

## **Item: 20**

**Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board:  
17 September 2019.**

### **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 17 September 2019.

## Minute

### **Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board**

Tuesday, 17 September 2019, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



## Present

### **Pension Fund Sub-committee:**

Councillors James W Stockan, Alexander G Cowie, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King and Graham L Sinclair.

### **Pension Board:**

#### **Employer Representatives:**

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

### **Trade Union Representative:**

Eoin Miller (Unite).

## Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

## In Attendance

- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Shonagh Merriman, Accounting Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Michael Scott, Solicitor.

### **Audit Scotland:**

- Patricia Fraser, Audit Manager.

## Observing

- Katie Gibson, Accounting Officer.

## Apologies

### **Pension Fund Sub-committee:**

- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor Stephen Sankey.

### **Pension Board:**

#### **Employer Representative:**

- Andrew Blake, Orkney Ferries Limited.

**Trade Union Representatives:**

- Sally George (Unison).
- Karen Kent (Unison).

**Not Present**

**Pension Board:**

- Mark Vincent, Trade Union Representative.

**Declarations of Interest**

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

**Chair**

- Councillor James W Stockan.

**1. Disclosure of Exempt Information**

The Sub-committee noted the proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Item 6, as the business to be discussed involved the potential disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

**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 Manager, 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 2019.

**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 2019.

**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 2019, 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, issued by Audit Scotland on 17 September 2019, 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.** The Management Commentary, contained in 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 2019, with the key facts and figures summarised at section 4.3 of the report by the Head of Finance.

The Sub-committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**3.3.** That the Annual Report and Accounts of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund for financial year 2018 to 2019, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor Owen Tierney joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

### **4. Revenue Expenditure Outturn**

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

Noted:

**4.1.** The revenue expenditure outturn statement in respect of Pension Fund services for financial year 2018 to 2019, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a budget deficit position of £1,187,800.

**4.2.** The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

## **5. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring**

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

Noted:

**5.1.** The revenue financial summary statement in respect of Pension Fund services for the period 1 April to 30 June 2019, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a surplus position of £951,100.

**5.2.** The revenue financial detail by Service Area statement for the period 1 April to 30 June 2019, attached as Annex 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

**5.3.** The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to the report by the Head of Finance.

## **6. Statement of Managed Pension Funds**

On the motion of Councillor James W Stockan, seconded by Councillor Rachael A King, the Sub-committee resolved that the public be 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 Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

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

Noted:

**6.1.** The review of the investment manager's performance for the quarter to 30 June 2019, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, prepared by Hymans Robertson, the Council's appointed investment advisors.

**6.2.** That Pension Fund investments returned a gain of 5.1% over the quarter to 30 June 2019, being 1.2% ahead of benchmark, which was considered good.

**6.3.** That the value of the Pension Fund had increased by 6.7% over the 12 month period to 30 June 2019, being 0.9% behind the benchmark, which was considered poor performance.

**6.4.** That an average return of 11.1% per annum for the Pension Fund remained 1.9% ahead of the benchmark over the five-year period.

**6.5.** The performance review commentary provided by the Fund Manager, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

**6.6.** The Governance Summary extracted from the Fund Manager's performance report for the quarter ending 30 June 2019, attached as Appendix 3 to the report by the Head of Finance.

**6.7.** The Global Alpha Stewardship Report 2019 from the Fund Manager, attached as Appendix 4 to the report by the Head of Finance.

Councillor Owen Tierney left the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **7. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 11:50 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: James W Stockan.



**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

**Annual Report and Accounts of the  
Orkney Islands Council Pension  
Fund 2018/2019**





## Contents

Management Commentary .....	1
Statement of Responsibilities for the Annual Accounts.....	13
Remuneration Report .....	14
Annual Governance Statement.....	15
Governance Compliance Statement.....	23
Annual Accounts 2018-2019.....	28
Pension Fund Account.....	28
Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2019 .....	29
Notes to the Annual Accounts .....	30
Independent Auditor's Report.....	52
Annex 1 - Scheduled and Admitted Bodies .....	56
Annex 2 – Actuarial Statement for 2018-2019 .....	57
Annex 3 - Glossary of Terms .....	60
Additional Information .....	62



## **Management Commentary**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the Annual Report and Accounts for the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014 require the Council, as administering authority for the Fund, to produce a separate statement of accounts for the Pension Fund and incorporate it into an Annual Report.

This Annual Report has been produced to provide Elected Members, Employers, scheme members and other interested parties with information concerning the administration and performance of the fund for financial year 2018-2019 and we hope you find its content useful.

To assist in the understanding of the Annual Report and Accounts we would encourage you to make reference to the Management Commentary in the first instance.

We realise that pensions are a highly complicated subject. It is, however, important that members take the time to try and understand the scale of benefits that they will receive when they retire - whether this is from the Local Government Pension Scheme itself or through other pension arrangements, such as the State Pension.

### **Overview of Fund Business**

Under the statutory provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme, Orkney Islands Council is designated as an “Administering Authority” and is required to operate and maintain a pension fund – the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund (“the Fund”).

The Fund is used to pay pensions, lump sum benefits and other entitlements to scheme members and their dependants. Contributions to the Fund are made by employee members and by participating employers. The Fund also receives income from its investments, which include equities, bonds and pooled investment vehicles.

The Fund operates under the terms of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is a public-sector pension arrangement. Scheme membership is made up of active, deferred and pensioner members. To be able to join the scheme, a person must be employed by a relevant employer and not eligible to join another public-sector pension scheme. Teachers are not included as they have a separate national pension scheme.

## Review of the Year

### Key Facts and Figures:

Value of the Fund at 31 March 2019 was £390.7 million (£366.4m at 31 March 2018).

An Operational and Investment Income Surplus of £24.3 million was generated on the activities of the fund (compared to £31.1m for the year ended 31 March 2018).

The Increase in the Value of the Fund has been achieved mainly through a surplus of contributions receivable (£10.1m) less benefits payable (£7.4m) and management expenses (£1.7m), investment net income (£8.1m) along with an increase in the market value of investments (£15.2m). This represents a year on year increase of 6.6%.

Performance of the Fund on a three year rolling average basis has been 13.0% p.a., giving a relative return above benchmark of 2.6%.

Fund membership increased by 74 to 3,901.

Employers contributed £7.5 million to the Fund (£7.6m to 31 March 2018).

Employees contributed £2.5 million (£2.4m to 31 March 2018).

Pension and other benefits paid out were £7.4 million (£6.8m to 31 March 2018).

Transfer values paid into the Fund because staff changed employers was £0.8 million (£0.5m to 31 March 2018).

Transfer values out of the Fund because staff changed employers was £0.7m (£1.1m to 31 March 2018).

Over the 12 months to 31 March 2019, the Pension Fund's investments returned a gain of 6.2% which was 2.0% behind the fund specific benchmark. Returns from the Fund have performed ahead of its benchmark over each of the previous 3, 5 and 10-year periods. The target is for the fund manager to outperform the aggregate benchmark over a rolling 5-year period.

The benchmark return of 8.2% generally reflects variable market conditions for investors during the year. The 2.0% underperformance against benchmark is attributed to asset allocation underperformance of 0.2% and stock selection underperformance of 1.8%.

The return below benchmark figure of 2.0% is calculated on an arithmetic basis, however, the Fund's investment advisers, Hymans Robertson, use the geometric method of calculation to allow direct comparison of the longer term performance with the shorter term. Using the geometric method as a basis to calculate, underperformance against benchmark would reduce the relative return by 0.1% to 1.9%.

The table shown within the Investment strategy section, page 7, details the allocation of the fund within asset class or pooled investment vehicle.

The value of the fund increased by £24.3m or 6.6% in the financial year and totalled £390.7m at 31 March 2018.

The change in value of the fund over any given period is a combination of the net money flows into or out of the Fund and any gain or loss on the capital value of its investments. During the year income into the fund from dividends and interest was £8.1m (2018: £6.1m). The fund was further enhanced by a surplus of member contributions receivable over pension payments and management expenses of £1.1m (2018: £1.0m) as well as a net capital gain increase of £15.2m (2018: £24.1m).

The Accounts are based on the market value of investments at 31 March 2019. This means that they include the profit or loss that has been made, due to the change in the value of investments, over the period from the date of their purchase to 31 March 2019 even though no actual sale has taken place. This notional value is defined as "unrealised" profit or loss. By contrast "realised" profits and losses are those that have arisen from actual sales throughout the year. Of the net capital gain of £15.2m in the year, £1.6m was an unrealised loss (2018: £7.9m gain) and £16.8m (2018: £16.2m) realised profit.

After allowing for projected liabilities on the fund, the funding level has dropped slightly to 115.3% at 31 March 2019 from its value of 117.0% last financial year end, calculated on an ongoing funding basis. The primary cause of this decline is a decrease in return on assets, a decline in contributions less benefits accruing and the negative impact of change in yields and inflation.

We are pleased to report that the Fund maintains a position above its 100% funding target, being in surplus by £52m at the financial year end (2018: £53m) according to the actuary's most recent funding update.

### **Investment Trends and Influences**

The Fund is measured against a bespoke or fund specific benchmark reflecting the composite performance of the respective asset classes adjusted for weighting of the Fund assets.

The Fund's investments continue to be actively managed by investment managers Baillie Gifford who have provided the following commentary:

" After several good years, in which most asset classes have performed well, 2018 served as a reminder that markets do not always deliver strong returns. Most asset classes struggled as the buoyant sentiment of the past few years was overwhelmed by the weight of risks to the macroeconomic environment. The Fed's intent to normalise US monetary policy, the potentially damaging effects of a Sino-American trade war and uncertainty over Brexit all hit investors' confidence and, after a relatively benign period, market volatility increased. However, since the start of 2019, dovish comments from central banks and a de-escalation in the trade tensions between China and the US have calmed markets around the world and both UK and Global equities rebounded strongly in the first quarter.

In the year to 31st March 2019, the value of the Pension Fund's investments rose by 5.8% after fees, some way behind the benchmark return of 8.2%. As with markets

more generally, the positive return over the year masks a somewhat bumpy ride, although the fund's investments in multi-asset funds (including both the Diversified Growth Fund and the Multi Asset Growth Fund) did dampen the overall level of volatility. On the other hand, whilst these funds delivered a positive return over the period this was modest, and this is part of the reason the fund did not keep up with the overall benchmark against which its performance is measured over time. Of the many asset classes in which the multi-asset funds invest, emerging market bonds were amongst the largest detractors from performance over the year. The most recent rally in emerging market assets has so far failed to make up the ground lost in the summer of 2018, when many investors moved out of these perceived riskier assets into more 'safe-haven' opportunities.

Historically, other asset classes such as infrastructure, absolute return and insurance-linked securities have provided diversifying benefits when economically sensitive assets such as equities are falling. In the final quarter of 2018 infrastructure certainly fulfilled its role as a strong diversifier, producing a positive return during the equity market sell-off, and has been the largest contributor to performance within the multi-asset funds over the 12-month period to end of March. Absolute return investments have seen mixed performance, whilst the returns from Insurance Linked securities (which are held in the Diversified Growth Fund) have been disappointing. On top of the economic challenges mentioned above, 2018 was also a year beset by extreme natural weather events, with hurricanes, typhoons and the most deadly and destructive wildfires on record sweeping through California, all of which had an impact on the insurance-linked securities asset class. Consequently, despite the cause of the losses being unrelated to financial markets, insurance linked securities were also one of the main detractors to the performance of the Diversified Growth fund over the period.

