

PENSIONS DASHBOARDS READINESS**REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER****For Noting****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Authority's duty with regards to the implementation of Pensions Dashboards and the additional budget required to ensure readiness for connection and ongoing administration costs.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the proposal for XPS to undertake the Pension Dashboard work on behalf of the Authority to ensure readiness by the 31 October 2025 deadline.
- 2.2 That Members note the connection costs (estimated between £13,700 - £26,000) will need to be managed within the overall 2025/26 budget.
- 2.3 That Members note that ongoing administration costs (estimated between £4,400 - £6,000) will be a budget pressure for 2026/27.

3. PENSIONS DASHBOARDS READINESS

- 3.1 Pensions dashboards will enable individuals to access their pensions information online, securely, and all in one place, thereby supporting better planning for retirement and growing financial wellbeing.
- 3.2 The Pension Schemes Act 2021 introduced the legal framework for Pensions Dashboards, making it mandatory for schemes to connect so that savers can see their pension information online.
- 3.3 The Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) issued guidance in March 2024 setting out when schemes are expected to connect, and Cleveland Fire Authority is required to connect by 31st October 2025.
- 3.4 The Pensions Regulator are advising Scheme Managers to start preparing for connection and XPS, in their capacity of the Authority's scheme administrator, have provided a Dashboards Connection Readiness Report (Appendix 1) which identifies that our current data requires some improvement to be ready for connection.
- 3.5 XPS have assessed our data against the guidance on matching data provided by the Pensions Regulator and the Pension Administration Standards Association

(PASA) and are asking Scheme Managers to consider their recommendations, and to agree the matching policy if we wish them to undertake this piece of work for us.

- 3.6 The report also details the actions required by the Authority to connect to Pensions Dashboards and the costs associated to this should we wish XPS to undertake this for us.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The associated costs relate to one off connection fees, which are estimated at between £13,700 and £26,000, and ongoing additional administration fees, which are estimated at £4,400 - £6,000 per annum.
- 4.2 XPS's proposal is to undertake this work on our behalf. The Authority does not have the resource or easy access to the data (which is already held by XPS) to undertake this piece of work in house.

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