

LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
LOCAL PENSION BOARD

12 DECEMBER 2018

REPORT FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PENSION
ADMINISTRATOR

PENSION FUND ADMINISTRATION REPORT –
QUARTER 1ST JULY TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Fire Pension Board of fire-fighter pension administration in the quarter.
2. This is the first report from the administrator and is designed to assist the Fire Pension Board. It is also considered best practise to provide a report of this type.

Background

3. Annual Benefit Statements / Year-end / Taxation Saving Statements

The annual benefit statements for active and deferred members have been sent out by the deadline of 31st August 2018. The annual allowance statements for 2017/2018 have been issued and have met the deadline of 6th October 2018. There are 3 people for whom Pensions are awaiting a scheme pays option form. They have all been sent a reminder as they need to reply by 30th November 2018.

4. Regulation Changes

On 16 April 2018 the Home Office launched a consultation on amendments to survivors' benefits in the 2006 Firefighters' Pension Scheme. A recent Supreme Court case, the Brewster Case, which investigated the entitlement of a partner to a public service pension scheme member's partner's pension, has led the Government to give fresh consideration to this matter for all public service pension schemes. Following the consultation, an Amendment Order has now been made which brings these amendments into force from 8th October 2018. Only the 2006 scheme requires amendment on this issue as that is the only one to require that unmarried partners should be

nominated by the member. The consultation proposes that “nominated partner” is replaced by “cohabiting partner”.

If a member still wishes to make their intentions relating to survivors benefits known, the Scheme Manager can continue to accept a nomination form.

In addition to this proposal, a number of unrelated minor amendments are required to ensure that certain limited aspects of the schemes work as originally intended to the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme 1992, the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme 2006 and the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme 2015.

5. Risk and Breaches – (material or not)

None.

6. Recording Keeping

**Pension Regulator’s Governance and Administration Survey 2017/18-
common and conditional data scoring**

Standard, national data fields have not been set by the LGA for this first year. The first year has therefore been based on fields derived from the Pension System which Pensions feel should reflect the common and conditional data for this starting year. Pensions have issued the data quality scores to Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service as follows:

- Common data for all Fire Schemes: 100%
- Conditional data for 1992 scheme 100%
- Conditional data for 2006 scheme 99.32%
- Conditional data for 2015 scheme 98.87%

Fire authorities are responsible for the completion and submission of the survey.

7. GMP Reconciliation

Of the original queries sent to HMRC, after receiving their reply to each case, 4 cases remain.

Pensions have also received some additional reports which mean that there are some extra records that we have queried with HMRC. The revised total remaining cases that have been sent to HMRC where we are now awaiting their reply is 17.

8. System updates

Following the successful tender and all security checks being completed, the move to an externally hosted server took place in October 2018. This is a technical change and does not impact on members benefits.

Work on the move to pensioner payroll started in November 2018 with a view to going Live in January 2019.

Immediate payments through pensioner payroll for LGPS are due to start in March 2019. This is development initially for Local Government but if Fire Authorities were interested in this system a scoping exercise would be required.

Data checking through Oracle will be the biggest task. Member self-service for Local Government will go Live to coincide with pensioner payroll.

All three Fire Authorities have agreed to implement Fire member self-service and costs have been provided. Contractual arrangements for all three Fire Authorities are to be completed by the 31 December 2018.

Officers to Contact

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