Pension Fund Board

Title: i-Connect/Pensions 'Online' Update

Date: Wednesday 10 October 2018

Author: [Normally Head of Service]

Contact officer: [Name and telephone number of officer directly involved]

Local members affected:

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

Summary

The "my pension online" service for LGPS members was launched in 2016 and is now standard practice for member users. i-Connect is a web-based application / data exchange hub through which employers submit data relating to their workforce to the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the Report.

The 'my pension online' service for LGPS members was launched in 2016 and is now standard practice for member users. As at 26h September 2018, 36.7% of active scheme members, 12.8% of deferred members and 16.4% of pensioner members have registered. Hard copy Annual Benefit Statements were issued for the final time in August 2018 and it is anticipated that this will lead to an increased take up of the online service.

i-Connect is a web-based system through which employers and/or payroll providers submit data relating to their workforce to the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund. i-Connect is marketed to the 80 LGPS funds who use Altair as their pension administration platform by third party provider Aquila Heywood via their subsidiary i-Connect Services Limited. It replaces the existing requirement for employers to submit spreadsheets or undertake an action with regard to new entrants, leavers, opt-outs and other changes and in particular removes the need to undertake the lengthy year-end return procedure.

Progress to date

14 employers including Thames Valley Police are currently submitting monthly data via the live i-Connect system and several more are testing. There is a plan to roll out i-Connect to all other employers and payroll providers over the course of the next 2 years and it is standard practice for new employers who join the Fund.

Supporting information to include the following if a decision is being requested:

Resource implications

Additional resources from within the Pensions & Investments Team are being made available from October 2018 in order to accelerate the roll out to employers of the Fund.

Legal implications

[This should outline the legal implications, if any, of the decisions and should indicate that advice has been sought from Legal Services.]

Other implications/issues

[Explain any implications of the decision, for example equality, sustainability, biodiversity, Human Rights Act etc. Include implications on users, partners or stakeholders, or on other parts of the organisation. This might also include statutory considerations (for example Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, which requires all authorities to take account of crime and disorder issues in everything they do), equal opportunities and diversity (in the light of the Race Relations Amendment Act and of existing Council policy that reports should comment on equal opportunity issues) and sustainability.]

Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views (if relevant)

[If consultation has been carried out this is an important section to complete.

Local Members must be given advance notification of a forthcoming decision that affects their local division. In addition, they must be consulted on the detail of the decision in question.]

Background Papers

[This section should include unpublished documents on which the report has been based and documents which have been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report. Exempt or confidential information should not be listed, as any background papers must be made available for public inspection if requested.

It is good practice also to include published papers. However if you do so, please indicate where they can be obtained, e.g. Internet, Library.]
