Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

Pension Board

22 July 2015

**Code of Conduct**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact John Redmond,

Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201, or Sharon Lloyd, Corporate Support Manager, on 01743 260210.

1. Purpose of Report

This report asks the Pension Board formally to adopt the Code of Conduct, to which its members are subject.

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|   | RecommendationsThe Pension Board is asked formally to adopt the Code of Conduct, to which its members are subject (set out at the appendix to this report). |

1. Background

The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme Guidance on the creation and operation of Local Pension Boards in England states that Pension Boards should have in place a Code of Conduct and Conflicts Policy, to which their members must adhere, and establish and maintain a register of interests for Board members.

1. Code of Conduct

The draft Terms of Reference for the Pension Board (to be considered at item 6 on the agenda for this meeting) include, as one of the duties of the Board, that its members:

‘Should be subject to and abide by Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Members’ Code of Conduct’.

A copy of the Code of Conduct is attached at the appendix to this report. The Board is asked formally to adopt this document, which officers will amend to include reference to Pension Board members.

In accordance with the Guidance referred to above, the Code of Conduct should be review regularly. As the Code is a Fire Authority document, this function is carried out annually by its Standards and Human Resources Committee. Any changes made to the Code will be brought to the Pension Board as they occur. In any event, good practice dictates that the Code be brought to the Board annually to remind members of its contents.

1. Register of Interests and Conflicts Policy

Officers are currently working on these documents and will circulate them to the Board for comment in due course, with a view to presenting them at the next meeting of the Pension Board.

1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

1. Legal Comment

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and Regulations made thereunder required public service pension scheme managers to establish, by 1 April 2015, a Local Pension Board. Guidance, issued in respect of the creation and operation of such Boards, states that Pension Boards should have in place a Code of Conduct and Conflicts Policy, to which their members must adhere, and establish and maintain a register of interests for Board members.

1. Appendix

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Members’ Code of Conduct

1. Background Papers

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and Regulations made thereunder

Firefighters’ Pension Scheme Guidance on the creation and operation of Local Pension Boards in England

**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority**

# Members’ Code of Conduct

**Standards of Conduct**

Members (including all voting, co-opted members) of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority will at all times promote and maintain high standards of conduct when they are acting in that capacity. To do this, Members should:

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| Serve only the public interest and treat everyone that they deal with equitably and with respect | **Selflessness** |
| Not place themselves in a position where they either are, or give the appearance that they are, under any financial or other obligation to anyone that might seek to influence them in the performance of their duties as a MemberOnly use the resources of the Authority in accordance with reasonable requirements set out for their use from time to timeDeclare their interests in accordance with the law and with the provisions of this Code of Conduct Declare gifts and hospitality that they receive in accordance with the Fire Authority’s Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality | **Integrity** |
| Make decisions on merit and in the public interest, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits. | **Objectivity** |
| Be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and co-operate fully with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular role or office | **Accountability** |
| Be as open as possible about their decisions and actions and give reasons for their decisions and actions. They should not disclose information given to them, which they can reasonably be expected to know, was either exempt or confidential and is not to be disclosed to protect the wider public interest.  | **Openness** |
| Declare any private interests that relate to their duties as a Member and do whatever is necessary to resolve any conflict in such a way that protects the public interest  | **Honesty** |
| Promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence | **Leadership** |