

Pensions Committee

22 March 2017

Report title	Service Plan Monitoring 2016/17 and Quarterly Accounts December 2016	
Originating service	Pension Services	
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Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to note:

1. Performance against the Fund's key performance indicators as at the end of December 2016;
2. The forecast outturn against operating budgets as at the end of December 2016, which is an under spend of £7.3 million;
3. The quarterly accounts for the period ending 31 December 2016, which show that:
 - the value of West Midlands Pension Fund at this date was £13.7 billion, an increase of £2.0 billion from 31 March 2016;
 - the value of West Midlands ITA Pension Fund at this date was £489.7 million, an increase of £28.9 million from 31 March 2016.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on performance against key performance indicators (KPIs), the forecast outturn for the year against operating budgets and quarterly accounts as at the end of December 2016.
- 1.2 The KPIs and operating budgets were approved by the Committee on 16 March 2016 as part of the Service Plan 2016-2021, a full copy of which can be found on the Fund's website: www.wmpfonline.com.

2.0 Performance Against Medium Term Plan

- 2.1 A summary of performance against KPIs is included in Appendix A, and an update on progress against Corporate Priorities is included in Appendix B. Performance against targets for issuing retirement quotations to members was impacted in the first few months of the year by late notification of statutory increase factors and the guidance from DCLG on the implementation of these. This affected the calculation of benefits for members retiring having left service in the year to 31 March 2016.
- 2.2 In recent months, performance against this measure has improved significantly (89.3% for the period October to December), and is expected to continue to improve over the remainder of the year. Changes to other calculation factors and methodology have also, however, impacted other areas (mainly transfer quotations). The pensions administration system has now been updated and work is underway to address outstanding cases. The impact of performance will continue to be monitored closely.
- 2.3 Transfer out quotations and notification of benefits payments on death have also been impacted by the above issues during the quarter, but improvements in these were seen during the third quarter and these improvements are expected to continue for the remainder of the year.

3.0 Forecast Outturn Against Operating Budget 2016/17

3.1 The following table sets out the forecast outturn compared with the Fund's operating budget as at the end of the third quarter.

Budget Heading	Actual 2015/16 £000	Approved Budget 2016/17 £000	Forecast 2016/17 £000	Forecast Variance £000
Employees	4,226	5,405	4,924	(481)
Premises	290	294	292	(2)
Transport	63	48	21	(27)
Other Supplies and Services	523	610	688	78
Professional Fees	1,523	1,823	1,445	(378)
Communications and Computing	524	591	599	8
Support Services	448	515	515	-
Miscellaneous Income	(500)	(5)	(5)	-
Net Expenditure	7,097	9,281	8,479	(802)
External Investment Management Costs	68,585	72,800	66,302	(6,498)
Total	75,682	82,081	74,781	(7,300)
Funded by:				
West Midlands Pension Fund	74,917	81,331	74,000	(7,331)
West Midlands ITA Pension Fund	765	750	781	31 *
Total	75,682	82,081	74,781	(7,300)

* Note: the forecast variance for the ITA Pension Fund arises entirely on external investment manager fees. The charge from West Midlands Pension Fund for the administration of the ITA Fund is forecast to be in line with budget.

3.2 Forecasts have been made using a combination of reviewing spend to date and considering plans for the remainder of the financial year. A prudent approach has been taken in forecasting the cost of those plans, and the figures set out above are therefore likely to be subject to change by year-end.

3.3 The forecast under spend on employee costs (£481,000) is due to posts being vacant, or in the process of being recruited to, during the year to date.

3.4 As at the end of December 2016, investment management costs are forecast to be £6.5 million under budget, reflecting the on-going work to streamline portfolio management arrangements. However, since these are heavily influenced by market movements and investment performance, this is particularly subject to change during the remainder of the year.

