



**Hampshire
& Isle of Wight**
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

HIWFRA Full Authority

Purpose: Approval

Date: **16 JULY 2024**

Title: **APPOINTMENTS TO HIWFRA FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION BOARD**

Report of Chief Financial Officer

SUMMARY

1. This report seeks approval for appointments to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority Firefighters' Pension Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Authority considers the position in paragraph 6(a), and the appointment of Ant Westbrook as a Scheme Member Representative to the HIWFRA Firefighters' Pension Board be approved by the HIWFRA Full Authority.
3. That the Authority considers the position in paragraph (6b), and the appointment of Rob Sansome as an Employer Representative to the HIWFRA Firefighters' Pension Board be approved by the HIWFRA Full Authority.

BACKGROUND

4. There are currently two vacancies on the HIWFRA Firefighters' Pension Board, one Employer Representative and one Scheme Member Representative. The appropriate recruitment process has been conducted to fill both vacancies. Despite extensive advertising, one application was received for each vacancy. Due to the number of applications in this case, a Member Panel was not deemed necessary. Officers, including the Chief

Financial Officer, vetted both applications to ensure that the applicants were suitable and competent to recommend to the Authority that they be appointed to the Board.

5. Pension Board Members are appointed for four years with an option to extend for a second four-year term.

6. The report is recommending to the Authority that:

(a) Ant Westbrook be appointed as a Scheme Member Representative to fill the vacancy following the vacancy that arose in March 2024. As reported above, his application has been reviewed by Officers.

(b) Rob Sansome be appointed as an Employer Representative to fill the vacancy following the vacancy that arose in June 2024. His application has been reviewed by the Executive Group.

7. For reference, current appointments to the Pension Board are as follows:

Employer Representatives		Scheme Member Representatives	
	Date appointed		Date appointed
Cllr Roger Price	1 April 2021	Richard Scarth	1 April 2021
Sean Harrison	1 April 2021	Richard North	1 April 2021
Victoria Strowger	24 June 2024	Ross Singleton	1 April 2021
Vacancy		Vacancy	

SUPPORTING OUR SAFETY PLAN AND PRIORITIES

8. It is important that the HIWFRA Firefighters' Pension Board is fully represented by eight Members to ensure that its purpose and terms of reference are adequately fulfilled. This will also help to achieve the Fire Authority's commitment to ensuring that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

has an efficient and effective fire service which makes life safer for everyone.

CONSULTATION

9. During the recruitment process, consultation was made with the Human Resources, Legal Services and Media and Communications Teams.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no resource implications from the recommendations in this report. New members to the HIWFRA Pensions Board will receive the appropriate training and mentoring which is within current resources.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

11. An impact assessment was not required in relation to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The Monitoring Officer has been kept aware of the recruitment process undertaken.

CONCLUSION

13. The report is seeking approval to make two appointments to the HIWFRA Pension Board in order to fill current vacancies.
14. There is a requirement to ensure that the membership of the Pension Board is kept at full capacity in order for it to fulfil its terms of reference effectively.

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