

Local Pension Board for Firefighter Pension Schemes

As part of the Public Sector Pension Act 2013 there are changes to the governance arrangements for the Firefighter Pension Schemes.

There is now a requirement for each Pension Scheme Manager (Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Authority in our case) to establish Local Pension Boards that will assist the Scheme Manager in ensuring that the scheme complies with legislation relating to its governance and administration, its own rules and any requirements of the Pensions Regulator.

Draft terms of reference for the board have been provided by the LGA. The board will review, amend and agree these terms at their first meeting. They are expected to cover the duties of the board; conflicts of interest; knowledge and understanding; meetings; quorum; voting.

BFRS Local Pension Board will be made up of a Chair; two employee representatives and two employer representatives.

An advert was placed in the Blue Bulletin seeking applications to the board; and an advert was sent to the National Association of Retired Firefighters requesting applications. The following appointments have now been made:

Chair of the Board : Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Treasurer. He was nominated and appointed by the FRA. He will have no voting rights.

Employee representatives : Claire Beasley (nominated by the FBU); and Pat Sherry (retired), self-nominated.

Employer representatives : AC Tony Rogers (nominated by the FRA); and GM Andy Peckham (self nominated).

No selection processes were required as there were no additional applicants.

Training will be provided to enable all board members to undertake their role.

It is likely that the Board will hold three meetings per year although this is subject to review by the Board once in place. Minutes of all meetings and any decisions made by the board will be published.