LOCAL PENSION BOARD
FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES

CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

DATE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2018

TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS

REPORT OF: TECHNICAL PENSIONS ADVISOR

For Information

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To update the Board on recent pension communications.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Board note the report.

3. FIREFIGHTERS PENSIONS SCHEME BULLETINS

Bulletins 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been circulated to the Board since the previous Meeting. Attached at Appendix 1 is an Index of Bulletins 1 – 10 by topic for the Boards information. Items of relevance are as follows:

3.1 FPS 2006 special members – resettlement lump sum payment
This is for special retained members who were given the opportunity to buy service over a 10 year period. If they leave prior to full payment being made the lump sum is calculated based on the value of the outstanding instalments.

3.2 New factsheets
FPS 2015 promotional leaflet and CARE build up leaflets have been developed by the LGA Bluelight team to be provided to members. These are given out at inductions and have been put on FISH.

3.3 Invitations to bid
The Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) has recently appointed Weightmans as legal adviser to the Board to inform them on legal issues relating to the FPS's and to provide advice on any matters arising. They are now seeking to make 2 further appointments, the first for a permanent actuarial adviser and the second to undertake a review of admin and management costs for the FPS's.

3.4 GDPR

A template privacy notice has been produced to inform individuals what personal data is held and how it is used for the purposes of the pension scheme.

3.5 Financial Guidance and Claims Act 2018

Prior to May this year the Government provided free financial guidance and debt advice through 3 services, Pensions Wise, the Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and the Money Advice Service (MAS).

On 10th May 2018 the Financial Guidance and Claims Act 2018 received royal assent and introduced a new single financial body. In addition the Act made provision about the funding of debt advice in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The aim is to ensure that people have access to high quality, impartial financial guidance from a single source. The new body will deliver its pensions, money guidance, consumer protections and strategic functions UK wide. However the body's debt function will apply to England only, with the devolved administrations responsible for administering funding for debt advice in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

3.6 Data Protection Act 2018

The Data Protection Bill has received royal assent to become the Data Protection Act 2018 on 23rd May 2018. The Data Protection Act 2018 includes the provisions of the GDPR. There are some small differences, but UK law on data protection is now largely the same as that of the GDPR

3.7 Annual Benefit Statements

The Fire Communications Working Group issued the plain English edited Annual Benefit Statement and explanatory notes. This document has been awarded a crystal mark and can only be used if the document is used in its entirety with no additional text changes.

However for the past 2 years Kier have produced the information in letter format but all fields correspond with the one produced by Fire Communications Working Group.

The one produced by Kier has supplementary information e.g

- Giving projections to normal retirement date (i.e. age 55 if in 1992 Scheme)
- Shows the % of the Lifetime Tax Allowance
- Explains the Lifetime Allowance and certificates
- Tailored to the Scheme the member is in

3.8 Bulletin FPS 11

Bulletin 11 and the TPR data requirements sheet has recently been issued and is attached at Appendix 2 for the Boards consideration. A verbal update will be given at the meeting on all relevant issues.

4. FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEMES ADMINISTRATION AND PAYROLL SERVICES

The provision of the Firefighter Pension Schemes administration and payroll services is currently provided by Kier Pension Services.

The contract started on 1st April 2011 until 30th April 2016 with an option to extend for a further 3 x 12 month periods.

We are now in the final extended period which is due to end on 31st March 2019 and therefore need to enter the tendering process for a new provider. A baseline review of current services has been carried out which looked at costs, customer quality and comparisons and considered various options.

5. ONLINE FORUM FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The online Local Pension Board Members Forum is regularly updated with guidance to assist Local Pension Boards in gaining the knowledge and understanding required.

The log in can be found by accessing the following link:

https://khub.net/group/guest/search/-/results/firefighter%20pension%20scheme

Once you have signed in you will be able to view and contribute to the following forum

DIANE SNELLING
TECHNICAL PENSIONS ADVISOR