All of this however is very short term, particularly given the long-term nature of Baillie Gifford's approach to investment and its performance targets. Over a five-year period, which is more meaningful in this context, absolute and relative returns have been very strong, and the Pension Fund's investments have returned 10.4% per annum after fees compared to 8.6% for the benchmark. Importantly too, whilst the short-term performance of the Pension Fund's UK equity and Global Equity investments has also been affected by the weakness in the fourth quarter, it is encouraging that the operational performance of the underlying holdings has generally continued to be good. In managing the Pension Fund's equity investments Baillie Gifford continue to adopt a long term, stock driven, fundamental approach, and it is the operational performance of the fund's holdings which drives returns over the long term."

## Investment Strategy

The Investment Strategy of the Fund is to invest monies in a prudent and diversified manner, in accordance with the Scheme regulations and in recognition of the inherent risks that accompany any investment in the respective asset classes. The strategy is set out in the Statement of Investment Principles which can be viewed on request.

The revised asset allocation and range guidelines that were applied with effect from February 2017 are shown in the Asset Allocation table below together with the actual asset allocation at 31 March 2019.

Asset Class	Asset Allocation at 31/03/2019	Range Guideline	Fund Specific Benchmark
	%	%	%
UK Equities	11.5	48-68	9.0
Overseas Equities	50.1		49.0
Government Bonds	10.8	5-25	15.0
Alternative Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash	1.7	0-10	0.0
Global Pooled - Diversified/Multi-Asset Growth	25.9	17-37	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>

The Fund has acted to reduce its holdings in growth-seeking assets in recent years in favour of an allocation to the Multi Asset Growth Fund which is considered to be more defensive. Nevertheless, holdings in equities still account for 61.6%, with indirect holdings in Diversified Growth and Multi-Asset Growth pooled funds accounting for a further 25.9% of the Fund's portfolio as at 31 March 2019. The remaining 12.5% is held in Bonds and Cash at 10.8% and 1.7% respectively.

The Statement of Investment Principles was revised in November 2017 to reflect the changes outlined above, along with a review of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors including the requirement for the Fund Managers to adopt the United Nation Principles of Responsible Investment and provide regular updates to the Pension Fund sub-committee on their commitment to ESG factors. A review of the current investment strategy concluded in February 2019 with the development of an Action Plan to diversify further into pooled funds both for infrastructure equity and illiquid credit. In addition, the bonds allocation is to increase and switch to be managed passively going forward. These changes are intended to reduce the risk profile of the fund and will be matched by a proportionate reduction in growth assets.

As a result of its exposure to equities, the relative performance of the Fund against its benchmark can be volatile over the short term. However, the fund continues to have a strong funding position together with a net contribution from its dealing with members which allows it to take a long-term view across successive investment cycles.

The top 10 direct equity holdings within the fund at 31 March 2019 were:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Market Value of Holding</b>
	<b>£ m</b>
Baillie Gifford Multi Asset Growth Fund C Acc*	56.7
Baillie Gifford Diversified Growth Fund C Acc*	44.4
Baillie Gifford Act Index-Linked Gilt Plus C Acc*	21.0
Prudential	8.7
Naspers	8.1
Amazon.com	7.1
Alibaba	6.7
Anthem Inc	5.7
ICICI Bank ADR	5.0
AIA Group	4.9

\* Capital Accumulated.

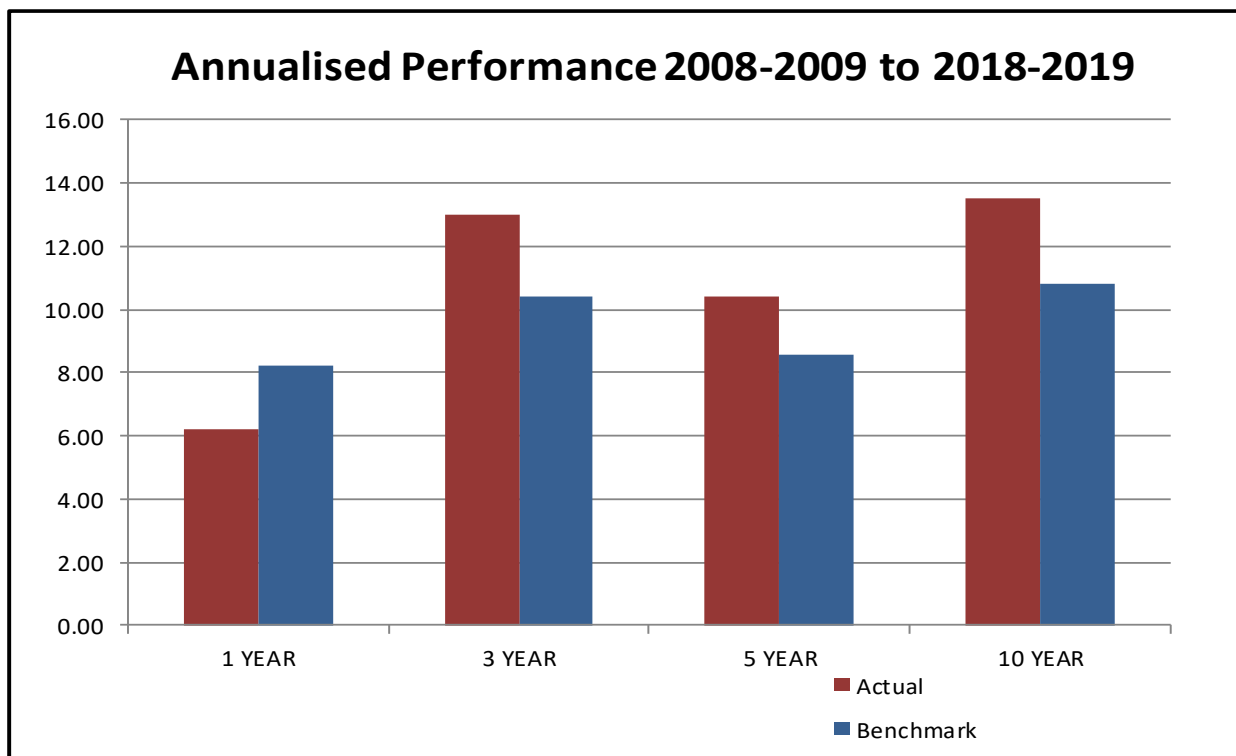
### **Investment Performance**

The performance of the Pension Fund managed investment funds is measured against a bespoke or fund specific benchmark reflecting the weighting or concentration of individual asset classes within the approved investment strategy and provided by Hymans Robertson. The current investment strategy was implemented in February 2017 and included principally an increased allocation to diversified/multi asset growth funded by a reduction in the Fund's exposure to equities. The Fund is now measured against a bespoke or fund specific benchmark with effect from the 1 April 2017, following the closure of the peer group benchmark.

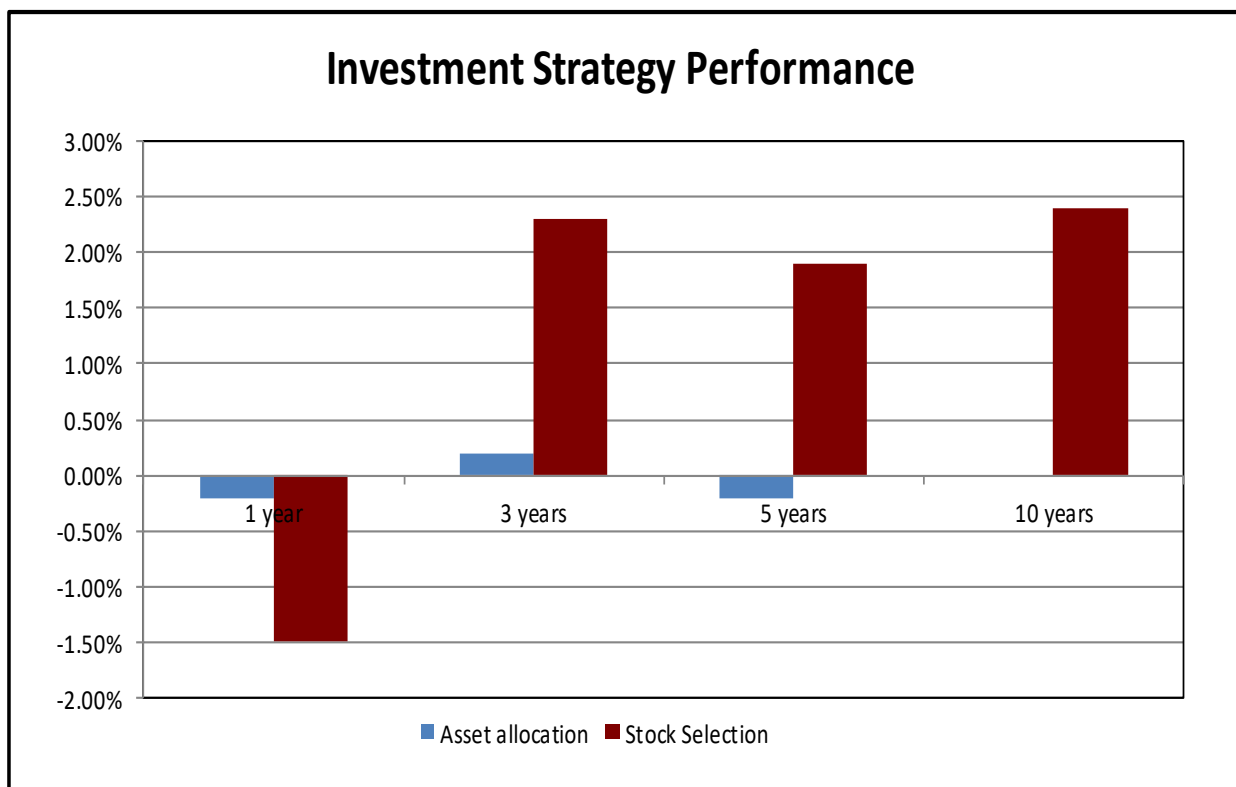
Baillie Gifford's performance target for this accounting period is to outperform the fund specific benchmark measured over a rolling 5-year period. The average performance over the last 5 years of 10.4% remains well ahead of the benchmark of 8.6%.

The following graph summarises investment performance on an annualised basis over 1, 3, 5 and 10-year periods.





The following graph further analysis the performance of the Fund's investment manager relative to The Fund's benchmark into asset allocation and stock selections. The majority of the Funds outperformance can be attributed to the skill of the Fund investment Manager in picking stocks over this period.



## **Structure of Administration**

### **Staffing**

Administration of the Scheme is carried out in-house and undertaken by the Pensions section within Orkney Islands Council's Chief Executive's Service.

The Pensions section has 4.0 full time equivalents, consisting of one full time Pensions Manager, two Senior Assistants and an Administrative Assistant. In addition to maintaining scheme members' records using data supplied by all Fund employers, the Pensions section also provides frontline services to scheme members. As well as answering telephone calls and responding to electronic and written correspondence, the Pension section holds face to face meetings where requested.

The staff resources detailed above are supplemented by shared staff resources within the Chief Executive's Service, providing additional governance, payments, investment and accounting expertise. In addition, the Human Resources and Performance section, within Orkney Islands Council's Corporate Services also supports the work of the Pension section by arranging pre-retirement workshops for scheme members who are within two years of retirement.

### **Systems**

Scheme members' records are maintained on Aquila Heywood's pensions administration system known as Altair. Every current and former employee of Fund employers, including Orkney Islands Council, who has a pension entitlement in the Fund is included in the Altair system.

