

Minute

Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board

Monday, 26 October 2020, 11:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Pension Fund Sub-committee:

Councillors W Leslie Manson, Alexander G Cowie, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King and Stephen Sankey.

Pension Board:

Employer Representatives:

Councillors J Harvey Johnston, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock, Orkney Islands Council.

Andrew Blake, Orkney Ferries Limited.

Trade Union Representatives:

Karen Kent (Unison) and Eoin Miller (Unite)

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive.
- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Colin Kemp, Corporate Finance Senior Manager.
- Michael Scott, Solicitor.

Audit Scotland:

- Gillian Woolman, Audit Director.
- Claire Gardiner, Senior Audit Manager.
- Colin Morrison, Senior Auditor.

Observing

- Karen Greaves, Head of Executive Support.
- Avril Litts, Accounting Manager (Strategic Finance).
- Shonagh Merriman, Accounting Manager (Corporate Finance).

- Katie Gibson, Accounting Officer.
- Lorraine Stout, Press Officer.

Apologies

- Councillor James W Stockan.

Pension Board:

Trade Union Representative:

- Eileen Swanney (Unison).

Not Present

Pension Board:

Trade Union Representative:

- Mark Vincent (GMB).

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor W Leslie Manson.

1. Form of Voting

The Sub-committee resolved that, should a vote be required in respect of the matters to be considered at this meeting, notwithstanding Standing Order 21.4, the form of voting should be by calling the roll or recorded vote.

2. Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund

Audit Report to those Charged with Governance

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Audit Director, Audit Scotland, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

2.1. That Audit Scotland, as the Council's external auditors, had concluded their audit of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

2.2. That Audit Scotland had provided an unqualified certificate on the Pension Fund's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

2.3. That the draft audit certificate stated that the accounts had been properly prepared in accordance with applicable law, accounting standards and other reporting requirements.

2.4. That, during the course of the audit, a number of presentational, consistency and disclosure errors were identified within the financial statements, which had been adjusted in the final accounts.

2.5. That no material weaknesses in the accounting and internal control systems relating to the Pension Fund were identified during the audit.

2.6. Audit Scotland's covering letter in respect of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund Annual Audit Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance.

2.7. Orkney Island's Council's Letter of Representation to Audit Scotland in connection with their audit of the financial statements of Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2020, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

2.8. The Annual Audit Report to Members of the Pension Fund Sub-committee and the Controller of Audit, in respect of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund, attached as Appendix 3 to the report by the Head of Finance.

3. Pension Fund – Annual Accounts

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

3.1. The requirement, in terms of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, for a local authority, or a committee of the authority, whose remit included audit or governance functions, to consider and approve the audited Annual Accounts for signature no later than 30 September immediately following the financial year to which the accounts related.

3.2. That, in terms of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, the deadline for publication of final accounts could be extended by two months, if required, from 31 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.

3.3. That, although the Audited Accounts would be signed after 30 September 2020, publication would still take place by the original deadline of 31 October 2020.

3.4. The Management Commentary, comprising pages 1 to 12 of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, which provided an overview of the most significant matters reported in the Annual Accounts for financial year ended 31 March 2020, with the key facts and figures summarised at section 4.3 of the report by the Head of Finance.

On the motion of Councillor Rachael A King, seconded by Councillor Barbara Foulkes, the Sub-committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

3.5. That the Annual Report and Accounts of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund 2019/2020, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

4. Conclusion of Meeting

At 12:18 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: L Manson.