

# ITEM NO: 13(a)

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Pension Fund Management Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9 September 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Peter Morris, Executive Director of Pensions
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>DELEGATION SCHEME – PENSION BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS – REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 MARCH 2011</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The report informs members about the Scheme of Delegation to officers relating to pension benefits and contributions, and what action has been taken by the Executive Director of Pensions during 2010 – 2011.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that the Panel note the report.
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	This report details the actions taken by the 'Pensions Office' in relation to membership matters in accordance with the LGPS Regulations and the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	The LGPS needs to be effectively and efficiently administered. The scale of the Fund necessitates the delegation of the administrative role. The role of managers is to ensure effective processes and internal control. This is also subject to external review by internal and external audit.
<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION:</b>	<b>NON-CONFIDENTIAL</b>  <b>This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.</b>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	The LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 and the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007. These are available here: <a href="http://timeline.lge.gov.uk/">http://timeline.lge.gov.uk/</a>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Although the Panel will establish policies regarding administrative matters, e.g. the payment of death grants, all the day to day decisions regarding membership matters are delegated to the Executive Director of Pensions. The report contains a summary of actions taken for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

## **2. SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PENSIONS**

- 2.1 All references below to Administration Regulations refer to the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008. References to the Benefit Regulations refer to the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007. References to other regulations are as stated.
- 2.2 The following functions are delegated pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.3 To deal with the following benefits and contributions matters in relation to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund.
- (i) In consultation with the Chief Executive, the making of admission agreements with bodies falling within the scope of Administration Regulations 5 and 6.
  - (ii) The determination under Benefit Regulation 3 of the intervals at which standard employee contributions are payable to the pension scheme.
  - (iii) The exercise of discretion under Benefit Regulation 23, 32, 35 regarding the payment of death grants in respect of deceased scheme members in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Pension Fund Management Panel.
  - (iv) The exercise of discretion under Benefit Regulation 26 in respect of breaks in education or training for the purposes of deciding if a person can be regarded as a child.
  - (v) The exercise of discretion under Benefit Regulation 27 in the payment of the whole or part of a children's pension to a person other than an eligible child.
  - (vi) The commutation of certain small pension benefits within the limits specified in Benefit Regulation 39 to single lump sum payments so as to discharge future liability for payments.
  - (vii) The agreement with employing authorities of the cost of awarding additional membership under Administration Regulation 40.
  - (viii) The agreement with employing authorities of the cost of the awarding additional pension under Administration Regulation 40.
  - (ix) The determination under Administration Regulation 23 of whether or not a person wishing to purchase certain additional pension benefits has undergone a medical examination to the satisfaction of the administering authority.
  - (x) Obtaining revisions to a rates and adjustments certificate in circumstances falling within Administration Regulation 38 (5).
  - (xi) The determination under Administration Regulation 42 of intervals for the payment of employee and employer pension contributions to the Fund by employers.

- (xii) Charging interest under Administration Regulation 44 to employers or other administering authorities on late payments due to the Fund.
- (xiii) The determination under Administration Regulation 55(4) of the amount of any benefit that may be payable to a person out of the Pension Fund.
- (xiv) The determination, under Administration Regulation 55(2) of various matters in relation to new contributors and what previous service may be taken into account.
- (xv) The approval under Administration Regulation 56(2) of medical practitioners to be used by Fund employers in making decisions on entitlement to ill-health retirement.
- (xvi) Deciding disagreements raised under Administration Regulation 58 and 60 (i.e. under internal dispute resolution procedure) in respect of administering authority matters.
- (xvii) The payment of transfer values under Administration Regulations 79, 81 and 86.
- (xviii) The acceptance of transfer values under Administration Regulations 83 and 86.
- (xix) The approval of applications for the reinstatement of spouse's pensions under Regulation F7 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1995 (as amended) in the following circumstances:-
  - (a) if a spouse has remarried and that marriage has ended; or
  - (b) if a spouse has been cohabiting outside marriage and that cohabitation has ended.
- (xx) The exercise of discretion on the extension of statutory time limits in respect of various applications made by employees and beneficiaries as provided in the regulations.
- (xxi) The waiving on compassionate grounds of overpayments of pension benefits.
- (xxii) The making and revision of a Pension Administration Strategy under Administration Regulation 65.