The Council's Payroll system, NorthgateArinso is used to pay pensioner benefits. The Pensions section is restricted to read only access of the payroll system, with amendments being made to pensioner records via a formal request process to the Payments section. The Payments section is also located within Orkney Islands Council's Chief Executive's Service.

## Administration Performance

Orkney Islands Council as administering authority is committed to providing a high-quality pension service to both members and employers and ensuring members receive their correct pension benefits entitlement.

Administration performance figures monitored by the Pension Fund are currently under review, with a view to ensuring they continue to be relevant and appropriate. Performance for financial year 2018-2019 against the key service standards as set by the Pension Fund sub-committee is summarised as follows:

Category	Performance Standard – No of Working Days	Number of records processed within standard	Number of records processed Outwith standard	Percentage of records processed within standard	Prior Year Performance
Pension Estimates	10	56	29	65.9%	65.0%
Retirements	5	73	0	100.0%	100.0%
Transfers In	10	19	6	76.0%	95.6%
Transfers Out	10	6	1	85.7%	94.7%
Refunds	5	28	3	90.3%	93.6%

## Fund Update

Membership details are shown below along with a short description for each membership status:

Membership	2017-2018	2018-2019
Contributing members	1,966	1,969
Pensioners	888	974
Deferred members	973	958
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>3,901</b>

<b>Contributing Member</b>	Someone who is currently employed by a scheduled or admitted body and is making contributions from pay to the Pension Scheme. Such a person is referred to as an “active” member.
<b>Deferred Member</b>	Someone who was once a contributing member and who has chosen to leave his or her accumulated contributions in the Fund to benefit from a pension in due course.
<b>Pensioner/Dependent Member</b>	Someone who is receiving benefits from the Fund either as a former contributor or as a dependant of a former contributor who has deceased.

### **Employer Bodies**

The Fund invested and administered pensions on behalf of 6 current and former employers during financial year 2018-2019. These include scheduled bodies, brought into the Fund by legislation, and admitted bodies, which chose to join the Fund. The detailed listing of employers and their membership numbers is contained in Note 26 of the Annual Report and Accounts for the Fund.

### **Pension Increases**

Pensions which are in payment and deferment are increased each April in accordance with the Pension (Increase) Act 1971. Since April 2011, this increase has been linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Price Index (RPI).

### **Actuarial Valuation**

Annex 2 contains the formal Actuarial Statement for financial year 2018-2019 which is prepared in line with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 26 and supports the preparation of the Financial Statements for the Pension Fund.

The last triennial valuation, as at the 31 March 2017, revealed that the Fund's assets were valued at £335m, and were sufficient to meet 112.7% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. This compared with 114.4% at the previous March 2014 valuation. The resulting surplus at the 2017 valuation was £38m.

The funding level of the Pension Fund has been maintained broadly in-line with the previous valuation after allowing for a reduction in the future expected investment returns, resulting from a fall in the real gilt yield, and the adoption of a lower Asset Outperformance Assumption than the previous valuation. An increase in liabilities has largely been offset by positive membership experience and better than anticipated investment returns.

Following the Fund's actuary (Hymans Robertson) recommendation, as a result of the valuation process, the contribution rate for 2017-2018 of 19.2% was reduced to 18.2% during 2018-2019, with further reductions to 17.6% and 17.0% to be applied in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date, and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement.

The most recent funding update produced at 31 March 2019 showed that the funding surplus has increased since the last full valuation. Having said that, a fall in asset returns, partially offset against contributions less benefits accruing and the impact of change in yields and inflation, has seen a minor reduction from last year's funding level of 117.0%, to 115.3% at 31 March 2019.

## Main Risks and Uncertainties facing the Fund

Awareness of risk and risk mitigation is a key facet of the Fund's strategic and operational activities. Whilst it is not possible to eliminate risk entirely, the Fund has taken steps to evaluate risk and put strategies and controls in place to minimise its adverse effects.

The Fund has its own risk register, which details some 36 risks faced by the fund and can be viewed at <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/>. The risk register is reviewed annually by the Pension Fund Sub-Committee and Pension Board.

Principal risks, and the way in which they are managed, are as follows:

**Financial Mismatch**, the risk that the Fund's assets fail to grow in line with the cost of meeting its liabilities. The Sub-committee measures and manages financial mismatch in several ways. It has set a strategic asset allocation benchmark for the Fund and assesses risk relative to that benchmark by monitoring the Fund's asset allocation and investment returns. It also assesses risk relative to liabilities by monitoring benchmark returns relative to liabilities. The Sub-committee keeps under review demographic assumptions which could impact on the cost of benefits. These assumptions are considered formally in the triennial valuation and reviewed annually within funding update reports (Navigator) produced by the Fund's actuary, Hymans Robertson.

**Systemic Risk**, the risk of an interlinked and simultaneous failure of several asset classes and/or investment managers. The Pensions Sub-committee seeks to manage systemic risk by the appointment of investment managers. The Pensions Sub-committee regularly reviews total asset values within asset class.

**Liquidity Risk**, the risk that the Fund cannot meet its immediate liabilities because it has insufficient liquid assets. This is controlled by the regular estimation of cash flow to ensure that sufficient cash balances are available. By holding the majority of its assets in liquid assets such as equities and bonds, unexpected cash flow requirements can be met by the realisation of assets. Liquidity risk is also moderated by the Fund continuing to have a surplus of contributions receivable over pensions payable.

**Custody Risk**, the risk of losing rights to Fund assets when they are held in custody or being traded. The Pensions Sub-committee manages custody risk by the monitoring of custodian activities. The Fund has appointed Bank of New York Mellon's London branch as its Custodian.

**Transition Risk**, the risk of incurring unexpected costs or losses when assets are transferred between asset classes. When carrying out significant transitions the Pensions Sub-committee will take professional advice and consider the appointment of specialist transition managers.

## **Pension Fund Sub-committee and Pensions Board**

In line with Scheme regulations, the Pension Fund Sub-committee and Pensions Board are now fully established and, in accordance with the respective terms of reference which were agreed at the first meeting, the group have met concurrently on four occasions during 2018-2019.

Training activity for the members of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee and Pension Board was undertaken during the financial year 2018-2019, in accordance with the agreed training plan, to enable Councillors charged with the governance of the Fund to execute their role as quasi-trustees effectively. In recognition of the complex and ever changing environment of Local Government Pension Scheme finance, and specifically to address the governance requirements, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice on Public Sector Pensions Finance Knowledge and Skills has been adopted.

## **Acknowledgement**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues in Chief Executive's Services and the members of: the Pension Fund Sub-Committee and the Pensions Board for their help and co-operation in managing the financial affairs of the Pension Fund.

**Gareth Waterson, BAcc, CA**  
Head of Finance  
17 September 2019

**Councillor James Stockan**  
Leader  
17 September 2019

**John W Mundell**  
Interim Chief Executive  
17 September 2019

## **Statement of Responsibilities for the Annual Accounts**

### **Responsibilities of the Orkney Islands Council as Administering Authority**

The Council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund (the Fund) and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Head of Finance.
- Manage the affairs of the Fund to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014), and so far as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (Section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003).
- Approve the Annual Accounts for signature.

### **Signed on behalf of Orkney Islands Council**

**Councillor James Stockan**

Leader

17 September 2019

### **The Head of Finance's responsibilities**

The Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Accounts in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing these Annual Accounts, the Head of Finance has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complied with legislation.
- Complied with the Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation).

The Head of Finance has also:

- Kept adequate accounting records which were up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund as at 31 March 2019, and of its transactions for the year ended 31 March 2019.

**Gareth Waterson, BAcc, CA**

Head of Finance

17 September 2019

## **Remuneration Report**

The Pension Fund does not directly employ any staff. We have therefore not included a remuneration report within the Annual Report.

All staff are employed by Orkney Islands Council, and their costs reimbursed by the Pension Fund.

The Councillors, who are members of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee and Pension Board are also remunerated by Orkney Islands Council.

Details of Councillor and Senior Employee remuneration can be found in the accounts of Orkney Islands Council on the Council's website

[https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/Statement\\_of\\_Accounts/Statement-of-Accounts.htm](https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/Statement_of_Accounts/Statement-of-Accounts.htm).



## **Annual Governance Statement**

### **Scope of Responsibility**

The Orkney Islands Council acts as Administering Authority for the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund. The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council has a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best value under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions. This includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. The Code is available on the Council's website. The authority's financial and management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the role of the Chief Financial Officer in local government.

The Local Code of Corporate Governance evidences the Council's commitment to achieving good governance and demonstrates how it complies with the governance standards recommended by CIPFA. The document is regularly reviewed and updated.

### **Purpose of the Governance Framework**

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled, and the activities used to engage with and lead the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to an acceptable level, and provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the policies, aims and objectives can be delivered. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2019 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Accounts.

## **Purpose of the Governance Framework**

1. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
2. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
3. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
4. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
5. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
6. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.

The Pension Fund is governed by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations. These include requirements for the preparation and production of a number of key policy documents including a Triennial Valuation Report, a Funding Strategy Statement and Statement of Investment Principles. These documents set out the Fund's objectives together with the main risks facing the Fund and the key controls to mitigate those risks.

## **Review of Effectiveness**

Orkney Islands Council has put in place appropriate management and reporting arrangements to enable it to satisfy itself that its approach to corporate governance is adequate and effective in practice. This includes ensuring appropriate advice is given to the Pension Fund on all governance matters, providing training to all members of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee and Pension Board, keeping proper administrative and financial records and accounts and maintaining an effective system of arrangements for governance control.

The system of internal financial controls operates within a financial strategy and is based on a framework of delegation and accountability for officers and elected members embodied in procedural standing orders, financial regulations, scheme of delegation, scheme of administration, committees and sub-committees, supported by a framework of administrative procedures including the segregation of duties, and regular financial management information. In particular this includes:

- Comprehensive accounting systems that records income and expenditure for both member and investment activities.
- Regular reviews of investment reports that measure investment returns against agreed benchmarks.
- Regular reviews of investment manager reports that measure performance against agreed targets, and
- Independent performance reviews of the Fund by the Fund's investment consultant and performance monitoring services provider.

The Pension Fund responds to findings and recommendations of external audit, scrutiny and inspection bodies and the Council's independent internal audit section.

The Pension Fund Sub-Committee is integral to overseeing independent and objective assurance and monitoring improvements in internal control and governance.

### **Administering Authority**

Orkney Islands Council is the Administering Authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) set up for the Orkney Islands geographic area.

The Council has delegated the management of the investments of the Pension Fund to the Pension Fund Sub-Committee and has established a Pension Board which is the body responsible for assisting the Scheme Manager in relation to compliance with scheme regulations, and the requirements of the Pension Regulator.

### **Regulatory Framework**

The Pensions Regulator is the UK regulator of work-based pension schemes. It works with trustees, employers, pension specialists and business advisers, giving guidance on what is expected of them.

The Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) is responsible for regulating the LGPS in Scotland and the Council administers the pension scheme in accordance with guidance and regulations issued by the SPPA.

The Orkney Islands Council scheme is open to all employees of scheduled bodies except those whose employment entitles them to belong to another statutory pension scheme (e.g. Teachers). Employees of admitted bodies can join the scheme subject to those bodies meeting the statutory requirements and on such terms and conditions as the Council (as Administering Authority) may require. A list of scheduled and admitted bodies is attached as Annex 1.

The Pension Fund Sub-Committee (the Sub-committee) is a formal sub-committee of Orkney Islands Council's Policy and Resources Committee. The Scheme of Administration for the Council refers to the Pension Fund Sub-Committee all matters relating to the management of investments of the Council's Pension Fund.

