



People, Performance and Development Committee
19 July 2021

Extension of member and employer representative appointments of the Local Pension Board

Purpose of the report:

This report sets out the proposed extension of member and employer representative appointments for Local Pension Board for approval by the People, Performance and Development Committee.

The report recommends the appointment of an Independent chairman, two County Councillor representatives with one councillor appointed as vice chairman.

The reports also recommends the appointment of a member representative.

The Local Pension Board is a requirement under section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, and Regulation 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

Recommendations:

It is recommended:

1. That the term of office for the member representatives of the Surrey Local Pension Board are extended over the life of the next council
2. That the term of office for the employer representatives of the Surrey Local Pension Board are extended over the life of the next council
3. Tim Evans is appointed as an Independent chairman.
4. Cllr David Lewis and Cllr Jeremy Webster are appointed as the County Councillor representatives.
5. Cllr Jeremy Webster is appointed as a vice chairman.
6. William McKee is appointed as a member representative.

Each Local Pension Board member so appointed shall serve for the life of the current Surrey County Council, a defined, fixed period which can be extended for further periods subject to re-nomination.

Introduction:

1. Under the provisions of section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (“the 2013 Act”) and regulation 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (“the Regulations”) each LGPS Administering Authority must establish a new Local Pension Board for the purposes of assisting the Administering Authority in all aspects of governance and administration of the LGPS, including funding and investments.
2. The Local Pension Board is constituted separately to the Surrey Pension Fund Committee which has delegated authority to carry out pensions functions for the Council as the Administering Authority.
3. On 17 March 2015, the Council established the Local Pension Board, and delegated the appointment of members of the Local Pension Board to the People, Performance and Development Committee (PPDC). An appointment panel of officers and Members was established to oversee the recruitment process and produce recommendations for the PPDC.
4. On 17 July 2015 the PPDC appointed the required eight employer and member representatives of the Local Pension Board.
5. This report sets out the recommendation of the appointment panel to extend the membership of the current employer and member representatives. The Appointment Panel has recommended candidates to fill current vacancies, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
6. The proposed extension recognises the significant work undertaken by the Pension Board membership over the past six years to develop knowledge and expertise in the areas covered by the Board terms of reference. Each Board member is compliant with the attendance, knowledge and understanding policy.
7. Previous appointment processes have demonstrated low appetite and interest from both the employer and member pools. To this end, the recommended extension will benefit the Administering Authority and Fund by ensuring a skilled and engaged Board membership continues to assist in all aspects of governance and administration of the LGPS.
8. The role of the Local Pension Board, the constitution of its membership and the roles and responsibilities of the Board members are set out in the Local Pension Board terms of reference. It is expected that each Local Pension Board member so appointed will serve for the life of the current Surrey County Council, which will continue until spring 2025. Appointments can be extended for further periods subject to re-nomination.

Financial and value for money implications

9. Training expenses are borne by the administration cost centre of the Pension Fund and must be approved by the Director of Finance. Retaining skills and expertise minimises the cost to the Pension Fund, and provides assurances with respect to good governance, and in the long term informs better decision making.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

10. The establishment of the Board is a statutory requirement. There are no specific equality implications arising from these appointments.

Risk Management Implications

11. All risk related issues related to the termination and appointment of Board members are managed within the Board's terms of reference, as agreed by Council on 17 March 2015 and amended by the Pension Fund Committee on 18 September 2015.

Next steps:

The next public meeting of the Local Pension Board will be organised prior to the end of August 2021, following the appointment of the new Board member.

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Annexes:

Annex 1 – Recommendation to the People, Performance and Development Committee for the appointment of an individual member of the Local Pension Board

Sources/background papers:

Public Service Pensions Act, 2013

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations, 2013

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