

Item: 21

Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board: 20 May 2026.

1. Recommendations

It is recommended:

1.1.

That the Committee approves the attached minute as a true record.

2. Appendix

Draft Minute of the Meeting of the Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with the Pension Board, held on 20 May 2026.

Minute

Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board

Wednesday, 20 May 2026, 14:15.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Pension Fund Sub-committee:

Councillors Alexander G Cowie, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King and Mellissa-Louise Thomson.

Pension Board:

Employer Representatives:

Councillors Graham A Bevan, David Dawson and Owen Tierney, Orkney Islands Council.

Trade Union Representative:

Eileen Swanney (Unison).

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Pension Fund Sub-committee:

Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.

Pension Board:

Employer Representative:

Karen Ritch, Orkney Ferries Limited.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Robert Adamson, Service Manager (Payroll and Pensions).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Paul Maxton, Solicitor.
- Katie Gibson, Team Manager (Corporate Finance).

Hymans Robertson:

- David Walker, Partner.

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Julie Radcliffe, Director, KPMG.
- Kunal Malhotra, Senior Manager, KPMG.

Apology

Pension Board, Trade Union Representative:

- Karen Kent (Unison).

Not Present

Pension Board, Trade Union Representative:

- Mark Vincent (GMB).

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Alexander G Cowie.

1. Pension Administration – Performance

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Payroll and Pensions), the Sub-committee:

Scrutinised the Pension Fund administration activities, together with performance against key service standards, for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as detailed in sections 3 to 8 of the report by the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance.

2. Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund – External Audit Plan

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing reports from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance) and Julie Radcliffe, Director, KPMG, the Sub-committee:

Noted the external audit plan for 2025/26 in respect of the Council's Pension Fund, prepared by KPMG, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance.

Councillors Mellissa-Louise Thomson and Heather N Woodbridge joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

3. Exclusion of Public

On the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor Rachael A King, the Sub-committee resolved that the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, as the business to be considered involved the disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

4. Scottish Local Government Pension Schemes

Voluntary Collaboration

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Sub-committee:

Noted:

4.1. The work being undertaken to consider potential voluntary collaboration between the eleven Scottish Local Government Pension Scheme Funds.

4.2. The continued attendance of Council Officers at events where collaboration would be discussed and that the Head of Finance would ensure members of the Pension Fund Sub-committee and the Pension Board were kept informed of progress.

4.3. The draft Voluntary Local Government Pension Scheme Collaboration Vision Statement with Principles and Actions and the draft Memorandum of Understanding Structure, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively to the report by the Head of Finance.

Councillor Steven B Heddle left the meeting during discussion of this item.

5. Statement of Managed Funds

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Sub-committee:

Scrutinised:

5.1. The investment monitoring report for the Pension Fund produced by Hymans Robertson, the Council's appointed investment advisor, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, relating to the performance of managed funds for the quarter to 31 March 2026.

5.2. The Legal and General Quarterly Engagement report for Q4 2025, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

5.3. The Baillie Gifford report for the quarter ending 31 March 2026, attached as Appendix 3 to the report by the Head of Finance.

Councillor Graham A Bevan left the meeting during discussion of this item.

6. Conclusion of Meeting

At 15:02 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: A G Cowie.