

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**PENSION FUND COMMITTEE****DATE: 17 JUNE 2022****LEAD OFFICER: ANNA D'ALESSANDRO, DIRECTOR CORPORATE FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL COMMENTARY****SUBJECT: RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Strategic objectives
Accounting & Governance

This report sets out the proposed extension of the appointment of the current Independent chairman of the Local Pension Board, Tim Evans, for a further one year term.

It further recommends that on expiring of this one year term the role of Independent Chair be appointed for a four year term (2023-2027) through an open recruitment process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Pension Fund Committee:

1. Recommends for approval by the People, Performance and Development Committee (PPDC) the extension of the appointment of the current Independent chairman of the Local Pension Board, Tim Evans, for a further one year term.
2. Recommends for approval by the PPDC, on expiring of this one year term, the role of Independent Chair be appointed for a four year term (2023-2027) through an open recruitment process.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

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.

DETAILS:

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 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 PPDC.
4. The proposed extension of the appointment of the current Independent chair of the Local Pension Board recognises the significant work undertaken by the Pension Board membership to develop knowledge and expertise in the areas covered by the Board terms of reference. To this end, the recommended extension will benefit the Administering Authority and Fund by ensuring a skilled and engaged independent chair continues to assist in all aspects of governance and administration of the LGPS.
5. It is further proposed that, on the expiry of this one year term, an independent chair be appointed for a four year term (2023-2027) through an open recruitment process. This will allow for continuity of independent leadership outside of the term of the County Council.
6. 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 renomination.

CONSULTATION:

7. The Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee has been consulted on this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

8. All risk related issues related to the termination and appointment of Board members are managed within the Board's terms of reference.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

9. Expenses relating to the Board are borne by the Pension Fund. 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.

DIRECTOR CORPORATE FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL COMMENTARY

10. The Director of Corporate Financial & Commercial is satisfied that all material, financial and business issues and possibility of risks have been considered and addressed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

11. There are no legal implications or legislative requirements.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

12. There are no equality or diversity implications.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no potential implications for council priorities and policy areas.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

14. The following next steps are planned:

- a) Recommendation to be taken to the next meeting of the PPDC for approval.

Contact Officer:

Adele Seex, Governance Manager

Annexes:

This page is intentionally left blank