

Firefighters' Pension Scheme Delegations

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

This report results from a routine review of the discretionary powers of the Fire Authority under the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to

- a) note the review of the Delegation of powers under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015, 1992 Scheme and 2006 Scheme (as set out in Appendix A,B,C to this report)
- b) Consider and approve, or otherwise accept the proposed changes to these Schemes.

3 Background

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 (the Scheme) sets out a number of discretionary powers, which the Fire Authority may wish to exercise, having regard to the circumstances of an individual case in respect of the pension rights of its firefighters and firefighters' dependents.

In 2002, 2010 and 2014 the Fire Authority agreed delegations and policies in relation to the Firemen's Pension Schemes 1992 and 2006. In 2015, similar delegations and policies were established in relation to the new 2015 Scheme. As the Scheme Manager the Fire Authority are required to review these discretions at intervals to ensure they remain appropriate.

4 Review of Delegations to Officers and Policies

The Appendices list the rules of the Schemes where discretionary powers can be exercised. All scheme discretions (attached at Appendix A,B,C) were last reviewed in 2022. The Head of Human Resources and Administration and the Pensions Officer at West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) have since conducted an annual review and it has been determined that the following changes need to be applied.

Changes are highlighted in bold within each appendix and any relevant changes have been struck through.

You will note from the appendices that the changes relate to two areas.

1. In each table a column has been added to reflect a new column E. Some of these delegations are now carried out automatically by our administrator, WYPF under business as usual. However, there are a number of other discretions where WYPF will review the matters on case by case basis and then send all of the details to the Fire Authority as normal for a decision.
2. Those marked “To be archived post remedy” relate to active members of the final salary schemes. As you will be aware there are no active members of the Final Schemes from 1 April 2022 so they will no longer be needed after the McCloud Sargent remedy has been finalised.

Recommendation:

As a result of this it is therefore proposed that the Fire Authority now amend the discretions to reflect these changes.

5 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 Legal Comment

The Fire Authority has the necessary powers as set out within the body of this report to implement the recommendations in respect of offering Voluntary Scheme Pays arrangements.

It is incumbent on the Fire Authority to consider Pension Scheme Bulletins in order to ensure good governance and also to effectively manage pension arrangements.

Delegations of authority, such as those set out in this report and appendices, are necessary to enable officers and the Fire Authority’s Pensions Panel to administer the schemes effectively in the future.

7 Initial Impact Assessment

This report contains merely statements of fact / historical data. An Initial Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An Equality Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

9 Appendices

Appendix A

Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 Discretions

Appendix B

Firefighters Pension Scheme 1992 Discretions

Appendix C

Firefighters Pension Scheme 2006 Discretions

10 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.