

LOCAL PENSION BOARD

FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES



DATE: 19 FEBRUARY 2025

TITLE: SCHEME MANAGER UPDATE

REPORT OF: SCHEME MANAGER

**For Approval
and Noting**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform and update the Board.

2. UPDATE TO THE BOARD

2.1 Governance and Administration

For Noting

- **Discretions Applied** – none
- **Ill Health** – none
- **Appeals** – none
- **IDRP** – a member submitted a stage one complaint in relation to the impact of a career break on their pension membership. Advice was sought from the LGA and XPS and relevant case law was considered. It was determined that the career break had been processed incorrectly; career breaks are not referenced in the pension regulations and therefore the absence should have been processed as an unpaid leave of absence. The provision within the regulations of a member being able to buy back lost pension service on their return would have then applied. The complaint was upheld and rectification of the break in membership was undertaken. Another member was also identified as being in the same position and the issue was also rectified. The HR team have been updated on the current way to process career breaks moving forward.

2.2 Scrutiny

For Noting

- **Breaches of the Law** – the failure to produce Annual Benefit and Pension Saving Statements by the statutory deadlines of 31st August 2024 and 6th October 2024 respectively resulted in a breach. The breach has been reported to the Pensions Regulator (Appendix 1).
- **Cyber Security** – there have been no reported breaches
- **Compliance** - Cyber Essentials Plus (CE+) accredited

2.3 Risk

For Noting

The Board has a responsibility to take an active role in monitoring the key risks on a regular basis and driving forward improvement. The trend risk register is attached at Appendix 2 for the Boards consideration.

2.4 Sargeant and Matthews Remedies – Update

For Noting

- Sargeant Remedy Update (Appendix 3)
- Matthews Remedy Update (Appendix 4)

2.5 Training

For Noting

The Board has an obligation to ensure Members receive adequate training and knowledge to support them in their role. Board Members have been allocated a place on the LGA Firefighter Pension Scheme training session on 25 March 2025 via Microsoft Teams between 10am and 4pm.

**PETER RICKARD
SCHEME MANAGER**