Financial affairs are conducted in compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations which are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Funds are invested in compliance with the Fund's Statement of Investment Principles.

### **Pension Fund Sub-Committee and Pension Board**

The members of the Pensions Sub-Committee together with the Pensions Board act as quasi-trustees and oversee the management of the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund (the Fund).

Their overriding duty is to ensure the best possible outcomes for the Fund, its participating employers and scheme members.

The members' knowledge is supplemented by professional advice from officers of the Council, professional advisers and other external providers.

The Sub-committee is comprised of seven members of the Council:

- Leader (Chair of Policy and Resources Committee).
- Deputy Leader (Vice Chair of Policy and Resources Committee), and
- Five other elected members of the Council appointed by Policy and Resources Committee.

The Scheme Actuary, the Independent Investment Consultant, Head of Finance, Pensions Manager and the Solicitor for the Council or their nominated representatives also attend the Sub-committee meetings as advisers.

The Sub-committee meets at least quarterly. Additional meetings are called as appropriate and papers and minutes are publicly available on the Council's website, unless they have been considered as private business in terms of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Minutes of the Sub-committee are also presented to the Policy and Resources Committee of the Council.

Membership of the Pensions Board consists of equal numbers made up of 4 trade union representatives and employer representatives, drawn from Orkney Islands Council and scheduled or admitted bodies in membership of the Pension Fund. Pension Board representatives may not participate in or act as members of the Pension Fund sub-committee or the Monitoring and Audit Committee. Local Authority employer representatives will normally be Elected Members of the Council.

The Pension Board meets at least quarterly. A majority of either side, trade union or employer representatives, may requisition a special meeting of the Pension Board in exceptional circumstances.

While the statutory roles and function of the Pension Fund Sub-committee and Pension Board are separate, the normal practice is that both bodies meet at the same time to consider the same agenda, with the Chair of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee chairing the concurrent meeting. The Council's Standing Orders apply at concurrent meetings. The aim is to engender a positive and proactive partnership culture where in practice the two bodies act as one.

If the Pension Fund Sub-committee and Pension Board cannot reach joint agreement on any matter the process for resolving any differences between the two bodies is as follows:

- In the first instance, if at least half of the members of the Pension Board agree, then the Pension Board can defer a decision of the Pension Fund Sub-committee for further consideration if any of the defined grounds are met. Whilst this process is undertaken the decision of the Pension Fund Sub-committee is still competent.
- If there is no agreement after the matter has been referred back to the Pension Fund Sub-committee, the decision of the Pension Fund Sub-committee stands and the difference in view between the Pension Board and the Pension Fund Sub-committee will be published in the form of a joint secretarial report on the Pension Fund website, included in the Pension Fund annual report and notified to the Scottish LGPS Advisory Board, and

- The Scottish LGPS Scheme Advisory Board may also consider and take a view on the matter and, if considered appropriate, provide advice to the Scheme Manager or the Pension Board in relation to the matter.

### **Administration and Financial Management of the Fund**

The Council's Head of Finance is the Officer with responsibility to ensure proper administration of the Council's financial affairs in terms of Section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The Head of Finance is responsible for:

- The financial accounting of the Fund.
- The preparation of the Pension Fund Annual Report.
- Being the principal advisor on management of investments to the Council in its capacity as Trustee to the Fund and as the Fund's Administering Authority.

The day-to-day management of the investment activities of the Fund is administered by the Corporate Finance Team within the Chief Executive's Service.

The pension benefits policy oversight and day-to-day administration for the Fund is administered by the Pensions Team within the Chief Executive's Service.

The annual financial statement of the Fund is subject to external audit. The auditors are appointed by Audit Scotland, as part of the process to ensure that public funds are properly safeguarded and accounted for.

### **Professional Advisers and External Service Providers**

Hymans Robertson is appointed to act as Actuary and Investment Consultants to the Fund. The services provided include advice on investment strategy, funding level and actuarial valuations. Hymans Robertson also provides independent performance measurement services for the Fund and has responsibility for measuring and reporting on the performance of the Fund during the year.

The Fund has appointed Baillie Gifford as investment manager who has responsibility for the selection, retention and disposal of individual investments. Where appropriate, they also implement the Sub-Committee's policy in relation to socially responsible investment and corporate governance.

Following an independent review of the existing investment strategy undertaken in financial year 2018-2019 by Hymans Robertson, plans are being progressed to move away from the current 100% asset allocation to a single fund manager.

The Bank of New York Mellon is the Fund's appointed global custodian and is responsible for the safekeeping of the assets including the processing of transactions and submission of tax claims.

### **Internal and External Control and Review**

The system of internal financial control operates within a financial strategy and is based on a framework of delegation and accountability for officers and elected members embodied in procedural standing orders, financial regulations, scheme of

delegation, scheme of administration, committees and sub-committees. It is supported by a framework of administrative procedures including the segregation of duties, and regular financial management information. In particular this includes:

- Comprehensive accounting systems that record income and expenditure for both member and investment activities.
- Regular reviews of investment reports that measure investment returns against agreed benchmarks.
- Regular reviews of investment manager reports that measure performance against agreed targets.
- Independent performance reviews of the Fund by the Fund's investment consultant and performance monitoring services provider.

The system can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

The Pension Fund responds to findings and recommendations of external audit, scrutiny and inspection bodies and the Orkney Islands Council's independent internal audit section. The Monitoring and Audit Committee is integral to overseeing independent and objective assurance and monitoring improvements in internal control and governance.

The Pensions Administration section consists of 4 full time equivalents.

The Head of Finance (Section 95 officer) for the Council as Administering Authority is responsible for ensuring the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Pension Fund. This includes ensuring appropriate advice is given to the Pension Fund on all financial matters, keeping proper financial records and accounts, and maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.

The Chief Internal Auditor (CIA) reports to the Monitoring and Audit Committee and functionally to the Executive Director of Corporate Services. He is in regular contact with the Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer. The CIA provides an independent and objective internal audit annual report and assurance statement on the effectiveness of internal control, risk management and governance based on the delivery of an approved plan of systematic and continuous internal audit review of the Council's arrangements.

Given the structural size of the Council, there are common controls over Council systems and pension systems. Internal audit's work on Council systems also contributes to providing management assurance that Pension Fund operations and transactions are appropriately controlled.

### **Risk Management**

The Fund's Risk Register was last reviewed and updated at the concurrent meetings of the Pension Fund Sub-committee together with the Pensions Board on 21 November 2018. Key changes to the risk register during 2018-2019 are the incorporation of a risk matrix to clearly demonstrate the Pension Funds current

threats relative to the individual risks anticipated, and a summary and prioritisation of risks to indicate the descriptive risks ranking.

Risk awareness is embedded into the investment performance management process.

Some of the main risks identified in the last review of the risk register were as follow:

- Active investment manager underperformance relative to benchmark at aggregate level and/or the failure of investment markets(s) from economic and political instability resulting in possible liquidity/cash flow risk.
- The risk to business continuity as a result of service delivery threats and insufficient daily backups have been addressed in part, with disaster recovery plans and contingency arrangements now in place and the new administration system fully installed, however procedures to back-up IT systems are still to be fully developed. Update: the Pension system is now backed-up each day of the working week after business hours.
- Scale of Pensions team could create an over reliance on key Pension Officers and staff absence could be problematic. The specific risk has been addressed through the use of checklists, with the Pensions Manager focused on mentoring and knowledge sharing. Update: staffing levels have been increased in the Pensions team which mitigates this risk.

The full risk register is available via the following link to the Council's website:

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/pension-fund-sub-committeepension-board.htm>

### **Significant Governance Issues**

The following issues were highlighted in the Audit Report for financial year 2017-2018:

- It was noted in the Audit Report that a review of the pension system migration (the transfer of manual records to Heywood's Pensions Administration system, known as Altair) by the Council's Internal Audit service had not been possible due to delays with data migration. The data migration has now been completed and an Internal Audit review of the migration process was performed during financial year 2018-2019. This provided reasonable assurance that the process was well controlled, comprehensive and performed to a very high level of accuracy, and that the data transferred was accurate, valid and complete. There was no requirement for Internal Audit to make any recommendations following this review.
- The use of the new pension administration system and increase in staff levels provides the opportunity to develop new internal controls procedures for the Altair system to reduce the risks of errors and provide the opportunity for independent checks by more staff. An Authorisation and Approval Hierarchy, approved by the Head of Finance in September 2018, is now in place.

### **Access to Information**

Sub-committee papers, minutes and the Funds Annual Report and Accounts are available via the Council's website <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/>.

### **Opinion**

Our review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by:

- The work of Internal Audit and the professional pensions and accountancy staff within the Council.
- The External Auditor's reports.
- The Head of Finance (Section 95 Officer), whose duties include putting in place the arrangements for the proper administration of financial affairs of the Pension Fund.

The internal financial control environment was enhanced through the adoption of a Risk Register, Procedural Standing Orders and the establishment of a scheme of delegation for the Pension Fund sub-committee and supported by the Pension Board.

It is our opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal financial control systems during the year ended 31 March 2019.

**Gareth Waterson, BAcc, CA**  
Head of Finance  
17 September 2019

**Councillor James Stockan**  
Leader  
17 September 2019

**John W Mundell**  
Interim Chief Executive  
17 September 2019



## Governance Compliance Statement

The Regulations that govern the management of LGPS funds in Scotland require that a Governance Compliance Statement is published. The following compliance statement sets out the extent to which the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund governance arrangements comply with best practice.

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
<b>Structure</b>	The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of Fund assets clearly rests with the main committee established by the appointing Council.	Yes	On 17 February 2015, the Policy and Resources Committee (PRC) established a Pension Fund Sub Committee (PSC) and delegated to it the power to discharge all functions and responsibilities relating to the Council's role as administering authority for Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund (the Fund). The PSC is the main committee in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994, the Superannuation Act 1972 and the Public Services Act 2013. The PRC further agreed to establish a Pensions Board (PB) as a secondary committee to underpin the work of the main committee.
	That representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main or secondary committee established to underpin the work of the main committee.	Yes	There are no admitted bodies or deferred members represented on the PRC or PSC.  Orkney Ferries Limited an admitted body currently has a representative on the PB.  The existing membership of the PSC includes both active and pensioner members of the Orkney Island Council Pension Fund.

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
	That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.	Yes	The agreed terms of reference for operation of the PSC include the requirement to produce a formal minute of all meetings. The PSC sit at the same time as the PB allowing them to communicate with each other on the day they sit.
	That where a secondary committee or panel has been established; at least one seat of the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.	Yes	The PSC and PB sit at the same place and time to assist with the formation of a consensus. The aim is to engender a positive and proactive partnership culture where in practice the two bodies act as one.
<b>Representation</b>	a) That all key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented within the Pensions Board. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employing authorities including non-scheme employers, e.g. admitted bodies;</li> <li>• Scheme members including deferred and pensioner scheme members</li> <li>• Where appropriate, independent professional observers, and</li> <li>• Expert advisors (on an ad-hoc basis).</li> </ul>	Yes	In accordance with the terms of reference for the operation of the PB, membership comprises 8 members; four trade union representatives and four employer representatives.  Input from Hymans Robertson as expert advisors to the Pension Fund is routinely sought on policy matters.
	b) That where lay members sit on a main or secondary committee, they are treated equally in terms of access to papers and meetings, training and are given full opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process, with or without voting rights.	Yes	In accordance with the terms of reference, all members of the PB and PSC are treated equally. The two bodies sit at the same time to facilitate equal opportunity.

