

PENSIONS COMMITTEE
6 OCTOBER 2017**ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY – ADMINISTRATION**
UPDATE

Recommendation

- 1. The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development recommends that the general update from the Administering Authority be noted.**

Annual Benefit Statements (2017) and FRS exercises

2. The Team have successfully completed this years' Annual Benefit Statements (ABS) exercise with all 'active' and 'deferred' membership ABS being issued by the deadline of 31 August 2017. The total number of ABS issued were:

- Active members 21,222
- Deferred members 16,973

3. Based on the above there is no 'material breach' to report to The Pensions Regulator.

4. A sample of the ABS is set out as an Appendix.

5. As in previous years we worked in partnership with Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire funds and Adare (company providing the printing, enveloping and postage service) to deliver our ABS.

6. The FRS101/102 exercise, which followed immediately after the ABS exercise, has also been successfully completed for our 87 academies. This requires the Fund to provide to Mercers (our Actuary) for each academy details of cash flow, including pensions paid, payments to and from the fund, employer and employee contributions, deficit payments and pensionable pay.

Current Government Consultations

7. The LGPS Advisory Board (SAB) has issued a consultation on LGPS Academies Objectives. The response date is 29 September.

End of Transitional Delay Period for Automatic Enrolment

8. As part of the original implementation of Automatic Enrolment, employers were able to delay certain groups from being automatically enrolled into the LGPS.
9. This transitional delay period ceases on 30 September 2017 and employers need to prepare to communicate staff and to make arrangements to automatically enroll those staff who remain outside of the LGPS.
10. The Council has advised the Fund that their Managed Service Provider, Liberata UK will be writing to 483 staff, although this figure may reduce as staff who have opted out in the last 12 months do not need to be automatically enrolled.

Worcestershire County Council – Change of Provider

11. Further to the report to the June Committee, The fund is continuing to experience some delays in receiving Leaver forms from the Council's Manager Service Provider, Liberata UK. This is resulting in additional administration with regular reminders being issued to Liberata so that the Fund can process lump sum payments, transfers in and transfers out as quickly as possible. We are awaiting feedback from Liberata with their resourced solution. This issue has been escalated to the joint (Council and Liberata) Governance Board.

Administration Forum

12. Arrangements are being made for the Administration Forum to take place during October, avoiding schools half term. The date, once finalised, will be shared with Committee and Board members for information.

Admissions to the Fund

13. No Admission Agreements to report

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Supporting Information

- Appendix – Sample Annual Benefits Statement

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.