



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

14 JUNE 2019

AMENDMENTS TO THE DELEGATED POWERS OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY'S APPEALS PANEL

REPORT OF CLERK

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek an amendment to the delegated powers of the Appeals Panel to enable the committee to hear appeals under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme: Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP).

BACKGROUND

2. The Authority's Constitution does not currently have a delegated provision for dealing with a Stage 2 IDRP dispute. Firefighters' Pension Scheme Circular FPSC 1/2009 includes the following guidance:

"It is proposed that two-stage arrangements should be maintained on the following basis:

- Stage One: the matters should be considered by the Chief Fire Officer, or a senior manager specified by him/her, who will give a decision in the matters; and
- Stage Two: the decision should be confirmed or replaced by the decision of elected members of the fire and rescue authority. The authority may provide for decisions to be taken by or on their behalf by one or more of their number."

3. A copy of Firefighters' Pension Scheme Circular FPSC 1/2009 is attached as Appendix A.
4. IDRP disputes do not occur on a regular basis, however, it is appropriate that the Authority has an agreed mechanism to deal with a Stage Two process. The Appeals Panel seems the most relevant committee to hear such a dispute.
5. It is therefore proposed that the constitution be amended to add the following wording to the delegated responsibilities for the Appeals Panel:

"Considering and deciding upon appeals referred to the Authority under Stage Two of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme: Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP)."

6. A copy of the amended delegated responsibilities is attached as Appendix B.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. Members are recommended to:

- a) **approve** the additional delegated responsibility to the Appeals Panel to enable the committee to hear appeals under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme: Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP).

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