<b>Principle</b>		<b>Full Compliance</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Selection and Role of Lay Members</b>	a) That committee or panel members are made fully aware of the status, role and function that they are required to perform on either a main or secondary committee.	Yes	At the inaugural meeting of the Pensions Sub Committee and Pensions Board, held concurrently on 24 April 2015, respective Terms of Reference were duly approved for each body. In addition an induction programme has been provided to members. Induction training was provided to new members following the local elections in May 2017.
	b) That at the start of any meeting, committee members are invited to declare any financial or pecuniary interest related to specific matters on the agenda.	Yes	The declaration of Member's interests is a standard item on the agenda of the PSC and PB.
<b>Voting</b>	The policy of individual administering authorities on voting rights is clear and transparent, including the justification for not extending voting rights to each body or group represented on main LGPS committees.	Yes	Full voting rights are given to all members of the PSC.
<b>Training/ Facility Time/ Expenses</b>	a) That in relation to the way in which statutory and related decisions are taken by the administering authority, there is a clear policy on training, facility time and reimbursement of expenses in respect of members involved in the decision-making process.	Yes	The CIPFA Code of Practice for Public Sector Pensions Finance Knowledge and Skills, together with a Knowledge and Skills Framework to support the Code has been adopted as the basis for training and development of members and officers involved in Pension Fund financial matters. CIPFA Framework Members' training is funded from the Council's Pension Fund.

Principle	Full Compliance	Comments
		The training policy was approved in 2015/16, and is aligned to CIPFA's Knowledge and Skills Framework.
	Yes	All members are treated equally under the training policy.
	Yes	<p>The Administering Authority of the Pension Fund Sub-committee and Pension Board has to date considered the training requirements of committee members collectively and provided training on that basis. A log has been established of all training provided to members and this is monitored and reported as appropriate.</p> <p>The annual training plan for 2019-20 was approved by the PSC at its meeting of 27 February 2019.</p>
<b>Meeting Frequency</b>	Yes	The PSC and PB are scheduled to meet at least four times a year.
	Yes	The PSC and PB are scheduled to meet at least four times a year.
	N/A	On 17 February 2015, the PSC agreed to establish a Pensions Board (PB), with representatives from Trade Unions and admitted bodies.

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
	which the interests of key stakeholders can be represented.		
<b>Access</b>	That subject to any rules in the Council's constitution, all members of main and secondary committees or panels have equal access to committee papers, documents and advice that falls to be considered at meetings of the main committee.	Yes	All members are treated equally.
<b>Scope</b>	That administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.	Yes	The PSC deal with all matters relating to both the administration and investment of the Pension Fund. The PSC is formed from members of the Policy and Resources Committee of the Council.
<b>Publicity</b>	That administering authorities have published details of their governance arrangements in such a way that stakeholders, can express an interest in wanting to be part of those arrangements.	Yes	The Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund governance documents are available upon request.  The Council as administering authority communicates regularly with employers and scheme members.

**Gareth Waterson, BAcc, CA**

Head of Finance

17 September 2019

**Councillor James Stockan**

Leader

17 September 2019

**John W Mundell**

Interim Chief Executive

17 September 2019

## Annual Accounts 2018-2019

### Pension Fund Account

The Pension Fund Account sets out all income and expenditure of the Pension Fund.

2017-2018 £'000		2018-2019 £'000	Notes
	<b>Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the scheme</b>		
9,956	Contributions Receivable	10,126	<b>5</b>
532	Transfers In	777	<b>6</b>
10,488		10,903	
(6,808)	Benefits Payable	(7,376)	<b>5</b>
(1,117)	Payments to and on account of leavers	(701)	<b>7</b>
(7,925)		(8,077)	
<b>2,563</b>	<b>Net additions from dealings with members</b>	<b>2,826</b>	
(1,520)	Management Costs	(1,709)	<b>18</b>
<b>1,043</b>	<b>Net additions including management expenses</b>	<b>1,117</b>	
	<b>Return on Investments</b>		
6,089	Investment Income	8,099	<b>8</b>
24,071	Profits/(losses) on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	15,244	<b>9,12</b>
(101)	Taxes on Income	(146)	
<b>30,059</b>	<b>Net Return/(Loss) on Investments</b>	<b>23,197</b>	
<b>31,102</b>	<b>Net increase in the net assets available for benefits during the year</b>	<b>24,314</b>	
335,290	Opening Net Assets of the Scheme	366,392	
<b>366,392</b>	<b>Closing Net Assets of the Scheme</b>	<b>390,706</b>	

## Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2019

The Net Assets Statement sets out the value, as at the statement date, of all assets and current liabilities of the Fund. The net assets of the Fund (assets less current liabilities) represent the funds available to provide for pension benefits as at 31 March 2019.

31 March 2018 £'000		31 March 2019 £'000	Notes
	<b>Managed Funds</b>		
219,885	Equities	240,799	
40,436	Fixed Income	42,009	
99,999	Pooled Investment Vehicles	101,099	
5,466	Cash Equivalents	6,482	
365,786		390,389	10
	<b>Current Assets</b>		
60	Cash Balances	3	
86	Contributions due	286	
1,089	Current Debtors	1,026	
1,235		1,315	16
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
(629)	Current Creditors	(998)	17
<b>606</b>	<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>317</b>	
<b>366,392</b>	<b>Net Assets of the Scheme available to fund benefits at the year end</b>	<b>390,706</b>	

The Fund Account and Net Assets Statement do not show any liability to pay pensions or other benefits in the future. The liability to pay pensions is detailed in Note 4 Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits.

The audited accounts were issued on 17 September 2019.

**Gareth Waterson, BAcc, CA**  
Head of Finance  
17 September 2019

## Notes to the Annual Accounts

### 1. The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a funded defined benefit scheme, established under the Superannuation Act 1972, with pensioners receiving index-linked pensions. It is administered by Orkney Islands Council in accordance with The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (as amended) and was contracted out of the State Second Pension until the 6 April 2016 when the new State Pension was introduced. The Pension Fund is subject to a triennial valuation by an independent, qualified Actuary, whose report indicates the required future employer's contributions.

### 2. Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

Local authorities have a duty under section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to observe proper accounting practices.

The accounts for the Fund have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018-2019 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

### 3. Statement of Accounting Policies

A summary of the more important accounting policies has been set out below:

#### 3.1. Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the year end. However, the actuarial position does account for such obligations. This is disclosed in Note 4 of the accounts and should be read in conjunction with the Actuarial Statement (Annex 2). The going concern concept assumes that the Pension Fund will continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

#### 3.2. Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values represent the amounts receivable and payable during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the LGPS Regulations.

Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when receivable/payable, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Transfers to The Fund from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receivables basis and are included in Transfers in.

Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

#### 3.3. Financial Instruments

##### Investments

Investment assets are included in the financial statements on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this



date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised in the fund account.

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at a fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 13 (see note 13). For the purposes of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the fund has adopted the classification guidelines recommended in Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures. Market values, which are assessed as follows:

- 3.3.1. UK quoted securities are valued at bid market prices at close of business on the last working day of the financial year.
- 3.3.2. Overseas securities are valued at bid market prices from the relevant overseas stock exchanges converted at closing rates of exchange on the last day of the financial year.
- 3.3.3. Pooled investments, which comprise the fund manager's unit trusts and open-ended investment companies, are valued at bid market prices on the last working day of the financial year as supplied by the fund manager.

Since Investments are all held for trading, disclosure in the accounts is at fair value through profit and loss. Fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets.

#### **3.4. Recognition of Income and Expenditure**

Activity is accounted for in the year in which it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- 3.4.1. Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by Orkney Islands Council) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- 3.4.2. Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.
- 3.4.3. Where income and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Net Assets Statement.

#### **3.5. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in less than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

#### **3.6. Administrative Overheads**

The Pensions Section of Orkney Islands Council is responsible for administering the Pension Fund. The Section receives an allocation of the overheads of the Council which is based on its direct cost and the amount of central services consumed.

### **3.7. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors**

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Fund's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

### **3.8. Investment Income**

Income from fixed interest, index linked securities and other interest receivable is taken into account on an accruals basis. Income from all other marketable securities is taken into account on the date when stocks are quoted ex-dividend.

### **3.9. Foreign Currency**

Income and expenditure arising from transactions denominated in a foreign currency are translated into £ sterling at the exchange rate in operation on the date on which the transaction occurred. Where the transaction is to be settled at a contracted rate, that rate is used.

### **3.10. Investment Management Expenses**

Investment management expenses consist of direct charges in line with management agreements, management charges levied on pooled funds and administrative charges.

### **3.11. Acquisition Cost**

Any acquisition costs of investments are included in the book cost of the investment.

### **3.12. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies** **Pension Fund Liability**

The Pension Fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with International Accounting Standard IAS 19. The judgements which have the greatest impact on pension fund liabilities are those around the discount rate, the inflation rate and the life expectancy of members.

### **3.13. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation and uncertainty**

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Pension Fund about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because such factors cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimate. The items in the financial statements at 31 March 2019

for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at year ended 31 March 2019	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount £m
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	11%	39
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	7
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	9%	32

### 3.14. Accounting Standards that were issued but not yet adopted

The Code requires the disclosure of information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. Six standards have been issued but not yet adopted:

- IAS 40 (Investment Property: Transfer of Investment Property).
- IFRS 12 (Disclosure of Interests on Other Entities: Clarification of the Scope of the Standard).
- IAS 28 (Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures: Measuring an Associate or Joint Venture at Fair Value).
- IFIC 22 (Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration).
- IFRIC 23 (Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments)
- IFRS 9 (Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation).

We do not expect any of these to impact on the Pension Fund.

### 3.15. Events after the Balance Sheet

Events after the net assets statement date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- 3.8.1. those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.

3.8.2. those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

The draft annual accounts were signed by the Head of Finance on 17 June 2019. Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue have not been reflected in the financial statements. Material events between the balance sheet date and the date of signing have been considered and where necessary reflected in the financial statements.

#### 4. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The Fund's actuary undertakes a valuation of the Fund's liabilities to pay future retirement benefits. This is calculated in line with the IAS 19 every year using the same base data as the triennial funding valuation, rolled forward to the current financial year and taking into account changes in membership numbers and updated assumptions.

In order to assess the value of liabilities on this basis, the actuary has updated the actuarial assumptions (set out below) from those used for funding purposes (see Annex 2).

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits at 31 March 2019 was £391m (2018: £341m).

This figure is used for statutory accounting purposes by Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund and complies with the requirements of IAS 26 Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans. The IAS 26 valuation is not used for calculations undertaken for funding purposes and setting contributions payable to the Fund and has no validity in other circumstances.

On the 27th June 2019, the Supreme Court denied a request from the UK Government to appeal an earlier court ruling that transitional protections in the Judges and Firefighter pension schemes were deemed unlawful on the grounds of age discrimination. There is still much uncertainty surrounding the impact this will have on the Local Government Pension Scheme, and the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund in particular, but based on current assumptions the Fund's actuary has estimated that scheme liabilities for active members will increase by approximately £1.1M. This position has been duly recognised in the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits which is disclosed above.

#### Financial Assumptions

Year ended	31 March 2018 % p.a.	31 March 2019 % p.a.
Inflation/Pensions Increase Rate	2.4%	2.5%
Salary Increase Rate	2.8%	2.9%
Discount Rate	2.7%	2.4%

Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary and are summarised in Note 28.

