

COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting date: 9th January 2020

From: Cabinet Member for Customers,
Transformation and Fire and Rescue

UPDATE REPORT OF THE CUMBRIA FIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD – 2019/20

PART A - RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET MEMBER

This report presents the update of the Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board for the half year ending 30th September 2019.

PART B – ADVICE OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 *The Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board (Cumbria FLPB or ‘the Board’) is required to report twice yearly on its activities to the Council.*
- 1.2 *This is the update report for the first half of 2019/20, with the Annual Report of the Cumbria FLPB 2019/20 due to be presented to Council in June 2020.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 *The Council’s vision is to be “A Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources”. This report supports the priorities of the Council Plan, in particular ‘putting customers at the heart of everything we do’.*
- 2.2 *Good Governance and risk management will aid the Council in its role as Scheme Manager in ensuring its regulatory responsibilities are met, a good service is provided to scheme members and costs are controlled. Cost control will have a direct impact on revenue budgets.*
- 2.3 *There are no direct equality implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

- 3.1 Note the update of the Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board for the half year ending 30th September 2019.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Cumbria FLPB is constituted under the Public Service Pension Act 2013 and the Fire Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2014. The role of the Cumbria FLPB is to assist Cumbria County Council (as the Scheme Manager of the Cumbria Firefighters' Pension Scheme) to secure compliance with:

- (i) The regulations covering administration of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS);
- (ii) Other legislation in relation to the governance and administration of the FPS; and
- (iii) The requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the FPS; and
- (iv) Ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the FPS.

- 4.2 In its role in assisting the Scheme Manager the Cumbria FLPB is required to report twice yearly to Council on matters reviewed and suggestions for their consideration. Where the Cumbria FLPB is concerned that due consideration has not been given to matters of non-compliance, the Board may submit a report for consideration by the Audit and Assurance Committee as the body designated by the Scheme Manager with the capacity to investigate such matters on its behalf.

- 4.3 The Board has no such matters of non-compliance that are considered appropriate to raise with the Audit and Assurance Committee.

- 4.4 The Cumbria FLPB met once during the period (23rd April 2019). In addition to this the October meeting of the Board considered the six month period to 30th September 2019. Key developments included:-

- ***Membership:***

- Cllr A Lamb replaced Cllr G Ellis as an employer representative of the Board.
- Mr M Nicholson was reappointed as a scheme member representative for a further four years.
- Mr S Ratcliffe was appointed as substitute scheme member representative, in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

- Following the completion of their respective terms in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair, Mr D Harrison rotated into the role of Vice-Chair and Cllr J Willis rotated into the role of Chair. All members of the Board were in agreement with these appointments.
- **Training:**
 - A Member of Cumbria FLPB attended the Fire Scheme Advisory Board Annual Conference hosted by the Local Government Association (LGA).
 - The LGA have confirmed that they will attend the May 2020 meeting of the Board to provide a training update.
 - The Board are considering collaborating with other Fire and Rescue Authorities to facilitate a future regional training event similar to the one attended by many of the Cumbria FLPB members last March.
- **Cyber Security:** Following a discussion on cyber security, members welcomed the suggestion that a member of the ICT team be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board and outline the cyber security arrangements in place.
- **Administration:** The Director of Member Operations and Operations Manager from the Local Pensions Partnership (the administration service provider which operates as Your Pension Service in Cumbria) attended the meeting and updated the Board on the reorganisation in their service, performance, upgrading IT systems and staffing.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Members may either note the progress of the Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board in 2019/20 or request additional information relating to the activities of the Board.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Firefighters' Pension Scheme is a national scheme with individual fire and rescue authorities being responsible for its administration.
- 6.2 The Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board is responsible for ensuring the effective governance of the scheme for the 1,389 scheme members.
- 6.3 The scheme is a defined benefit pension scheme and employer and employee contributions are set nationally.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Under its terms of reference as set out in the Constitution the Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board reports twice yearly to Council.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The Cumbria Fire Local Pension Board progressed its work to assist in the governance of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme during the six months to 30th September 2019.

Steve Healey
Chief Fire Officer

9 January 2020

APPENDICES

None

Electoral Division(s): All

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and the Head of Member Services and Scrutiny has obtained the necessary approvals.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

None

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER

Janet Willis

*Cabinet Member for Customers, Transformation and Fire & Rescue.
Agreed 12th December 2020*

REPORT AUTHOR

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