



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2022

Report of the Interim Executive (s151 Officer) Corporate Services and Transformation

Derbyshire Pension Board

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the appointment of a new member of Derbyshire Pension Board (the Pension Board/the Board).

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015, introduced a requirement for administering authorities of local government pension funds to establish local pension boards as part of an enhanced governance structure for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Pension boards were introduced to assist administering authorities to secure compliance with pension legislation and to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS. Derbyshire County Council is the administering authority of Derbyshire Pension Fund (Pension Fund/the Fund).

In April 2015, Council approved the establishment of Derbyshire Pension Board and its inaugural terms of reference. Council has subsequently reviewed the operation of the Board, extended Board terms of membership, approved Board appointments and approved updated terms of reference which are attached as Appendix 2.

The Board has successfully supported the Pensions and Investments Committee in discharging the Council’s statutory functions under the LGPS Regulations and associated pension legislation related to the Fund. The Board has also encouraged the administering authority in its drive to adopt best practice in relation to the governance and administration of the Pension Fund.

The Board is made up of two member representatives and two employer representatives, together with an independent Chair.

- 2.2 Following previous Council approvals of Board appointments, the member and the employer representatives of the Board were as follows:

Role	Name	Start Date	Term	Expiry
Member Rep	Karen Gurney	June 2019	4 Years	June 2023
Member Rep	Nick Read	June 2018	4 Years	June 2022
Employer Rep	O Fishburn	May 2019	4 Years	Sept 2023
Employer Re	N Calvert	Sept 2018	4 Years	Sept 2022

Neil Calvert stepped down from the Board in October 2021 when his association with the University of Derby, one of the Fund’s scheme employers, ended. Mr Calvert made a very positive contribution to the governance of the Pension Fund during his tenure on the Board and fellow Board members and officers of the Fund would like to note their thanks for his contribution.

- 2.3 A recruitment process has been undertaken for a new employer representative for the Board which involved writing to all of the Fund’s employers informing them about the vacancy, advertising the position on the Fund’s website and inviting expressions of interest, with a reminder about the vacancy being included in the Fund’s end of October newsletter to employers. A further email was sent to employers following an extension of the deadline for expressions of interest to ensure that all employers had the opportunity to put forward a candidate.

The Fund received one expression of interest for the role which is supported by the candidate’s employer. The Chair of the Board, a fellow Board member, and an officer of the Fund had a positive meeting with the candidate, Susan Ambler, and recommend her for the position of employer representative.

Mrs Ambler is the Deputy Director of Finance at the University of Derby (the University), which is the Fund’s third biggest employer in terms of active membership, and has worked for the University for 18 years in a

variety of finance and people leadership roles; this has involved dealing with the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

It is proposed that Susan Ambler is appointed to the Board as an employer representative for a term of four years.

3. Implications

3.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

4. Background Papers

4.1 Background papers are held by the Head of Pension Fund:

- Correspondence with the Fund's employers regarding the vacant position on the Board
- Expression of interest from Susan Ambler

5. Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

5.2 Appendix 2 – Derbyshire Pension Board Terms of Reference

6 Recommendation(s)

That Council:

Approves the appointment of Susan Ambler as an employer representative on Derbyshire Pension Board for a term of four years.

7 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

7.1 To ensure that the appropriate employer representation is in place on Derbyshire Pension Board.

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Implications

Financial

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 Regulation 105(2) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations allows an administering authority to delegate any function under those Regulations. An administering authority is also required under Regulation 109 to 'have regard' to guidance issued by the Secretary of State in relation to local pension boards. Under government guidance issued in 2015 when Pension Boards were first established, the administering authority has to consider carefully the establishment of its local pension board and the appointment of its members. The guidance indicates that this should be a function undertaken by the administering authority (i.e. full council) rather than delegated to a committee or officers.

Human Resources

3.1 None

Information Technology

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 None

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None