

County Council

19 December 2023

Appointment to Local Pension Board

Recommendation

That Council approves the appointment of Mrs Beverley Farmery as a Scheme Member representative on the Local Pension Board.

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 Local Pension Board, Mrs Farmery has been identified as the new Scheme member representative on the LGPS Local Pension Board.
- 1.2 This appointment requires ratification by Council in accordance with the terms of reference of the Local Pension Board

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Public Services Pensions Act 2013 (the '2013 Act') requires the establishment of a Pension Board with 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.
- 4.2 The Local Pension Board was set up in 2015 to assist the Warwickshire Pension Fund in ensuring that it is complying with relevant laws and regulations in the governance and operation of the Fund. The operations of the 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 Local Pension Board is to consist of seven (7) members to include –
- (a) Scheme Member Representatives x 3
 - (b) Employer Representatives x 3
 - (c) Independent Representative x 1
- 4.4 The role of Independent Representative is held by the Chair, Mr Keith Bray. The three employers' representatives are Councillor Ian Shenton (representing the Council), Jeff Carruthers (Warwickshire Police, a precepting employer) and Keith Francis (employer representative). The existing scheme member representatives are Sean McGovern (Senior Coroner for Warwickshire) and Mike Snow (member representative). The third Scheme Member representative, Alan Kidner, resigned his position earlier in 2023.
- 4.5 The vacancy was widely advertised among Scheme Members and steps were taken to attract a diverse range of candidates.
- 4.6 The appointment of Mrs Farmery 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 Local Pension Board. Mrs Farmery's appointment will mean that the Board is fully constituted.
- 4.7 By way of background, Mrs Farmery works for Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi Academy Trust (formerly Holy Family Multi Academy). She successfully set up the payroll and pension software for the Holy Family Multi Academy and administered both these services on behalf of six different schools. While in this post she has attended a wide range of training sessions and workshops run by the Warwickshire Pension Fund, building up her knowledge on the Regulations and processes involved in administering the scheme from an employer's and member perspective. Her current role has provided her with an opportunity to gain an understanding of the role of the Pensions Regulator, the organisation that is responsible for protecting people's savings in workplace pensions and improving the way that workplace pension schemes are run. This combined experience puts her in an ideal position to challenge officers about the way in which they administer the Local Government Pension 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