

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CUMBRIA FIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD FOR 2019/20

As Chairman of the Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board (LPB) it is my pleasure to present, the Annual Report for 2019/20 on behalf of my fellow Board Members.

Background

The Public Service Pensions Act (PSPA) 2013 introduced the requirement to have a Local Pension Board to assist in the governance of the Scheme. The Board has no remit as a decision making body but is established to assist Cumbria County Council as the Scheme Manager to fulfil its functions which cover all aspects of governance and administration of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS).

The Council's Constitution requires the Board to meet 'as a minimum twice a year'. In recognition of the important role the Board has to play in supporting Cumbria County Council, as Scheme Manager, meetings are now scheduled on a quarterly basis. There were three meetings held during the year.

Membership

In accordance with the Board's Terms of Reference the Chair's role was rotated during the year from being a Scheme member to an employer representative, the Vice Chair, a Scheme (member) representative and a substitute Scheme (member) representative were appointed.

Work Programme during 2019/20:

The Work Plan for 2019/20 included:-

- Membership: recruitment of Scheme (member) Representative and Substitute
- Improving data quality and compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Scheme monitoring & updating Risk Register
- Ensuring effective Scheme communication
- Reviewing compliance with the Pension Regulator's requirements and Code of Practice
- Continuing to develop knowledge and understanding of the Board

Looking forward to 2020/21:

The Work Plan for 2020/21 will address/incorporate/include:-

- Continual improvement in the Pensions Regulator key focus areas: record-keeping and data quality; member communications; governance and data security;
- Membership: recruitment of Scheme (member) Representative and Substitute;
- The added burden on administration work as the remedy for the Sargeant discrimination case becomes clearer;

Appendix 1

- The impact that consultations, regulatory changes and publications may have on the Cumbria Firefighters Pension Schemes; and
- Enhance Board knowledge & skills

To support their work on the Fire Local Pension Board, Members continued to maintain and develop their knowledge and skills, through attending various training courses throughout the year.

Training during the year:

Training	Delivery	Date
Fire Pensions AGM	External	September 2019
FPS Administration	Internal	October 2019
LGA FPS Taxation	External	November 2019
Data Security	External	February 2020

I would like to convey the Board's thanks to all the Council's and Your Pension Service staff involved in administering the Cumbria FPS for their work during the year in supporting the management and beneficiaries of the Fund.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their contributions during 2019/20.

Councillor Janet Willis
Chair of the Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board

30th July 2020

Information on the work of the Cumbria Local Pension Board can be found on our web page on the on Cumbria County Council website:

<https://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=1169>