



**HAMPSHIRE  
FIRE AND  
RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Purpose: Noted

Date **7 FEBRUARY 2020**

Title **LEGISLATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA)  
UPDATE REPORT**

Report of Chief Finance Officer

### SUMMARY

1. This report, together with attachments, provides the framework for the agenda item.

### FPS BULLETINS

2. LGA issue a bulletin at the end of each month; there have been three bulletins issued since the last Fire Pension Board report. The bulletins are emailed out to a variety of contacts but can also be accessed via the [www.fpsregs.org](http://www.fpsregs.org) website.
3. Bulletins 24, 25, 26 and 27 can be found in APPENDICES A, B, C & D. There is a lot of information contained within these bulletins; the key items are set out below.

### FPS CONTACTS FOR HMRC (BULLETIN 24)

4. HMRC were looking to update their contact details with regard to the Pensions Manager and or a senior person responsible for pension administration for each FRA.
5. The Board will be pleased to note that the Employer Pension Manager sent the required details for Hampshire FRA to the LGA.

### ADMIN & BENCHMARKING COMMITTEE VACANCY (BULLETIN 24)

6. At the time of writing, there was still a vacancy on the Administration and Benchmarking committee for an FRA Local Pension Board representative.

7. The main objectives of the committee are to provide guidance to the SAB to understand the value and cost of administration and consider how administrators can best be supported by identifying best practice.
8. The committee are currently involved in considering the recommendations made by Aon in the administration and benchmarking review and how these can be progressed.
9. The required commitment is attendance at three to four meetings per year, generally held in London. If any Board members are interested, please email [clair.alcock@local.gov.uk](mailto:clair.alcock@local.gov.uk)

#### FPS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE FACTSHEET (BULLETIN 24)

10. The LGA have produced a new factsheet on FPS Management and Governance. This factsheet highlights the role of stakeholders and the guidance that is available to ensure good governance and management of the scheme. It also helps to highlight the relationship between the different stakeholder groups and the support networks available.
11. The Factsheet can be found in APPENDIX E.

#### TPR PUBLISH LGPS ENGAGEMENT REPORT (BULLETIN 24)

12. TPR published a [report](#) on the findings from its engagement with 10 Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds, which took place between October 2018 and July 2019.
13. The report summarises the key findings against the Regulators Code of Practice 14 both in terms of exceeding and falling short of required standards.
14. TPR have confirmed that they are planning future supervisory and engagement work with a number of FRAs

#### TPR 6 KEY PROCESSES (BULLETIN 25)

15. TPR has a statutory duty for regulatory oversight and monitors six key processes as part of their annual governance and administration survey.

The six key processes are

- (a) Documented policy to manage board members conflicts of interests
- (b) Access to knowledge, understanding and skills needed to properly run the scheme
- (c) Documented procedures for assessing and managing risks
- (d) Process to monitor records for accuracy / completeness
- (e) Process for resolving contribution payment issues
- (f) Procedures to identify, assess and report breaches of law

16. The Board will be pleased to note that Hampshire has all six processes in place and this was reflected in the 2019 annual administration and governance survey.

#### FRA WORKFORCE & PENSION STATS (BULLETIN 26)

17. The Home Office has published the [FRA workforce and pension statistics](#) for 2018/19, this is based on data returns on income, expenditure and membership submitted by all 45 FRAs in England.
18. Some key results
  - (a) Firefighters' Pension Scheme expenditure in 2018/19 was around £856 million
  - (b) In 2018/19, 81% of expenditure was "recurring outgoing payments" and 18% was "commutation payments"
  - (c) Firefighters' Pension Scheme income in 2018/19 was around £257 million
  - (d) In 2018/19, 53% of income was "employer contributions", 44% was "employee contributions" and the remaining 4% comprised transfers, miscellaneous income and ill-health charges
  - (e) The Firefighters' Pension Scheme deficit in 2018/19 was around £599 million
  - (f) As at 31 March 2019, the total number of pensioner members was 43,665. Of these, 95% were members of FPS 1992

#### ABS 2019 SURVEY (BULLETIN 26)

19. LGA issued their ABS survey for 2019 and welcome completed surveys from both the FRA and the administrator.
20. The Board will be pleased to note that the Employer Pension Manager completed the survey on behalf of the FRA, stating that we had issued 100% of ABS' by 31 August for both active and deferred members of all schemes and that there were no breaches, material or otherwise.

#### CIVIL PARTNERSHIP REGS (BULLETIN 26)

21. On 5 November 2019 the Government made the Civil Partnership (Opposite-Sex-Couples) Regulations 2019 which are effective from 2 December 2019.
22. This means that an opposite-sex couple can give notice of a proposed civil partnership on 2 December 2019 after which, the 28 day waiting period will commence. This means that an opposite-sex civil partnership registration can take place from 31 December 2019.
23. These regulation were made in response to the Government consultation published on 10 July 2019 which proposed changing the law to allow opposite-sex couples to form civil partnerships.

24. Also amended is section 37 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 which enables the conversion of a same sex civil partnership into a marriage.

McCLOUD/SARGEANT CASE (BULLETIN 27)

25. The Board will note that there is a main update on the McCloud/Sargeant case contained within the Fire Pension Board status report.

RECOMMENDATION

26. The Board are asked to note the contents of this report.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

27. APPENDIX A - FPS Bulletin 24
28. APPENDIX B - FPS Bulletin 25
29. APPENDIX C – FPS Bulletin 26
30. APPENDIX D – FPS Bulletin 27
31. APPENDIX E – FPS Management and Governance factsheet

Contact:

Claire Neale, Employer Pension Manager, [claire.neale@hants.gov.uk](mailto:claire.neale@hants.gov.uk),  
01962 845481