

Minute

Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board

Wednesday, 26 February 2025, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Pension Fund Sub-committee:

Councillors Alexander G Cowie, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, Kristopher D Leask and Heather N Woodbridge.

Pension Board:

Employer Representative:

Councillor Owen Tierney, Orkney Islands Council.

Trade Union Representative:

Karen Kent (Unison).

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Pension Fund Sub-committee:

Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson.

Pension Board:

Employer Representative:

Councillor Graham A Bevan.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- Erik Knight, Head of Finance.
- Robert Adamson, Service Manager (Payroll and Pensions).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Katie Gibson, Team Manager (Finance).
- Paul Maxton, Solicitor.

Apologies

Pension Board:

Employer Representatives:

- Councillor David Dawson, Orkney Islands Council.
- Karen Ritch, Orkney Ferries Limited.

Trade Union Representatives:

- Eoin Miller (Unite).
- Eileen Swanney (Unison).

Not Present

Trade Union Representative:

- Mark Vincent (GMB).

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Alexander G Cowie.

1. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring

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

Noted:

1.1. The revenue financial summary statement in respect of service areas for which the Pension Fund Sub-committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2024, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a budget surplus position of £10,166,300.

1.2. The revenue financial detail by service area statement in respect of service areas for which the Pension Fund Sub-committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2024, attached as Annex 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

The Sub-committee scrutinised:

1.3. 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, and obtained assurance that appropriate action was being taken with regard to significant budget variances.

2. Pension Fund – Draft Budget

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

Resolved that the draft revenue budget for the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund for financial year 2025/26, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration through the budget setting process.

3. Pension Fund Training

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

Noted:

3.1. The Pension Training Record for 2024, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance.

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

3.2. That the Annual Training Plan for 2025 for members of the Pension Fund Sub-committee and the Pension Board, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

4. Pension Fund Risk Register Update

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

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the updated Risk Register relating to the Orkney Islands Council Pension Fund, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

5. Statement of Managed Funds

On the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, 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, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Sub-committee:

Scrutinised:

5.1. The investment monitoring report for the Pension Fund produced by Hymans Robertson, the Council's appointed investment advisor, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, relating to the performance of managed funds for the quarter to 31 December 2024.

5.2. The IFM Net Zero Infrastructure Fund Report for the quarter ending 31 December 2024, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

5.3. The Baillie Gifford report for the quarter ending 31 December 2024, attached as Appendix 3 to the report by the Head of Finance.

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

6. Conclusion of Meeting

At 10:41 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Alexander G Cowie.