

# LOCAL PENSION BOARD

## FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES



**DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

**TITLE: SCHEME MANAGER UPDATE**

**REPORT OF: SCHEME MANAGER**

**For Noting**

### 1. PURPOSE

To inform and update the Board.

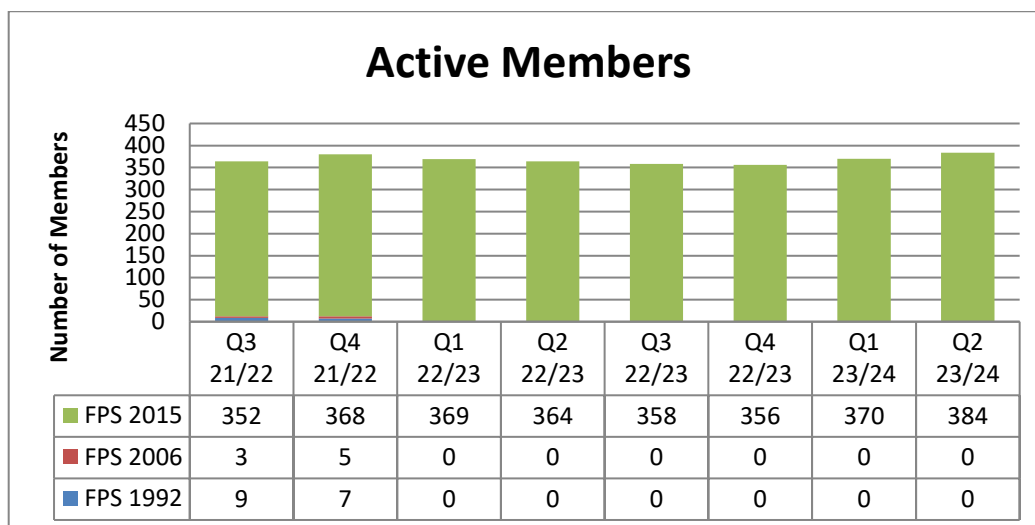
### 2. UPDATE TO BOARD

#### 2.1 Governance and Administration

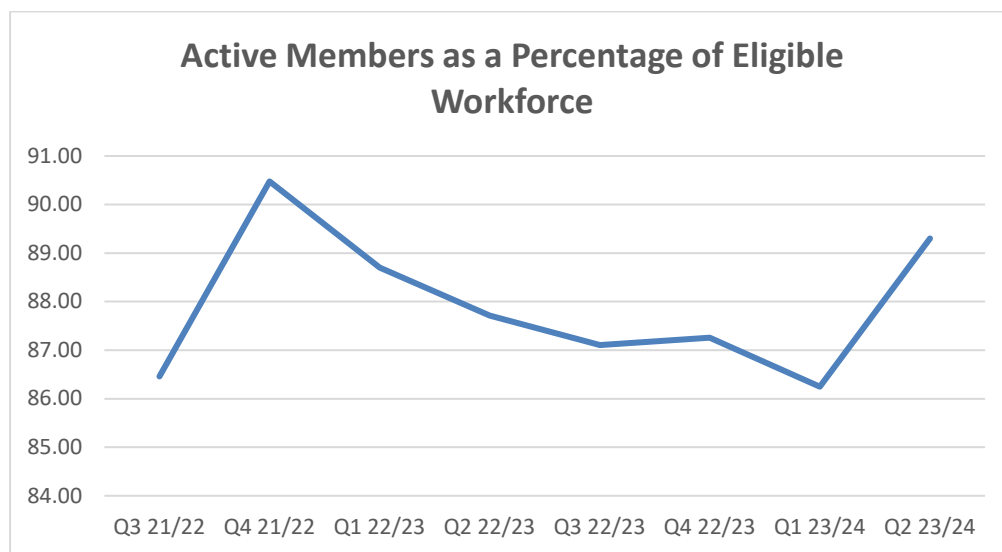
- **Discretions Applied** – none
- **Ill Health** – a Wholtime Firefighter was retired on ill health grounds on 26 September 2023 and we have a further two potential ill health retirement cases that are currently going through the IQMP process
- **Appeals** – none
- **IDRP** - none
- **Membership**

