


Report to	<b>North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</b>	
Date	<b>20 April 2026</b>	
Lead Officer	<b>Helen MacArthur, Assistant Chief Officer, Finance and Resources</b>	
Subject	<b>Firefighters Pension Schemes Discretionary Policy Statement</b>	

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the requirement for the Scheme Manager, North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) to produce and keep under review a Firefighters Pension Discretionary Policy Statement.
- 2 To remind Members of the previous approval of the resolutions within the Firefighters Pension Scheme Discretionary Policy Statement including the proposal that, on behalf of the scheme manager, decisions will be delegated on a day-to-day basis to officers of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service).
- 3 Whilst the Service took forward a Discretions Policy Statement for approval in July 2025, in order to correctly reflect the minor changes to the reinstatement of survivor benefits, under Rule C9 - Reinstatement of Widow's pension the Service is now seeking approval for the below addition to be included in this previously approved policy.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 4 Members will recall that the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations provide the Authority with the responsibility to make decisions on certain discretionary elements of the scheme. The Authority is required to formulate and publish a discretionary policy which sets out how the Authority will discharge this responsibility. T
- 5 The discretionary policy was previously approved in July 2025 and in accordance with good practice has now been reviewed and a minor amendment introduced.

## CONSIDERATION BY THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

- 6 Since the approval of the Firefighters Pension Scheme Discretionary Policy Statement, in July 2025, further work has been undertaken and there is a need to introduce a minor amendment to correctly reflect Rule C9" Reinstatement of Widow's pension". This discretion was considered by the Local Pension Board on 2 April 2026 and was unanimously approved.

- 7 Under the 1992 Scheme a person entitled to a widow's pension who marries, remarries, forms a civil partnership or a subsequent civil partnership is not entitled to receive any payment on account of the pension in respect of any subsequent period; but if the marriage or civil partnership is dissolved or the other party to it dies, the Authority may pay the whole or any part of the pension for such period after the dissolution or death as they deem reasonable.
- 8 Whilst the likelihood of this request being made is minimal, a decision on whether or not to apply this discretion does need to be included in the current policy statement that is being relied upon.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9 It is recommended that Members:
- i) approve the minor changes being introduced for the reinstatement of survivor benefits, under Rule C9.**

## **BACKGROUND**

- 10 There are currently four pension schemes in place for firefighters, the 1992 scheme (FPS), the 2007 scheme (NFPS), the 2007 RDS modified pension scheme (MPS) and the 2015 scheme. This policy sets out the discretions applicable to the schemes on which the Authority in its capacity of Scheme Manager is required to determine its desired approach.

## **INFORMATION**

- 11 The firefighters' pension scheme regulations require every scheme manager to:
- (i) issue a written policy statement on how it will exercise the various discretions provided by the pension schemes;
  - (ii) keep it under review; and
  - (iii) revise it as necessary.
- 12 The amendment under Rule C9 – Reinstatement of Widow's pension and the recommended approach is attached at Appendix A.

## IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	The Discretionary Policy provides clarity for decision making on certain pension issues contributing to securing the Authority's financial sustainability.
Budget	Certain decisions can impact the budget in terms of increased employer superannuation payments and the impact on future actuarial valuations.
Legal	The regulations governing the administration of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes provide for a number of discretionary powers on the part of the Fire Authority.
Staffing	Potential impact on staffing levels if certain discretions impact a member's retirement decision making process. Potential impact on the acceptance of temporary promotions offered.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	None
Risks	Non-compliance with legislation