
INFORMATION UPDATE

Briefing Paper by Chief Financial Officer

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE & PENSION BOARD

13 June 2019

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This briefing paper is to provide members of the Committee and the Board with an update on a number of areas which are being monitored and areas where work is progressing. Full reports on the individual areas will be tabled as decisions and actions are required.**

2 GMP RECONCILIATION

- 2.1 Stage 2 of the GMP Reconciliation is progressing by ITM Limited on behalf of Scottish Borders Council. This stage of the project is the reconciliation of discrepancies between HMRC and Scottish Borders Council pension records for Active or Deferred members and Pensioners.
- 2.2 Scottish Borders Council received the latest report from ITM on 29 May 2019 and these are summarised below:-

53%	Percentage of fund members have been reconciled
45%	Percentage of fund members who are out with the scope for reconciliation. Generally members who have no liability under the scheme having either pre 6 April 1978 service only or only post 5 April 2016 service.
2%	Percentage of fund members who are still unreconciled. These are awaiting data from HMRC or further investigation is required by gathering historic payroll details
100%	

- 2.3 There are 167 members require investigation SBC with the remaining 307 members currently awaiting updates from HMRC. Scottish Borders Council continue to receive monthly updates on the progress of the GMP Reconciliation exercise from ITM Limited. On completion of the Stage2 exercise, HRSS Manager will liaise with ITM Ltd regarding the next phase on Stage 3 Reconciliation of the values – a further update on this stage will be discussed at the September meeting.

3 PENSION REGULATOR SCHEME RETURN – DATA SCORING

- 3.1 There has been no further update on the data scoring due to other work pressures in the Administration Team. The formal rectification plan has not been finalised and this will now be brought to the September 2019 meeting

4 SCHEME ADVISORY BOARD

- 4.1 The Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) met on 24th April 2019. The agenda contained the following items
- Structure Review – draft report
 - Transparency Code
 - Governance Review – Training & Communication
 - SAB Work Plan
 - Financial reporting
 - SPPA update
- 4.2 The summary note from the meeting is currently not available.

5 PLASTICS RI ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 The plastic waste issue is currently one of the fastest growing environmental topics on the political agenda. Governments and consumers are becoming increasingly aware of the substantial impact of plastic the environment and on health.
- 5.2 The Pension Fund as an investor believes that a positive approach to Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance issues can positively affect the financial performance of investments, whereas a failure to address these considerations can have a detrimental effect.
- 5.3 Pension Fund Officers from Scottish Funds and Northern Ireland meet on a regular basis to share best practice and to look at opportunities to work collaboratively. One of the areas currently being discussed is collaborative working around ESG engagement.
- 5.4 Strathclyde Pension Fund are currently investigating how the group can work collaboratively with GES who are an Engagement Services Manager. GES will if engaged target specific companies to reduce plastic use. This is done using a constructive process of engagement.
- 5.5 The Fund is working with Strathclyde and GES to investigate the best way for the Fund to be part of the engagement whilst controlling its involvement. This will be progress further at the next officers meeting on 20 June.

6 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 The next training event to be organised by the Scottish Officers group has been scheduled for 3rd September 2019 at COSLA. Agenda items are currently being developed.
- 6.2 Baillie Gifford will be holding their Local Authority Training & Seminar event of 9-10 October 2019 in Edinburgh. The fund will be limited to 6 places for the event. Names of those wishing to attend are to be given to Kirsty Robb by 26th June.

7 MEETING DATES

- 7.1 Dates of future meetings are listed below for information.

12 September 2019 29 November 2019

5 March 2020 11 June 2020

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