

Staff and Pensions Committee

4 March 2024

Pensions Delegation Update

Recommendations:

That the Staff and Pensions Committee approves:

1. The delegation of the role of Scheme Manager of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Firefighter's Pension Fund to the Executive Director of Resources as set out in paragraph 1 to this Report.
2. The amendments to the Conflict of Interest Policy for the Warwickshire Pension Fund set out in Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council as Fire and Rescue Authority is the Scheme Manager of the Firefighter's Pension Fund. In 2015 there was a decision to delegate the role of Scheme Manager of the Fire Pension Fund to the Chief Fire Officer.
- 1.2 Constitutionally there are a number of delegations to the Chief Fire Officer which relate to operational matters and fire response and prevention etc. (The Constitution can be viewed [here](#) with the delegations referred to at Part 2(10) on page 117). In addition, the Chief Fire Officer is responsible for Stage 2 IDRs.
- 1.3 In practical terms the role of Scheme Manager for the fund involves oversight of the administration of the fund and its ongoing health which are managed from within Finance. Day to day activity is largely outsourced to West Yorkshire Pension Fund under a contract managed by Finance.
- 1.4 Having discussed the matter, the Chief Fire Officer and the Executive Director for Resources have agreed that it would be preferable for these finance-based functions to have the oversight of the Council's Chief Finance Officer and thus be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources.

- 1.5 As s151 officer of the Council, the Executive Director for Resources already holds the Council's financial delegations and the statutory functions of the s151 Officer, alongside the wider general delegations as an Executive Director to take and implement decisions (including to reflect member decisions). The Executive Director also acts to oversee the Warwickshire Pension Fund (under the LGPS).
- 1.6 Given the broad financial delegations already held by the Executive Director for Resources no amendment to the constitution is required but a decision of this Committee is needed to document the delegation.
- 1.7 In December 2023, a paper was brought to this Committee updating the Conflict of Interest Policy for the Warwickshire Pension Fund. Having considered the revised policy it is felt that there should be an amendment to clarify the position regarding the financial oversight function for the Pension Fund. The Executive Director for Resources is the s151 Officer for the Council. As the Council is the Administering Authority for the Pension Fund, he also holds that function for the Pension Fund. As a matter of operational practice and to ensure no perception of any conflict might arise, the day-to-day functions required in respect of the Pension Fund are delegated to the Director of Finance. As those functions are delegated to the post rather than an individual they are currently exercised by the Interim Director of Finance, pending a permanent appointment to the role.
- 1.8 The Committee is asked to approve the clarifications to the Policy attached as Appendix 1.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 4.1 If approved the changes to the Conflicts Policy and the delegation proposed will be implemented following the meeting

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – Revised Conflict of Interest Policy

Background Papers

1. None

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

Local Member(s): not applicable, county wide report

Other members: none