

## Pension Fund Consultative Group

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**Title:** Pension Administration Strategy

**Date:** 7 April 2011

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**Electoral divisions affected:** None

### Summary

Buckinghamshire County Council Pension Fund implemented the attached Pension Administration Strategy with effect from 1 June 2010 after consultation with all Fund employers.

### Recommendation

#### Members are asked to:

Consider and comment on this report.

### Supporting information

The Strategy was issued to all employers along with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and all were asked to sign and return the SLA. So far only 53 employers have returned their signed agreement. Some difficulties have arisen with Schools who have an outsourced payroll provider. Where they are under LEA control, they are not a separate employer under the LGPS regulations and the outsourced payroll providers do not feel they are legally responsible to sign the SLA. Irrespective of this the Strategy permits any additional administration costs to be charged to an employer regardless of whether they have signed the SLA. No charges have yet been raised and it is not proposed that the charges will change, however the Strategy has been used to underline the importance of the receipt of accurate and timely data which has shown an improvement in employers where there were performance issues. This has resulted in a total of 15,688 annual benefit statements being issued by 31 January 2011, two months earlier than in previous years.



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## **Resource implications**

The Strategy is key to improving the quality of member data held. In the long term it will assist in keeping administration costs at a reasonable level and ensure that costs are fair across all employers. An issue that has been raised is the period of time the SLA covers. Currently it lasts for one year, however the resource in issuing and monitoring receipt of the SLA from all employers is very time consuming. The proposal from 1 June 2011 is to issue the SLA covering the period until 31 March 2014 to tie in with the triennial Fund valuation.

## **Legal implications**

N/A

## **Other implications/issues**

N/A

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

N/A

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## **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: Pension Administration Strategy

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