



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 2023

Report of the Director of Finance and ICT

Derbyshire Pension Board - Appointment of New Board Members

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the appointment of two new members 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 Employer and Member Representatives of the Board are as follows:

Role	Name	Start Date of Term	Term	Expiry
Employer Rep	Oliver Fishburn	May 2019	4 years	May 2023
Employer Rep	Susan Ambler	Feb 2022	4 years	Feb 2026
Member Rep	Karen Gurney	June 2019	4 years	June 2023
Member Rep	John Sadler	Nov 2022	4 years	Nov 2026

Oliver Fishburn (Employer Representative) and Karen Gurney (Member Representative) are stepping down from the Board when their terms of office end in May 2023 and June 2023 respectively.

Ms Gurney has been a member of the Pension Board since it was first established in 2015.

Mr Fishburn joined the Board in 2019.

Both members have made very positive contributions to the governance of the Pension Fund during their tenure on the Board and fellow Board members and officers of the Fund would like to note their thanks for their contributions.

2.3 Recruitment processes has been undertaken for a new Employer Representative and a new Member Representative to fill the forthcoming vacancies on the Board.

Employer Representative Vacancy

The recruitment of a new Employer Representative involved informing all current participating employers about the vacancy. This included advertising the position as follows:

- on the Fund's website
- writing to all current participating employers in the Pension Fund

- highlighting the vacancy in the monthly Employer Newsletter

Member Representative Vacancy

The recruitment of a new Member Representative involved informing current Fund members about the vacancy. This included advertising the position as follows:

- on the Fund's website
- through the County Council's recruitment site and
- contacting members registered on the Fund's My Pension Online system

2.4 Applications received

Employer Representative Vacancy

One application was received which is supported by the candidate's employer.

A panel of the Chair of the Pension Board, the Head of Pension Fund and an officer of the Fund, held a positive meeting with the candidate, Lisa Seeley, which included a series of questions from the panel which explored Mrs Seeley's knowledge, experience and fit for the role.

Mrs Seeley is the Head of Payroll and Pensions at Aspens-Services Ltd. which participates in the Pension Fund as an Admission Body as a result of three contracts to provide catering services in certain schools and academies related to employers in Derbyshire Pension Fund.

Aspens-Services Ltd participate in approximately 50 LGPS pension funds and a number of other pension schemes linked to the catering contracts it fulfils across the United Kingdom. This has provided Mrs Seeley with a well-informed perspective of how different pension funds operate.

It is proposed that Lisa Seeley is appointed to the Pension Board as an Employer Representative for a term of four years, subject to Aspens-Services Ltd maintaining its status as an Admission Body in the Fund.

Admission Bodies' participation in LGPS pension funds is normally restricted to terms of contracts with public services bodies which involve the transfer of employees eligible for the LGPS.

Member Representative Vacancy

Applications were received from three Fund members.

A panel of the Chair of the Pension Board, the Head of Pension Fund and an officer of the Fund, met each candidate which included a series of questions from the panel which explored their knowledge of the LGPS, experience within the local government sector and skillset to determine the most suitable candidate for the position of Member Representative.

The panel recommends that Mark Wreghitt is appointed as the new Member Representative for a term of four years to fill the vacancy following the end of Ms Gurney's tenure.

Mr Wreghitt is a pensioner member of the Fund and also has membership in other LGPS funds through his wide experience in the local government sector which has enabled him to gain valuable insights into the experience of LGPS scheme members.

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:
- Communications with the Fund's employers and members of the Pension Fund regarding the vacant positions on the Pension Board.
 - Applications received from all candidates.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
5.2 Appendix 2 - Derbyshire Pension Board Terms of Reference

6. Recommendation(s)

- 6.1 That Council:
- a. Approves the appointment of Lisa Seeley as an Employer Representative on Derbyshire Pension Board for a term of four years to May 2027, subject to her employer maintaining its participation in the Pension Fund.

- b. Approves the appointment of Mark Wrehitt as a Member Representative on Derbyshire Pension Board for a term of four years to June 2027.

7. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 7.1 To ensure that the appropriate employer and member 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