

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

12 February 2024

Pension Administration Update

Recommendation

That the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board notes and comments on the administration report provided by West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) dated December 2023 covering the work they have undertaken to administer the Firefighter Pension Schemes for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS).

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 From 1 April 2022, WYPF have provided the pension administration service for WFRS. As part of this service a monthly report is provided by WYPF, which gives details of the work they have undertaken, key performance indicators, and other relevant information regarding the membership of the Firefighter Pension schemes.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None arising directly from this report.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The latest report provided by WYPF is for December 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, 1 of 16 has not been delivered within the target timescales. This is:

Death on Retirement – 1 case did not meet this KPI due to delay in receiving marriage certificate from the member's family.

- 4.4 On 1 October 2023 the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 (England) (Amendment) Order 2023 came into force. This enables Retained Firefighters to buy back pension service in the 2006 scheme prior to 01/07/2000 if they meet certain set criteria. The Pensions Administration Team at Warwickshire continue work on the calculations required for retained Officers who have expressed an interest to purchase service.
- 4.5 A notification has been sent out to those in scope notifying them of this options exercise. For those where no response has been received, we will use the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) tracing service to ensure that where we might not have a current address, we have used best endeavours to try to reach those individuals.
- 4.6 We currently have 6 notification letters returned 'gone away' which will require tracing with DWP. It is therefore noted to the Board that we have breached disclosure in these cases as the deadline was 31 December 2023. Under advice from the Local Government Association this is not a material breach to report to the Pension Regulator.
- 4.7 The work for this exercise must be completed by April 2025. A period of 18 months has been specified for Fire Services/Authorities to ensure the project is delivered within a reasonable timeframe.
- 4.8 There were no Breaches to report during the last quarter.
- 4.9 Following Vicky Jenks' departure from Warwickshire Pension Fund, Ian Morris will now be supporting Lisa Eglesfield with the contract management of the Fire Pension Scheme. Ian Morris is the membership team leader within Warwickshire Pension Fund.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – December 2023 monthly report.

	Name	Contact Information
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Report Author	Lisa Eglesfield, Pension Administration Service Manager, Martin Griffiths, Pension Technical Specialist, Policy and Governance	lisaeglesfield@warwickshire.gov.uk, martingriffiths@warwickshire.gov.uk
Director	Virginia Rennie Interim Director of Finance	virginiarennie@warwickshire.gov.uk
Executive Director	Rob Powell Executive Director for Resources	robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Peter Butlin Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property	peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: Cllrs Dahmash and Gifford