

## Central Bedfordshire Council

Council

21 May 2015

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### **Appointment of CBC Employer Representative to Pension Fund Board**

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#### **Purpose of this report**

1. To appoint this Council's employer representative to the Pension Fund Board.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Council is asked to appoint Cllr Jamieson to be this Council's employer representative on the Pension Fund Board for the ensuing 4-year period.**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations**

2. Consideration of this appointment does not fall within the overview and scrutiny remit.

#### **New Requirement for a Pension Fund Board**

3. The Local Government Pension Scheme is administered locally by Bedford Borough Council on behalf of Bedford Borough, Luton Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils through Bedford Borough Council's Pension Fund Committee.
4. There is a new legislative requirement for a Pension Fund Board to be put in place to carry out overview and scrutiny of each Pension Fund Committee. The Board will be administered by Bedford Borough Council. Arrangements should be in hand by 2 April 2015 and the Board should be fully operational by 1 August 2015. This role has been temporarily covered by the Leader to ensure that Central Bedfordshire

was appropriately represented in this interim period, pending an appointment for the 4 year term at the Annual Council Meeting.

5. The Pension Fund Board should include an employer representative who may be a Council Member from each contributing authority, as well as representation from Local Government Pension Scheme members.

### **Requirements of the representatives on the Board**

6. Careful management of the pension fund is crucial to safeguard the pensions of Council employees and to minimise the contributions required from the constituent councils.
7. Council members on the Pension Fund Board are expected to make the commitment to undertake training approximately twice per year to ensure that they have the technical knowledge to be able to scrutinise the activities of the Pension Fund Committee.

### **Appointment in Future Years**

8. As this is a new appointment, required through legislation, the appointment is being made at the annual meeting of the Council as the first available opportunity. In future years the appointment will be made through the 4-yearly Appointments to Outside Bodies report which generally comes to the meeting of Council following the annual meeting in the year of a Council election.

### **Council Priorities**

9. Good management of the Pension Fund contributes to the enhancement of the local community. Many Council employees will continue to live in Central Bedfordshire following retirement, and will be enabled by their pension to continue to contribute to the local economy by their purchasing power and by volunteering.

### **Legal Implications**

10. The report complies with legislative requirements.

### **Financial Implications**

11. There are no related financial implications other than this appointment being eligible as an approved duty for claiming travel expenses under Part K of the Constitution, Scheme of Members' Allowances, Schedule 2 paragraph C.

## **Equalities Implications**

12. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Good management of the Pension Fund helps to alleviate levels of pensioner poverty.

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

13. The Council's representative on the Local Pension Board will develop knowledge through regular training and experience, which will be used to inform the administration of the Pension Fund Committee.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

14. The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website:

None