For Information

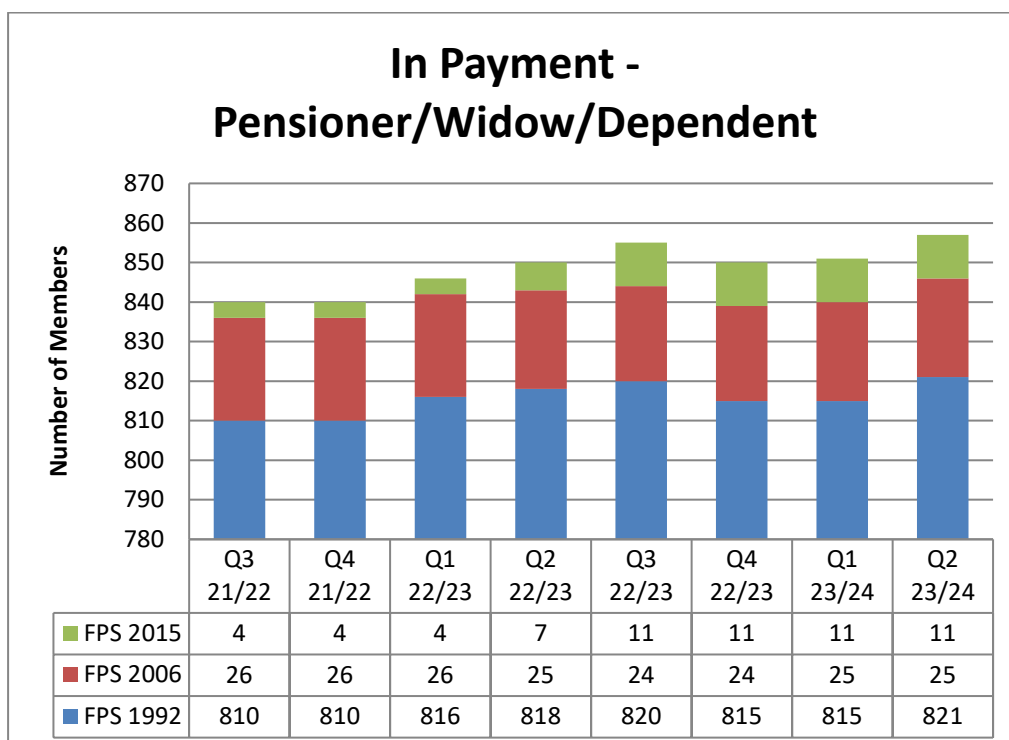
**Active Members** – The total membership of the schemes as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was 384 with all these members now being in the new 2015 scheme. The following chart shows that there has been an increase in members over the last quarter.



**Percentage of Eligible Workforce** – 89% of the eligible workforce are currently a member of the pension scheme which is a significant increase on the last quarter.



**Pensioners** - The total number of pensions in payment as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was 857 with most of these payments, 95%, being from the 1992 scheme. There was an increase in these figures over the last quarter.



**2.2 Scrutiny**

For Noting

- Breaches of the Law – None
- Cyber Security – there have been no reported breaches
- Compliance - Cyber Essentials Plus (CE+) accredited

**2.3 Risk**

For Noting

The Board have 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 1** for the Boards consideration.

**2.4 Sargeant and Matthews – Update**

For Noting

**Sargeant**

Amended regulations came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 and XPS have produced a timeline of when the different member cohorts will be dealt with.

Member pay data has been provided to XPS so that they have all of the data required to process remedy.

Warm up communications have been sent to all affected members advising them of the timelines involved and when they should expect to hear more (disclosure requirement).

The GAD contribution calculator has now been implemented and has been used to process 2 x immediate choice retirements in October 2023 and 2 x ill health reassessments have been undertaken.

Additional communications have been published in Firewire and via Retired FF association and FBU including member videos.

HMT have confirmed that corrections to pension benefits, compensation for overpaid tax and compensation for financial losses will all be accounted for under AME and to assist the Home Office in forecasting potential costs they have requested data from FRAs on the number of expected cases in each category during the financial year 2023/24.

The PSPJO Act 2022 directions sets out the requirements under which scheme managers must comply when paying compensation for financial losses. Guidance on this is currently under consideration and will be made available by the LGA in due course.

**Matthews**

Amended regulations came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 and LGA have provided a suggested timeline and template documents to be used.

Work is currently ongoing to complete phase 1, with letters being sent to all eligible members by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to comply with disclosure requirements.

Further communication to be placed in Firewire and via Retired FF association and the FBU, consideration is also being given to other ways that we can communicate with members who are no longer employed e.g. local newspapers and social media pages. Drop-in sessions are also to be arranged on some on-call stations in December 2023.

Version 1 of the GAD calculator, which will support the calculation of benefits and costs for member options, is expected to be released at the end of October 2023, with version 2 being due for release at the end December 2023.

**IAN HAYTON**  
**SCHEME MANAGER**