### 3. BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

3.1 Details of the number of cases dealt with during the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 are shown in the table below.

	<b>Administrative Matter</b>	<b>No of Cases</b>
(i)	New admission agreements	14
(ii)	Determination of intervals for employee contributions	-
(iii)	Payment of death grants	419
(iv)	Disregard of breaks in education (child's pension)	1
(v)	Paying child's pension to person other than eligible child	20
(vi)	Commutation of small pensions	8
(vii)	Agreeing cost of additional membership	114
(viii)	Agreeing cost of the award of additional pension	-
(ix)	Medical checks for purchase of additional benefits	33
(x)	Obtaining revisions to a rates and adjustments certificate	-
(xi)	Determination of intervals for all employee and employer contributions payments	-
(xii)	Interest on late contributions from employers or other administering authorities	-
(xiii)	Determination of amounts of benefits	16,749
(xiv)	Determination of matters relating to new contributors	9,842
(xv)	Approval of medical practitioners	20
(xvi)	Decisions under the internal dispute resolution procedure	41
(xvii)	Payment of transfer values	675
(xviii)	Acceptance of transfer values	356
(xix)	Re-instatement of spouses pension	
(xx)	Extension of time limits	1
(xxi)	Waiving of overpaid pensions on compassionate grounds	2
(xxii)	Revision of the Pension Administration Strategy	-

#### 4. NEW ADMITTED BODIES

Admission agreements completed during the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The bodies concerned and their respective guarantors are shown in the table below.

NAME OF BODY	ADMISSION TYPE	DATE OF AGREEMENT	GUARANTOR	ACTUARIAL POOL
SAFEGARD SECURITY SOLUTIONS LIMITED	TRANSFEE	2010.05.10	(1) ROCHDALE BOROUGH WIDE HOUSING LIMITED (2) SECURECOM LTD	ROCHDALE MBC
HARRISON CATERING SERVICES LIMITED	TRANSFEE	2010.05.28	BOLTON MBC	BOLTON MBC
CAPITA IT SERVICES (BSF) LIMITED	TRANSFEE	2010.07.01	NONE <sup>1</sup>	TAMESIDE MBC
BALFOUR BEATTY WORKPLACE LIMITED	TRANSFEE	2010.07.15	ROCHDALE MBC	ROCHDALE MBC
NESTOR PRIMECARE SERVICES LIMITED	TRANSFEE	2010.07.27	MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL	MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
HALL CLEANING SERVICES LIMITED	TRANSFEE	2010.07.29	BOLTON MBC	BOLTON MBC
MANCHESTER MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST	COMMUNITY	2010.09.01	MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL	MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
RM EDUCATION PLC	TRANSFEE	2010.09.13	SALFORD CITY COUNCIL	SALFORD CITY COUNCIL
CARITAS DIOCESE OF SALFORD	COMMUNITY	2010.10.05	MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL	SMALL ADMITTED BODIES
NSL LIMITED	TRANSFEE	2010.12.02	OLDHAM MBC	OLDHAM MBC
MACINTYRE CARE	TRANSFEE	2011.02.07	ROCHDALE MBC	ROCHDALE MBC
FIRST CHOICE HOMES OLDHAM LIMITED	COMMUNITY	2011.02.07	OLDHAM MBC (PART)	NONE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	TRANSFEE	2011.02.08	OLDHAM MBC	OLDHAM MBC
BOLTON AT HOME LIMITED	COMMUNITY	2011.03.28	BOLTON MBC (PART)	NONE

<sup>1</sup> BOND FOR £30,000 IN PLACE

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

The Panel is recommended to note the information contained in this report.