

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE – 6 DECEMBER 2013

EMPLOYER UPDATE

Report by the Chief Financial Officer

Introduction

1. This report is to update members on recent employer issues including applications for admission and the closures of scheme employers.

Update on Previous Applications for Admission

2. Admission agreements are in progress, but not finally signed / sealed for the following employers:
 - Fresh Start Catering – one admission agreement has now been signed; the second contract is still to be finalised.
 - Hayward Cleaning Services for St Birinus– admission agreement to be finalised
 - Carillion – a revision to the admission agreement to include the additional 61 staff has been circulated but not yet signed.
 - Banbury Museum Trust - the date of admission was moved to 01 November 2013. Both the admission agreement and guarantee have been signed.
 - The Deed of Rectification to extend the Vale Capita admission to 2016 and incorporate a further group of staff who transferred to Capita has now been signed.
 - The admission agreement for Adviza has been signed.
 - Civica for the St Birinus ICT contract.
 - The School Lunch Company for two contracts
3. The contract for services with Ecocleen Ltd. has not yet been finalised and so the admission agreement process is on hold.
4. These contract issues also apply to Edwards and Ward.

New Requests for Admission

5. The September report to this Committee included a list of companies who would be providing services to schools from 01 September 2013 onwards. Unfortunately one company was missed from this list.
6. Innovate Services Ltd took over the catering contract for Cooper School on 01 September 2013. The contract is for a period of three years with a potential

extension of a further two years. As a result four members of staff were transferred to Innovate Services Ltd.

7. Oxford Spires Academy had sought approval to outsource the catering services to Pabulum Ltd. This Committee was advised, in the September report, that this application had been withdrawn.
8. An application has now been received from Cater Link Limited who took over this service on 01 September 2013 for a period of three years. The transfer affects three members of staff, two of whom are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
9. Church Cowley School outsourced their cleaning contract to April Cleaning Services on 01 September 2013. The contract will run for a period of 18 months. This outsourcing affects one scheme member.
10. The School Lunch Company has won numerous school catering contracts in Oxfordshire, but as yet it is not clear whether applications for admitted body status will be made in respect of all contracts.

Employer Cessation

11. **AAA Norcap** – correspondence with the appointed administrators, Wilkins Kennedy, is continuing although there is no indication as to how much, if anything, will be recovered.
12. **SOLL Leisure** has now advised that company is no longer trading and will not be appointing administrators. An invoice has been sent for the monies due to the Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund.
13. **Stonhams** has advised that their last scheme member left employment in February 2013. The request for a closure valuation has confirmed the amount due as £157,000 which has been passed to the company.
14. **Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action (OCVA)** this closure is subject to a separate report on this agenda.
15. **Oxfordshire Community Foundation** – following recent discussions an agreement has been reached regarding the payment of the pension liabilities over the next 10 years. A legal agreement is currently being drafted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) note the progress of previously approved applications for admitted body status;**
- (b) approve the application for admitted body status by Innovate Services Ltd;**
- (c) approve the application for admitted body status by Cater Link Limited;**
- (d) approve the application for admitted body status by April Cleaning Services;**
- (e) note the cessation of scheme employers.**

Lorna Baxter
Chief Finance Officer

Background papers: None

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