## Longevity Assumptions

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	21.7 years	23.8 years
Future Pensioners*	23.3 years	26.2 years

\*Future pensioners are assumed to be currently aged 45.

## Commutation assumption

An allowance is included for future retirees to elect to take 50% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre-April 2009 service and 75% of the maximum tax-free cash for post-April 2009 service.

## 5. Analysis of Contributions Receivable and Benefits Payable

### Contributions Receivable

	2017-2018			2018-2019		
	Orkney Islands Council £000	Admitted Bodies £000		Orkney Islands Council £000	Admitted Bodies £000	
Employee Contributions	2,120	281	2,401	2,252	278	2,530
Employer Contributions	6,702	828	7,530	6,703	775	7,478
Strain Costs	25	0	25	109	9	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,847</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>9,956</b>	<b>9,064</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>10,126</b>

### Benefits Payable

	2017-2018			2018-2019		
	Orkney Islands Council £000	Admitted Bodies £000		Orkney Islands Council £000	Admitted Bodies £000	
Pensions Paid	4,444	383	4,827	5,083	183	5,266
Dependants Pensions	368	13	381	403	18	421
Lump Sums Paid	1,343	108	1,451	1,255	25	1,280
Death Grants Paid	149	0	149	276	133	409
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>6,808</b>	<b>7,017</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>7,376</b>

Orkney Islands Council, the administering authority, is at present the only scheduled body.

## 6. Transfers In

Transfers in to the scheme during 2018-2019 were £0.8m (2017-18: £0.5m). This represents the total of transfer values in respect of individual members joining the scheme.

## 7. Payments to and on Account of Leavers

2017-2018 £'000		2018-2019 £'000
(24)	Contributions Returned	(26)
(1,090)	Individual Transfers to other Schemes	(675)
(3)	State Scheme Premiums	0
<b>(1,117)</b>		<b>(701)</b>

## 8. Investment income

	2017-2018 £'000	2018-2019 £'000
<b><u>Equities</u></b>		
Equities UK	1,248	1,649
Equities Global	<u>1,980</u>	<u>2,379</u>
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>4,028</b>
<b><u>Fixed Income</u></b>		
UK Bonds	513	522
Overseas Bonds	0	0
Index Linked	<u>275</u>	<u>395</u>
<b>Total Fixed Income</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>917</b>
<b>Pooled Investment Vehicle - Multi-Asset Growth</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1656</b>
<b>Pooled Investment Vehicle - Diversified Growth</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>1,484</b>
<b>Cash and Deposits</b>	<b><u>10</u></b>	<b><u>14</u></b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,089</b>	<b>8,099</b>

## 9. Change in the Market Value of Investments

	2017-2018 £'000	2018-2019 £'000
Realised	16,205	16,842
Unrealised	7,866	(1,598)
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,071</b>	<b>15,244</b>

## 10. Analysis of Investments

As at 31 March 2019 the market value of the assets under management is as follows:

	31 March 2018 £'000	31 March 2019 £'000
<b>Baillie Gifford</b>		
<b><u>Equities</u></b>		
Equities UK	37,175	43,457
Equities Global	181,327	196,067
Equities Small Companies	1,383	1,275
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>219,885</b>	<b>240,799</b>
<b><u>Fixed Income</u></b>		
UK Bonds	20,272	21,021
UK Government Gilts	20,164	20,988
<b>Total Fixed Income</b>	<b>40,436</b>	<b>42,009</b>
<b>Pooled Investment Vehicle - Multi-Asset Growth</b>	<b>56,025</b>	<b>56,731</b>
<b>Pooled Investment Vehicle - Diversified Growth</b>	<b>43,974</b>	<b>44,368</b>
<b>Cash and Deposits</b>	<b>5,466</b>	<b>6,482</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>365,786</b>	<b>390,389</b>

All investments are publicly traded on recognised stock exchanges.

## 11. Reconciliation of Movements in Investments

Investments increased in value to £390.4m as at 31 March 2019 (31 March 2018: £365.8m) a movement of £24.6m.

During 2018-2019, sales of investments totalled £39.5m and purchases totalled £47.8m. Transaction costs are included in the cost of purchases and sales proceeds.

The following individual investments exceed 5% of the total value of the net assets of the Pension Fund at 31 March 2019.

	2018 £'000	2019 £'000
Baillie Gifford & Company – (Multi Asset Growth)	56,025	56,731
Baillie Gifford & Company – (Diversified Growth Fund)	43,974	44,368
Baillie Gifford & Company – (Act Index-Linked Gilts)	20,164	20,988

## 12. Investment Transactions

2018-2019	Opening Market Value	Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Closing Market Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Investment Assets</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Managed Fund Investments</b>					
Equities	218,502	41,220	(35,256)	15,058	239,524
UK Bonds	20,272	21	(5)	733	21,021
Pooled Investment – British Small Companies	1,382	0	0	(107)	1,275
Pooled Investment – Fixed Interest	20,165	5,102	(4,223)	(56)	20,988
Pooled Investment – Multi-Asset Growth	56,025	0	0	706	56,731
Pooled Investment – Diversified Growth	43,974	1,484	0	(1,090)	44,368
<b>Total Transactions</b>	<b>360,320</b>	<b>47,827</b>	<b>(39,484)</b>	<b>15,244</b>	<b>383,907</b>
<b>Cash Deposits</b>	<b>5,466</b>				<b>6,482</b>
<b>Internal Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>606</b>				<b>317</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,392</b>				<b>390,706</b>

2017-2018	Opening Market Value	Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Closing Market Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Investment Assets</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Managed Funds</b>					
Equities	194,980	35,573	(33,320)	21,269	218,502
UK Bonds	19,607	4,399	(3,322)	(412)	20,272
Pooled Investment – British Small Companies	1,330	18	0	34	1,382
Pooled Investment – Fixed Interest	19,869	276	0	20	20,165
Pooled Investment – Multi-Asset Growth	49,493	4,442	0	2,090	56,025
Pooled Investment – Diversified Growth	39,930	2,975	0	1,069	43,974
<b>Total Transactions</b>	<b>325,209</b>	<b>47,683</b>	<b>(36,642)</b>	<b>24,070</b>	<b>360,320</b>
<b>Cash Deposits</b>	<b>9,400</b>				<b>5,466</b>
<b>Internal Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>681</b>				<b>606</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>335,290</b>				<b>366,392</b>



### 13. Fair Value Hierarchy

Assets and liabilities have been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair value.

#### Level 1

Assets and liabilities at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as Level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted bonds and quoted unit trusts.

#### Level 2

Assets and liabilities at Level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available, for example where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value based on observable data.

#### Level 3

Assets and liabilities at Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instruments' valuation is not based on observable market data.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets of the Fund, grouped into Levels 1 and 2, based on the level at which the fair value is observable. The Fund has no Level 3 investments.

Fair Value Through Profit and Loss	31 March 2018 £000's	31 March 2019 £000's
Level 1: Quoted Market Price	244,240	267,027
Level 2: Using Observable Inputs	121,546	123,362
<b>Net Investment Assets</b>	<b>365,786</b>	<b>390,389</b>

### Basis of Valuation

The basis of valuation of each class is set out below. There have been no changes in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques which represents the highest and best price available at the reporting date.

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and Unobservable Inputs	Key Sensitivities Affecting the Valuations Provided
Market Quoted Investments	Level 1	Published bid market prices ruling on the final day of the accounting period.	Not required	Not required
Quoted Bonds	Level 1	Fixed interest securities are valued at a market value on current yields.	Not required	Not required
Pooled Funds - Overseas Unit Trusts and Property Funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published. Closing single price where single price is published.	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Not required

### 14. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments.

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Net Assets Statement:

Financial Instruments Balances	31 March 2018 £'000	31 March 2019 £'000
<b>Investments</b>		
Financial Assets at fair value through profit/loss	360,320	383,907
Loans and receivables - cash and cash equivalents	5,466	6,482
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>365,786</b>	<b>390,389</b>
<b>Current Assets and Liabilities</b>		
Debtors	1,235	1,315
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(629)	(998)
<b>Total Current Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>317</b>

## Income, Expenses, Gains and Losses

Financial Instruments Gains/Losses	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	Financial Assets	
	£'000	£'000
Net gains/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	24,071	15,244
Investment Income	6,089	8,099
Investment management expenses including taxation	(1,622)	(1,856)
<b>Total Investment Gains and Losses</b>	<b>28,538</b>	<b>21,487</b>

### Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets represented by investments are carried in the Net Assets Statement at their current market value (bid price), as determined by the investment manager and the global custodian, based a Fair Value Hierarchy detailed at Note 13.

## 15. Risk and Risk Management

The past year has proved to be another challenging year for investors in general, with global financial markets registering large fluctuations throughout the year.

Much of the volatility in the markets is caused by concern of a global recession returning together with ongoing uncertainty surrounding the UK's exit from the European Union and in particular the risk of a no deal. America's continued trade dispute with China and the threat of trade wars between the two countries has also caused concern in the markets.

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. Responsibility for managing the Fund's risk rests with the Pension Fund Sub-committee, revised investment strategy was approved in February 2019.

### 15.1. Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix. The objective of the Funding Strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Council and its Investment Advisors undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

### Sensitivity analysis

In consultation with the Fund's independent provider of performance and analytical data (Hymans Robertson), the Council has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the reporting period.

Asset Type	Potential Market Movement +/- (%p.a.)
UK Equities	16.6
Global Equities	16.9
UK Index-Linked Gilts (short term)	4.1
UK Index-Linked Gilts (medium term)	7.2
UK Index-Linked Gilts (long term)	9.2
UK Fixed Interest Gilts (short term)	3.2
UK Fixed Interest Gilts (medium term)	9.7
UK Fixed Interest Gilts (long term)	12.9
Diversified Growth	12.5
Cash	0.5
<b>Total Fund Volatility</b>	<b>12.0</b>

Potential price changes are determined based on the observed historical volatility of asset class returns. The potential volatilities are consistent with a one standard deviation movement in the change in value of the assets over the latest three years. Had the market price of the Fund investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits would have been as follows:

			Potential change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
Asset Type	Value	% Change	Favourable Market Movement	Unfavourable Market Movement
	£'000		£'000	£'000
UK Equities	44,732	16.6%	52,158	37,306
Global Equities	196,067	16.9%	229,202	162,932
UK Index-Linked Gilts (short term)	1,555	4.1%	1,619	1,491
UK Index-Linked Gilts (medium term)	4,275	7.2%	4,583	3,967
UK Index-Linked Gilts (long term)	15,158	9.2%	16,553	13,763
UK Fixed Interest Gilts (short term)	5,451	3.2%	5,625	5,277
UK Fixed Interest Gilts (medium term)	9,733	9.7%	10,677	8,789
UK Fixed Interest Gilts (long term)	5,837	12.9%	6,590	5,084
Diversified Growth and Multi-Asset Growth	101,099	12.5%	113,736	88,462
Cash	6,482	0.5%	6,514	6,450
<b>Total Fund Volatility</b>	<b>390,389</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>437,236</b>	<b>343,542</b>

The total Fund volatility takes into account the expected interactions between the different asset classes shown, based on the underlying volatilities and correlations of the assets, in line with mean variance portfolio theory.

### 15.2 Interest Rate Risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the Council and its Investment Advisers, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2018 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

	31 March 2018 £'000	31 March 2019 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	5,466	6,482

### Sensitivity analysis

The Council recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits.