3.5 Taking into account internal investment management costs and fees and other costs deducted at source by fund managers, total investment management costs are forecast to be £68.0 million, as follows:

	Actual 2015/16 £000	Forecast 2016/17 £000
External Costs:		
- Invoiced	7,383	8,417
- Deducted at Source	60,587	57,008
Total External Investment Management Costs	67,970	65,671
Internal Investment Management Costs	1,844	2,306
Total Investment Management Costs	69,814	67,977

3.6 Cost-per-member is a critical measure for the Fund of its cost-effectiveness. The following table sets out the forecast cost-per-member compared to budget, using the three standard headings specified by CIPFA: administration, oversight and governance, and investment management. These figures are stated for West Midlands Pension Fund only, reflecting the £150,000 recharge to the ITA Fund. The forecast cost-per-member is lower than budgeted for each of the three headings.

	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Budget	2016/17 Forecast
Total Administration Costs (£000)	3,310	4,186	3,928
Administration Cost per Member (£)	11.50	14.58	13.24
Total Oversight and Governance Costs (£000)	1,792	2,580	2,096
Oversight and Governance Cost per Member (£)	6.22	8.98	7.07
Number of Members	287,874*	287,166**	296,542***
Total Administration, Oversight and Governance Cost per Member (£)	17.72	23.56	20.31
Total Investment Management Costs (£000)	69,814	74,566	67,977
Investment Management Cost per Member (£)	242.52	259.66	229.23
Investment Management Cost as a Percentage of Investment Assets	0.60%	0.62%	0.50%

* As at 31 March 2016

** As estimated for purpose of 2016/17 budget preparation.

*** As at 31 December 2016

3.7 The Fund, like all public sector bodies, continues to be cost-conscious, and keeps its operating costs and procedures under continuous review.

4.0 Quarterly Accounts – West Midlands Pension Fund

4.1 Appendix C provides a Fund Account for the nine months ending 31 December 2016, and a Net Assets Statement as at that date.

4.2 The Net Assets Statement provides a value for the Fund at 31 December 2016 of £13.7 billion. This is an increase of £2.0 billion from the 31 March 2016 value.

4.3 These quarterly accounts have been prepared using a number of key assumptions, which are set out below:

- Past Service Deficit Contributions for the year have been recognised in full in the first quarter (meaning that the contributions income shown in the Fund Account is more than three quarters of the total amount that will be due for the year);
- Management expenses have been calculated on an accruals basis, being equal to three quarters of the forecast net cost for the year.
- Investment income has been calculated based on income due for the period.

4.4 The main reason for the increase in the value of the Fund for the year so far is gains in the value of investment assets, the net gain over the period being £1.9 billion.

4.5 It should be noted that the figure for current liabilities at 31 December 2016 is higher than the 31 March 2016 equivalent: this is almost entirely due to early payment of contributions, recognised as receipts in advance. Of the £56.6 million current liabilities, £21.7 million is receipts in advance; of this, £19.6 million is represented by four councils. Over the remainder of the financial year, this will unwind and current liabilities will reduce.

5.0 Quarterly Accounts – West Midlands ITA Pension Fund

5.1 Appendix D provides a Fund Account for the nine months ending 31 December 2016, and a Net Assets Statement as at that date.

5.2 The Net Assets Statement provides a value for the Fund at 31 December 2016 of £489.7 million. This is an increase of £28.9 million from the 31 March 2016 value.

5.3 As with West Midlands Pension Fund, the main reason for the increase in the value of the Fund for the year so far is gains in the value of investment assets (£28.8 million).

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report.

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 This report contains no direct legal implications for the authority.

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 This report has no equalities implications.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 This report has no environmental implications.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 The report has no human resources implications.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 This report has no corporate landlord implications.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

- Service Plan 2016-21, Report to Pensions Committee, 16 March 2016

13.0 Schedule of Appendices

13.1 Appendix A – Key Performance Indicator Monitoring December 2016

13.2 Appendix B – Update on Corporate Priorities as at December 2016

13.2 Appendix C – West Midlands Pension Fund Quarterly Accounts 31 December 2016

13.3 Appendix D – West Midlands ITA Pension Fund Quarterly Accounts 31 December 2016