

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE – 19 MARCH 2010

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE PENSION FUND

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. This report seeks Committee approval for the most recent applications for admission to the fund. These applications for transferee admission bodies arise from outsourcing of services by both Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Cherwell District Council

2. Cherwell District Council (CDC) has outsourced its revenue and benefits service for a period of 5 years from 1 February 2010.
3. This outsourcing will result in the TUPE transfer of 10 staff of which 9 are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. As a result of this outsourcing Capita Services has sought admission to the Oxfordshire Pension Fund.
4. However, whilst the contract period is for 5 years, the admission will only be for a period of eight days since Capita will be making all the transferred staff redundant on 8 February 2010. This situation has arisen because both CDC and Capita have been seeking to resolve issues around this staff transfer but have been unable to do so in these cases.
5. From 9 February Capita will operate this contract with their own staff who are not eligible to join the LGPS; therefore a closure valuation will be undertaken.

Oxfordshire County Council – CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES (CYPF)

6. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is being outsourced from CYPF to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Foundation Trust (OBMH) on 1 April 2010 until 31 March 2012.
7. This outsourcing will result in the TUPE of two members of staff to OBMH.
8. OBMH are applying for transferee admission body status since the pension scheme offered to other staff is not comparable with the LGPS.

Oxfordshire County Council – Highways

9. The Oxfordshire Highways contract has been outsourced since 2000, initially to Isis Accord, which was purchased by Enterprise in 2007. At the time of the original transfer the outsourced staffs were entered into the Accord Pension Scheme (which after 2007 became the Enterprise Pension Scheme).
10. A re-tendering of the highways contract has been carried out and as a result a new provider – Atkins – has been selected. Originally Atkins was due to take over from Enterprise in the summer of 2010, but this has been brought forward to 1 April 2010 to ensure that there is continuity of service, and pension provision for the staff.
11. Atkins is seeking admission to the Local Government Pension Scheme from 1 April 2010, as a transferee admission body, to enable the remaining 58 staff (approximately) from the original transfer to become members of the LGPS.

Admission Agreements

12. In the above cases the admission agreements will be between Oxfordshire County Council, as administering authority, the scheme employer and the transferee admission body.

Financial and Staff Implications

13. In all of the above cases information is being sought from the actuary regarding the past and future liabilities. This information is being discussed individually with each company. Written agreements of where costs will be charged have been sought as necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the above applications subject to the agreement to the terms of the Admission Agreements and this Committee being informed when the agreements are signed.**

SUE SCANE
Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Background papers: Nil

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