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a 1% change in interest rates:

Asset Type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2019 £'000	Potential change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		1% Interest Movement £'000	-1% Interest Movement £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,482	64.8	(64.8)
<b>Total Change in Assets Available</b>	<b>6,482</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>(64.8)</b>

### 15.3 Currency Exposure Risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the functional currency of the Fund (£UK). The Fund is invested in equities overseas that are denominated in currencies other than £UK. The Fund also holds a low level of bonds denominated in overseas currencies.

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure at 31 March 2019:

Currency exposure - asset type	Asset value 31 March 2018 £'000	Asset value 31 March 2019 £'000
Overseas Quoted Equities	178,397	193,178
Pooled Funds - Global Basket	2,930	2,889
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,327</b>	<b>196,067</b>

### Sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with Hymans Robertson, the council considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange movements to be 10%.

A 10% fluctuation is considered reasonable based on Hymans analysis of long-term historical movements. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

A 10% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Assets exposed to currency risk	Asset values as at 31 March 2019	Potential % movement	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
	£		£	£
Overseas Quoted Equities	193,178	10.0%	212,496	173,860
<b>Total Change in Assets Available to Pay Benefits</b>	<b>193,178</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>212,496</b>	<b>173,860</b>

### 15.4 Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities. The selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

The Council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out the Fund's approach to credit risk for internally managed funds. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Council's credit criteria. The Strategy has also set limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits placed with any one class of financial institution.

The Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and the Fund has had no experience of default or uncollectable deposits over the past five financial years. The Fund's cash holding under its treasury management arrangements at 31 March 2019, including current account cash, was £0.003M. (31 March 2018: £0.060M). The Fund also held cash under its investment management arrangement. This was held with the following institutions:

	Rating (Fitch)	Balance 31 March 2019 £'000
<b>Bank current accounts</b>		
Royal Bank of Scotland	A+	3
<b>Cash held in Portfolio</b>		
Handelsbanken	AA	700
Bank of New York Mellon (BNY)	AA	4,735
HSBC UK Bank Plc	AA-	950

### 15.5 Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council therefore takes steps to ensure that the Pension Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments.

The Council has immediate access to its Pension Fund cash holdings.

The Fund defines liquid assets as assets that can be converted to cash within three months. Illiquid assets are those assets which will take longer than three months to convert into cash. As at 31 March 2019, the Fund had no illiquid assets.

### 16. Current Assets

	31 March 2018 £000's	31 March 2019 £000's
Income Due	514	624
Recoverable Tax	295	313
Cash Balances	60	3
Transfer values receivable	4	89
Contributions due	85	286
Orkney Islands Council	274	0
Sundry Debtors	3	0
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>1,315</b>

### 17. Current Liabilities

	31 March 2018 £000's	31 March 2019 £000's
Orkney Islands Council	0	619
Sundry Creditors	340	315
Transfer values payable	191	0
Benefits Payable	98	64
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>998</b>

### 18. Management Costs

	2017-2018 £'000	2018-2019 £'000
<b>Investment Management Expenses</b>		
Investment managers fees	1,055	1,189
Custodian fees	43	44
Other Investment management expenses	7	8
Stamp Duty	13	37
Other Transaction Taxes and Levies	20	11
Broker Commission	31	38
<b>Total Investment Management Expenses</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>1,327</b>
<b>Administration Costs</b>		
Staff time and Support allocations	<u>256</u>	<u>286</u>
<b>Total Administration Costs</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>286</b>
<b>Governance</b>		
Audit costs	20	21
Professional fees	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>
<b>Total Governance Costs</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>1,709</b>

## 19. Code of Transparency

The Code of Transparency enables a greater understanding of the investment process and better cost management through the fund managers disclosure of transaction costs.

Total transaction costs for each asset class are detailed below:

2018-2019	Transaction Taxes £	Broker Commission £	Implicit Costs £	Indirect Transaction Costs £	Total Transaction Costs £
Equities	47,613	38,029	18,934	0	104,576
Bonds	0	0	(18)	0	(18)
Pooled Funds	0	0	0	3,416	3,416
Foreign Exchange	0	0	2,049	0	2,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,613</b>	<b>38,029</b>	<b>20,965</b>	<b>3,416</b>	<b>110,023</b>

2017-2018	Transaction Taxes £	Broker Commission £	Implicit Costs £	Indirect Transaction Costs £	Total Transaction Costs £
Equities	32,638	31,360	71,223	0	135,221
Bonds	0	0	(4,232)	0	(4,232)
Pooled Funds	0	0	75	6,187	6,262
Foreign Exchange	0	0	2,638	0	2,638
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,638</b>	<b>31,360</b>	<b>69,704</b>	<b>6,187</b>	<b>139,889</b>

The nature of the transaction costs groups are as follows:

- Transaction Taxes – includes stamp duty and any other financial transaction taxes.
- Broker Commissions – payments for execution services, including exchange fees, settlement fees and clearing fees.
- Implicit Costs – indirect costs associated with buying and selling securities, being an estimate of market impact.
- Indirect Transaction Costs – transaction costs incurred within pooled funds when they buy and sell their underlying investments.

In addition to the transaction costs, the portfolio has incurred indirect fees of £250,946 (2017-18 £284,570) paid from the Net Asset Value of the pooled funds.

## 20. Audit Fees

In 2018-2019 the agreed audit fee for the year was £21,000 (2017-18 £20,000).

## 21. Agency Arrangements

The Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund pays discretionary awards to former employees of Orkney Islands Council. The amounts paid are not included within the Fund Account but are provided as a service and fully reclaimed from the Council. The total amount of these payments was £265k in 2018-2019 and £267k in 2017-2018.

Members of The Fund who elected before 1 April 2008 to purchase added years of membership can continue to do so unless the member elects to cease the contract. Administration of added years' contracts is carried out by the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund on behalf of Orkney Islands Council. Costs borne by the fund relating



to added years are incorporated into the overall administration cost and are immaterial in value.

## **22. Statement of Investment Principles and Funding Strategy Statement**

The Council as Administering Authority approved its current Statement of Investment Principles in November 2018. The Statement defines the Fund's operational framework insofar as investments are concerned. It is reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to reflect the needs of the Fund and the views of its stakeholders.

The Funding Strategy Statement defines how the Fund intends to meet its financial obligations and was effective from 10 May 2018.

Both these documents are available on the Council website under the related download section [here](#), and are also available on request from the Council's Head of Finance.

## **23. Investment Management Arrangements**

The Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund investments are managed on an active basis by external fund manager Baillie Gifford.

From the 1 April 2017 the benchmark is a fund specific benchmark which means managed investment funds are measured against a range of indices reflecting the weighting or concentration of individual asset classes within the approved investment strategy. The target is to outperform the bespoke benchmark over rolling five-year periods.

## **24. Stock Lending**

In accordance with the Statement of Investment Principles 2018, stock lending is not permitted within any of its segregated investment mandates. As at 31 March 2019 no stock had been released to a third party under a stock lending arrangement.

## **25. Related Party Transactions**

Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund is administered by Orkney Islands Council. The Council incurred costs of £0.286m (2017-18: £0.256m) in relation to administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also the single largest employer of members of the Pension Fund and contributed £6.81m to the fund in 2018-2019 (2017-18: £6.73m). With the exception of the year end creditor balance shown at Note 17 all monies owing to and from the Fund were paid in the year.

The Fund had a balance due to Orkney Islands Council of £0.619m as at 31 March 2019 (The fund had a balance due from Orkney Islands Council of £0.274m as at 31 March 2018).

All the members of the Pensions Sub-Committee and the members of the Pensions Board are active members of the pension scheme. Each Councillor is required to declare any financial or pecuniary interest related to specific matters on the agenda at each meeting

The employees who hold key positions in the financial management of the Pension Fund; and their financial relationship with the fund (expressed as cash-equivalent transfer values) are set out below:

	Accrued pension 2017-2018		Accrued pension 2018-2019	
	Pension £	Lump Sum £	Pension £	Lump Sum £
Chief Executive	44,453	81,211	47,391	82,500
Head of Finance / Section 95 Officer	31,931	51,930	33,965	51,930

## 26. Membership Details

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), member contributions are paid on a tiered basis, the contribution rate being determined by the amount of salary falling into each earnings tier.

### Eligibility to join the scheme

Orkney Islands Council employees with a contract for 3 months duration or more are automatically entered into the LGPS. Employees with a contract of less than 3 months duration will be automatically enrolled into the LGPS if they satisfy the automatic enrolment criteria, however they can opt in if they do not meet the automatic enrolment criteria.

A person employed by a community admission body or a person employed by a transferee admission body is eligible to be a member if the person, or class of employees to which the person belongs, is designated in the admission agreement by the body as being eligible for membership of the Scheme.

If they satisfy the above statement they should be automatically entered into the LGPS if they have a contract for 3 months or more otherwise they can opt in if they have a contract for less than 3 months.

Employees of community admission bodies and transferee admission bodies are also enrolled into the Local Government Pension Scheme if they satisfy the auto enrolment criteria.

The following table gives details of the various bodies' membership.

Membership Details at 31/03/2019	Active	Deferred	Pensioner	Dependant
Orkney Islands Council	1,818	869	796	134
Orkney Islands Property Development	2	4	4	0
Pickaquoy Centre Trust	51	29	7	0
Orkney Enterprise	4	4	3	0
Orkney Tourist Board (Visit Scotland)	0	5	3	0
Orkney Ferries Limited	94	47	23	4
<b>Summary of Members</b>				
OIC	1,818	869	796	134
Admitted Bodies	151	89	40	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>138</b>

The employees of Orkney Towage Company Limited were assimilated into the Orkney Islands Council's workforce on 1 April 2018 which resulted in the company becoming an exiting employer from the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund and triggering the requirement to prepare a cessation valuation in accordance with

Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

Orkney Islands Council had agreed to act as guarantor in the event of Orkney Towage Company Limited being unable to pay any deficit payment arising from the cessation valuation. The guarantee signed on 23 July 2018 from Orkney Islands Council allowed the Towage Company's notional assets and liabilities in the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund to be transferred to Orkney Islands Council should the Towage Company have insufficient funds to meet the deficit payment.

## **27. Scheme Arrangements**

Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme (CARE) – LGPS 2015

A number of important changes have been made to the LGPS from 1 April 2015. The changes, which have been agreed between the Trade Unions, COSLA and the Scottish Government, ensure that the Scheme complies with the terms of the Public Pensions Act 2013.

From 1 April 2015 the pension Scheme moved away from a final salary to a career average revalued earnings scheme (CARE).

The main changes of this scheme were:

- A move towards benefits being worked out using career average revalued earnings (CARE) rather than final salary.
- Pensions being built up at a rate of 1/49th of annual pensionable pay.
- Member's normal retirement age being linked to their own State Pension Age. Members may still be able to retire from age 60 but a reduction for early payment may apply.
- Protection of benefits for members aged 55 and over at 1 April 2012 who will be guaranteed that their benefits will not be less than they would have been if the 2015 scheme had never been introduced, and
- Benefits built up before April 2015 will continue to be calculated using actual final pensionable pay at date of leaving.

## **28. Funding and Valuation Note**

In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014, the Fund's actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years. The actuarial valuation assesses the health of the fund and provides a check that the funding strategy and assumptions used are appropriate. It also sets the future rates of contributions payable by employers. The most recent full actuarial valuation by the Fund's actuaries Hymans Robertson was to 31 March 2017. The next valuation will take place as at 31 March 2020.

The key elements of the funding policy are:

- To ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund, i.e. that sufficient funds are available to meet all pension liabilities as they fall due for payment.
- To ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible.

## Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2018/2019

- To minimise the long-term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return.
- To reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where the administering authority considers it reasonable to do so.
- To use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The aim is to maintain 100% solvency over a period of 20 years and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. Solvency is achieved when the funds held, plus future expected investment returns and contributions are sufficient to meet expected future pension benefits payable.

At the 2017 actuarial valuation, the Fund was assessed as 112.7% funded (114.4% at the March 2014 valuation). This corresponded to a surplus of £38m (2014 valuation: surplus of £29m) at that time.

The assessed Primary contribution rate for 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2021 (i.e. the rate which employers in the Fund pay) at March 2017 was 20.7%, with applied Secondary contribution rates giving the required minimum contribution rates as follows:

2018/19: 18.2%

2019/20: 17.6%

2020/21: 17.0%

In accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement the administering authority has adopted employer contributions of 18.2% for 2018-2019. The valuation of the Fund has been undertaken using a 'risk based' approach which considers how each employer's assets and liabilities may evolve over the future. The principal assumptions were:

### Financial Assumptions

Financial Assumptions	31-Mar-14	31 March 2017	
	Funding basis (% p.a.)	Funding basis (% p.a.)	Gilts basis (% p.a.)
Discount rate	5.10%	3.10%	1.40%
Price inflation	2.70%	2.40%	2.40%
Pay increases	4.50%	2.80%	2.80%
Pension increases:			
in excess of GMP	2.70%	2.40%	2.40%
post-88 GMP	2.70%	2.40%	2.40%
pre-88 GMP	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Revaluation of deferred pension	2.70%	2.40%	2.40%
Revaluation of accrued CARE pension	2.70%	2.40%	2.40%
Expenses	1.00%	0.70%	0.70%

\* GMP = guaranteed minimum pension

### **Mortality assumptions**

The mortality assumptions used and applied to all members are based on the Self-Administered Pension Schemes year of birth tables with no further improvements in lifespans estimated from 2017.

### **29. Additional Voluntary Contributions**

Under Inland Revenue rules, scheme members are permitted to make contributions towards retirement and death in service benefits in addition to those which they are required to make as members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. These contributions are known as Additional Voluntary Contributions and are treated separately from the scheme's assets under arrangement with Prudential Assurance Company Limited.

During the year, member contributions amounted to £0.469m (2017-18: £0.404m).

Members contributions are invested in a “with profits” Fund or a “deposit” Fund. During the year the value of AVC investments increased by £0.21m to £2.912m as at 31 March 2019 (2018: £2.890m) excluding the final bonus.

### **30. Contingent Liabilities and Contractual Commitments**

On 26 October 2018, The High Court ruled that Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMP) should be equalised between men and women to address the discrepancies in members' benefits arising from the contracting out of the additional state pension between 17 May 1990 and 6 April 1997. The Fund recognises the potential for liabilities arising from GMP equalisation however due to ongoing legal appeals and clarification of what has to be included it is not possible to quantify the impact this will have on the Fund at this time.

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

### **Independent auditor's report to the members of Orkney Islands Council as administering authority for Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund and the Accounts Commission**

#### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual report of Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund (the fund) for the year ended 31 March 2019 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Pension Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and notes to the annual accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 (the 2018/19 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2018/19 Code of the financial transactions of the fund during the year ended 31 March 2019 and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2018/19 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

#### **Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed under arrangements approved by the Accounts Commission on 10 April 2017. The period of total uninterrupted appointment is three years. I am independent of the fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the council. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting**

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Head of Finance has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the fund's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### **Risks of material misstatement**

I have reported in a separate Annual Audit Report, which is available from the Audit Scotland website, the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my conclusions thereon.

### **Responsibilities of the Head of Finance and Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund Sub Committee for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Head of Finance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Head of Finance is responsible for assessing the fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

The Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund Sub Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities) This description forms part of my auditor's report.

## **Other information in the annual report**

The Head of Finance is responsible for the other information in the annual report. The other information comprises the information other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission to the extent explicitly stated later in this report.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read all the other information in the annual report and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Report on other requirements**

### **Opinions on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003;
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016); and
- the information given in the Governance Compliance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2018.

### **Matters on which I am required to report by exception**

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.



### **Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities**

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

### **Use of my report**

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Gillian Woolman MA FCA CPFA  
Audit Director  
Audit Scotland  
4th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

17 September 2019

## **Annex 1 - Scheduled and Admitted Bodies**

### **Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund**

#### **Scheduled Bodies**

- Orkney Islands Council.

#### **Admitted Bodies**

##### **Active Admitted Bodies**

- Orkney Tourist Board (Visit Scotland).
- Orkney Ferries Limited
- Orkney Enterprise
- Pickaquoy Centre Trust
- Orkney Islands Property Development Limited

## **Annex 2 – Actuarial Statement for 2018-2019**

### **Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund (the Fund)**

This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 55(1)(d) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014. It has been prepared at the request of the Administering Authority of the Fund for the purpose of complying with the aforementioned regulation.

### **Description of Funding Policy**

The funding policy is set out in the Administering Authority's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), dated March 2018. In summary, the key funding principles are as follows:

- To ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund, using a prudent long-term view. This will ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all members'/ dependants' benefits as they fall due for payment.
- To ensure that employer contribution rates are reasonably stable where appropriate.
- To minimise the long-term cash contributions which employers need to pay to the Fund, by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy which balances risk and return (NB this will also minimise the costs to be borne by Council Tax payers).
- To reflect the different characteristics of different employers in determining contribution rates. This involves the Fund having a clear and transparent funding strategy to demonstrate how each employer can best meet its own liabilities over future years.
- To use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the Council Tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The FSS sets out how the Administering Authority seeks to balance the conflicting aims of securing the solvency of the Fund and keeping employer contributions stable. For employers whose covenant was considered by the Administering Authority to be sufficiently strong, contributions have been stabilised to return their portion of the Fund to full funding over 20 years if the valuation assumptions are borne out. Asset-liability modelling has been carried out which demonstrate that if these contribution rates are paid and future contribution changes are constrained as set out in the FSS, there is at least a 66% chance that the Fund will return to full funding over 20 years.

### **Funding Position as at the last formal funding valuation**

The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 60 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014 was as at 31 March 2017. This valuation revealed that the Fund's assets, which at 31 March 2017 were valued at £335 million, were sufficient to meet 112.7% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting surplus at the 2017 valuation was £38 million.

Each employer had contribution requirements set at the valuation, with the aim of achieving full funding within a time horizon and probability measure as per the FSS. Individual employers' contributions for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021 were set in accordance with the Fund's funding policy as set out in its FSS.

### Principal Actuarial Assumptions and Method used to value the liabilities

Full details of the methods and assumptions used are described in the 2017 valuation report.

#### Method

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date, and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth and inflation to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

#### Assumptions

A market-related approach was taken to valuing the liabilities, for consistency with the valuation of the Fund assets at their market value.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2017 valuation were as follows:

Financial assumptions	31-Mar-17
Discount rate	3.1%
Pay increases	2.8%
Price inflation/Pension increases	2.4%

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumption was based on the Fund's Vita Curves alongside future improvements based on the CMI 2016 model with an allowance for smoothing of recent mortality experience and a long-term rate of improvement of 1.25% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	21.7 years	23.8 years
Future Pensioners*	23.3 years	26.2 years

\*Currently aged 45.

Copies of the 2017 valuation report and Funding Strategy Statement are available on request from Orkney Islands Council, Administering Authority to the Fund.

#### Experience over the period since 31 March 2017

Since the last formal valuation, real bond yields have fallen placing a higher value on the liabilities but there have been positive asset returns over the 2 years. Both events are of broadly similar magnitude with regards to the impact on the funding position.

## Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2018/2019

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2020. The Funding Strategy Statement will also be reviewed at that time.

### **Julie West FFA**

For and on behalf of Hymans Robertson LLP

May 2019

Hymans Robertson LLP

20 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6DB

## **Annex 3 - Glossary of Terms**

### **Active Management**

An investment management style that seeks to outperform by way of self-selected decisions on stock choice, timing of market incursions, or asset allocation. Compare this with Passive Management.

### **Asset Allocation**

The division of the Fund's assets between different classes of assets, for example, UK Equities, Japanese Equities, UK Bonds. In the long run the asset allocation choices should support the Fund's strategic financial objectives. In the short term tactical changes might be made to achieve short- term advantage.

### **Balanced Management**

An arrangement under which investments are spread over a range of asset classes at the manager's discretion. The manager controls investments over as many classes as are available under the Fund's overall strategy. Compare this with specialist management.

### **Growth Manager**

An investment manager who fundamentally believes in picking stocks that he believes will achieve an above-average growth in profits. This is sometimes caricatured as buying stock irrespective of price because the price will rise. Compare this with value manager.

### **Mandate**

An agreement between an investment manager and his client as to how investments are to be managed, specifying whatever targets and investment limitations are to apply.

### **Passive Management**

A style of investment management that seeks performance equal to market returns or to some appropriate index. Such investment entails a more mechanical approach to asset allocation and stock selection because such decisions are largely dictated by general market shifts rather than individual manager discretion. Compare this with active management.

### **Pooled Fund**

A fund in which a number of investors hold units rather than owning the underlying assets. This is a useful way for smaller funds to diversify investments without exposing them to undue risks. Unit Trusts are pooled funds as are Open-ended Investment Companies. Compare this with segregated fund.

### **Return**

The value of capital enhancement and income received by a fund in a year, expressed as a percentage of the opening value of the fund. If values fall "Return" would be negative.

**Risk**

The danger or chance that returns will vary against benchmarks or targets. If risks are high the expected return should be higher still (the risk premium).

**Segregated Fund**

The management of a particular fund's assets independently of those of other funds managed by the same investment house. Compare this with a pooled fund.

**Specialist Management**

The use of a number of managers, each specialising in a particular asset class. Such managers have no say in asset allocation, being only concerned with stock selection.

**Value Manager**

A manager who selects stocks that he believes to have potential that is not reflected in the price. This is sometimes caricatured as buying stock because it is cheap. Compare this with growth manager.

**Vested/Non- Vested Obligations**

Vested obligations refer to employee benefits that are not conditional on future employment. Non- vested obligations refer to employee benefits that are conditional on future employment.

**Pension Fund Strain**

The cost to employers of the early release of pension benefits.

**Operating Surplus/Deficit**

The surplus/deficit arising from dealing with members, employers and others directly involved in the scheme.

## Additional Information

### Key Documents Online

You can find further information on our website

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/P/pension-fund-annual-reports.htm>, including the following documents:

- Annual Report and Accounts

Auditors: Audit Scotland

### Fund Advisers

Actuaries: Hymans Robertson

Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland

Investment Advisors: Hymans Robertson

Investment Custodians: Bank of New York Mellon

Investment Managers: Baillie Gifford & Co

Performance Measurement: Hymans Robertson

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) Managers: Prudential

### Contact Details

For further information and advice on administration, benefits and scheme membership please contact:

Bryan Hay Telephone: 01856873535. Extension: 2108.

Pensions Manager Email: [bryan.hay@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:bryan.hay@orkney.gov.uk)

Scheme members should have a copy of the "Employees' Guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme Administered by the Orkney Islands Council", and can obtain their own copy of an Annual Report on request or visit Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund website at: <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/>.

For further information on the Fund's Investments, please contact:

Gareth Waterson Telephone: 01856873535. Extension: 2103.

Head of Finance Email: [gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk)

Colin Kemp Telephone: 01856 873535. Extension: 2106.

Corporate Finance Senior Manager Email: [colin.kemp@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:colin.kemp@orkney.gov.uk)