

Buckinghamshire Pension Board

Title:	Pensions Administration Update
Date:	Thursday 16 March 2017
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Local members affected:	No

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

The Buckinghamshire Pension Board is required to monitor the Pensions Administration Team.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to NOTE the report.

Resource implications

The Pensions Administration teams are funded by the Pension Fund.

Other implications/issues

- 4 Previous reports to the Board have documented progress in tackling the backlog of tasks in the pension benefits administration team. There were a number of factors which contributed to the backlog including the career average Scheme, introduced in April 2014, which increased the complication of the calculations required to administer the scheme, auto-enrolment which has increased the number of members and consequently the administration requirements, a reduction in the annual allowance limits which has created a requirement to send pensions savings statements to an ever increasing number of active members who breach the limits, staff turnover and staff absences.

- 5 A designated Pensions Service Desk was created with responsibility for taking all telephone calls and also to be responsible for chasing employers/members for information and calculating preserved benefits enabling the Pensions Officers to focus on the more complex areas of work. An LGPS Training Officer post, 2 additional Pensions Officer posts and 1 Pensions Assistant post were created to give the team the capacity to undertake current workloads and tackle the backlog.
- 6 The Benefit Administration team are continuing to successfully maintain the priority areas of work on a daily basis along with working through the backlogs. In October it was verbally reported to the Board that there was a backlog in Inter-fund transfers of approximately 1,000 tasks and leaver checks of 2,600. The backlog of 1,300 Inter-fund transfers has been cleared, although 350 Inter-fund transfers require checking. They are scheduled to be checked by the end of March. We continue to process a high number of tasks daily, on average 500-600, we are working within our 10 working day turnaround. We are still working through clearing outstanding leaver check tasks and have reduced this to approximately 2,100. We are using overtime to continue to reduce this so that it does not have an impact on maintaining the current workloads. It is estimated that workloads will be up to date by September 2017.
- 7 The Fund's Actuary, Barnett Waddingham LLP, undertook a valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2016 in accordance with Regulation 58 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2013. On that date the market value of the assets held were £2,203m, sufficient to cover 87% of the accrued liabilities assessed on an ongoing basis. The funding policy is set to recover the deficit over fourteen years and the common rate of contribution for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 is 21.3% of pensionable pay. Buckinghamshire Pension Board members were invited to Pensions General Meeting on 9 December 2016, where the actuary presented the outcome of the 2016 triennial valuation.

Background Papers

None
