Independent Representative is held by the Chair, Mr Martin Reohorn. The three employers' representatives are Councillor Brian Hammersley, Caroline Jones (Finance Portfolio Lead for Communities and Resources) and Sally Waldron (Assistant Chief Fire Officer). The existing scheme member representatives are Paul Morley (Fire Officers Association) and Sian Marsh (Fire Brigades Union).

4.5 The appointment of Mr Vazquez as a Scheme Member representative arises from a robust process of assessment that considered suitability for the role followed by an interview panel led by the Chair of the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board. Mr Vazquez's appointment will mean that the Board is fully constituted.

4.6 As background, Mr Vazquez is a retired firefighter, who served with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue service from 1985 until 9 September 2016. For the majority of his service, he was a senior leader and has knowledge of the workings of the firefighter pensions schemes as a member of the 1992 scheme.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 If agreed, the decision will have immediate effect.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

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

Local Member(s): N/A – This is a countywide matter.

Other members: Chair and Party Spokespersons of the Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee.