

# EAST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOLLOWING ABSENCE

### Questions and Discretions applicable

#### **Can I pay contributions following an authorised leave of absence on reduced or no pay?**

You can choose to pay contributions for the whole or part of the period of your absence and keep your full benefits in respect of the period you have paid.

For the period to count towards your scheme membership you must pay both the employee and employer contributions that would have been paid if you had been at work. If you choose to do this you must inform East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, in writing, within 6 months of your return to work. This may be paid by lump sum or deduction from your salary.

If you are a protected or tapered protected member of the Firefighters Pension Scheme (2006) and/or Firefighters Pension Scheme (1992), the 6 month time limit may be extended if it is clear that you were unable to meet the normal time period due to circumstances beyond your control.

You can request an extension from the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) who will consider each request in consultation with the Assistant Director Resources or Treasurer on a case by case basis. If the extension is approved he or she will forward your request together with his or her agreement to pension services.

#### **Can I pay contributions if I have had a period of unpaid additional maternity or adoption leave?**

If you are a protected or tapered protected member of the Firefighters Pension Scheme (2006) or Firefighters Pension Scheme (1992) you can choose to pay contributions for the period of your unpaid additional maternity or adoption leave.

If you are a member of the Firefighter Pension Scheme (2015) you can choose to pay contributions for the period of your unpaid additional maternity, paternity (until April 2016), and adoption and shared parental leave.

For the period to count towards your scheme membership you must choose to do this within 30 days of either:

- a) the day on which you return to work, or
- b) if you do not return to work, the day you cease to be employed.

This may be paid by lump sum or deduction from your salary.

If you are a protected or tapered protected member of the Firefighters Pension Scheme (2006) and/or Firefighters Pension Scheme (1992), the 30 day time limit may be extended if it is clear that you were unable to meet the normal time period due to circumstances beyond your control.

You can request an extension from the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) who will consider each request in consultation with the Assistant Director Resources or Treasurer on a case by case basis. If the extension is approved he or she will forward your request together with their agreement to pension services.

**If I die without giving notice of my decision to pay contributions for my unpaid additional maternity or adoption absence within the time limit can these contributions be deducted from my death grant?**

If this were to happen, the Fire & Rescue Service would deduct the contributions from the death grant, but only in cases where there was a financial gain to a spouse, civil partner, nominated partner or children's beneficiary.

**If I am in the reserve forces and on leave of absence, how will contributions be deducted from my reserve forces pay?**

Your membership of the pension scheme continues throughout your reserve forces leave of absence. Contributions will still be paid on your reserve forces pay.