

Durham County Council

At a Meeting of the Pension Fund Committee held at the County Hall, Durham on Monday 13 September 2010 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2

Present:

Councillor N Martin in the Chair

Members:

Councillors C Carr, J Chaplow, A Hopgood, J Lethbridge, R Ord and R Todd

Admitted Bodies Representative:

Mr K Tallintire

Advisers:

Durham County Council Officers:

Principal Finance Officer – Strategic Finance: H Appleton
Payroll and Pensions Manager: N Orton

Independent Advisers:

P J Williams
P Solve Asset Solution

Mr P J Williams
Mr T Pike

Staff Observer:

Mr N Hancock

Apologies:

Councillors P May, D Morgan, A Turner, Darlington Borough Councillor C P McEwan and O Brown.

Councillor Martin, on behalf of the Committee conveyed best wishes to the Chair Councillor Andy Turner for a speedy recovery from illness.

A1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record subject to Councillor Ord's attendance being recorded.

The Chair signed the Minutes.

A2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received from Members in relation to the business on the agenda.

A3 Graphs Showing Recent Movements in Stock and Share Indices

Consideration was given to graphs showing recent movement in the Stock and Share Indices (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the information be noted.

A4 Graphs Showing Recent Movements in the Major Currencies Against Sterling

Consideration was given to graphs showing recent movement in the Major Currencies Against Sterling (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the information be noted.

A5 Performance Measurement Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources which provided an overview for Members of the performance of the Fund to date (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

At this point Councillor Carr entered the meeting.

A6 Pension Fund Investments

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources which informed Members of the overall value of the Pension Fund as at 30 June 2010, of the additional sums available to the Managers for further investment and of the result of the latest Fund Rebalancing. A table showing the cash rebalancing matrix was circulated for Members information (for copy see file of Minutes).

A Member queried the difference in the estimated expenditure for the quarter ended 31 March 2010 which was around £9m lower than the actual expenditure at the period end.

The Committee was advised that this was as a result of payments which had been incorrectly allocated as County Council payments but had since been rectified.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A7 Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2010

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources which informed Members of the Pension Fund Accounts which were included in the Statement of Accounts for Durham County Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2010 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Members were advised that The Statement of Accounts had been approved by Audit Committee but were subject to audit by the Audit Commission. An extract of the Statement of Accounts relating to the Pension Fund was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

In discussing the Pension Fund Accounts Members noted the current position in relation to cash flow resulting from the increased number of retirements following unitary status. Assurance was sought that this was a short term cash flow issue.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and an update be provided at the next meeting in relation to the current position on the Pension Fund cash flow situation.

A8 Annual Meeting of the Pension Fund

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources which informed Members of the Annual Meeting of the Pension Fund (for copy see file of Minutes).

A draft Agenda and timetable was attached to the report at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration and the meeting was due to be held on Thursday 4 November 2010, a different date to that scheduled in Members' diaries.

At this point Members expressed concern at the change in date and the scheduling of Council meetings in general and asked that their concerns be taken on board.

RESOLVED that the date of the Annual meeting be agreed, subject to the availability of the newly appointed Director of Corporate Resources.