

## ITEM NO: 16

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Pension Fund Management Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	2 October 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Peter Morris – Executive Director of Pensions
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>DELEGATION SCHEME – PENSION BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS – REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2014 TO 31 MARCH 2015</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The report informs members about the Scheme of Delegation to officers relating to pension benefits and contributions, and includes a summary of actions taken by the Executive Director of Pensions during 2014 – 2015.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	It is recommended that the Panel note the report.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	None
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 officer)</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Solicitor to the Fund)</b>	This report details the actions taken in relation to membership matters in accordance with the LGPS Regulations and the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	The LGPS needs to be effectively and efficiently administered. The scale of the Fund necessitates the delegation of the administrative role. The role of managers is to ensure effective processes and internal control. This is also subject to external review by internal and external audit.
<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION:</b>	<b>NON-CONFIDENTIAL</b>
	<b>This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.</b>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	The LGPS Regulations 2013 are available here: <a href="http://www.lgpsregs.org/index.php/regs-legislation/timeline-regulations-2014">http://www.lgpsregs.org/index.php/regs-legislation/timeline-regulations-2014</a>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Although the Panel will establish policies regarding administrative matters, e.g. the payment of death grants, all the day-to-day decisions regarding membership matters are delegated to the Executive Director of Pensions. The report contains a list of the matters delegated and a summary of key actions taken for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

## **2. SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PENSIONS**

- 2.1 The following functions are delegated pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 2.2 To deal with the following benefits and contributions matters in relation to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund:

1. In consultation with the Chief Executive, the making of admission agreements with relevant bodies.
2. The determination of the intervals at which standard employee contributions are payable to the Fund.
3. The determination of the final pay period for deceased members, where the member could have elected for an earlier period to count but died before so electing.
4. Making elections on behalf of deceased members for Certificates of Protection of pension benefits.
5. The exercise of discretion regarding the payment of death grants in respect of deceased scheme members in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Pension Fund Management Panel.
6. The exercise of discretion in respect of breaks in education or training for the purposes of deciding if a person can be regarded as a child.
7. The exercise of discretion in the apportioning of a children's pension between more than one eligible child.
8. The exercise of discretion in the payment of the whole or part of a children's pension to a person other than an eligible child.
9. The commutation of certain small pension benefits within the statutory limits to single lump sum payments so as to discharge future liability for payments.
10. The commutation of pensions in exceptional circumstances of ill health.
11. The agreement with employing authorities of meeting the cost of augmentation via extra employer contributions.
12. The determination of the requirement for employing authorities to pay "up front" any strain on fund costs.
13. The determination of whether or not a person wishing to purchase certain additional pension benefits has undergone a medical examination to the satisfaction of the administering authority.
14. The determination of minimum contributions to the AVC scheme.

15. Obtaining revisions to a rates and adjustments certificate (eg. when it appears that liabilities are arising in excess of those previously assumed).
16. The determination of intervals for the payment of employee and employer pension contributions to the Fund.
17. Charging interest to employers or other administering authorities on late payments due to the Fund.
18. The determination of intervals for payment to the Fund of rechargeable pensions and pensions increase.
19. The determination of the amount of any benefit that may be payable to a person out the Fund.
20. The determination of the evidence required to determine financial dependence or interdependence of a cohabitee of a scheme member.
21. The determination of various matters in relation to new contributors including what previous service may be taken into account.
22. The approval of medical practitioners to be used by Fund employers in making decisions on entitlement to ill-health retirement.
23. Deciding disagreements raised under Stage 1 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure in respect of administering authority matters, and all Stage 2 disagreements.
24. The transfer, to an employing authority from the Fund, of sums to compensate for loss caused by a former member's misconduct.
25. The payment of transfer values.
26. The acceptance of transfer values.
27. The approval of applications for the reinstatement of spouses' pensions under Regulation F7 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1995 (as amended) in the following circumstances:
  - (a) if a spouse has remarried and that marriage has ended; or
  - (b) if a spouse has been cohabiting outside marriage and that cohabitation has ended.
28. The exercise of discretion on the extension of statutory time limits in respect of various applications made by employees and beneficiaries as provided in the regulations.
29. The waiving on compassionate grounds of overpayments of pension benefits.
30. The making and revision of a Pension Administration Strategy after consulting employers.
31. To make decisions regarding the payment of benefits in respect of members who are incapable of managing their own affairs through mental disorder or otherwise, in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Pension Fund Management Panel.

32. The agreement that an employer can bring forward their staging date and that the Local Government Pension Scheme can be used by the employer to comply with their automatic enrolment duties under the Pensions Act 2008 from that earlier date.
33. The making of small ex gratia compensation payments or gifts.

### 3. BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- 3.1 Details of the number of key actions taken during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 are shown in the table below.

	<b>Administrative Matter</b>	<b>No of Cases</b>
(1)	New admission agreements	34
(15)	Obtaining revisions to a rates and adjustments certificate	2
(12)	Requirement for employing authorities to pay strain costs 'up front'	117
(5)	Payment of death grants	440
(21)	Determination of matters relating to new contributors	15098
(19)	Determination of amounts of benefits	14755
(22)	Approval of medical practitioners	30
(23)	Decisions under the internal dispute resolution procedure	39
(25)	Payment of transfer values	248
(26)	Acceptance of transfer values	84
(31)	Paying to another person where a member is incapable of managing their own affairs	111
(20)	Determination of evidence needed regarding co-habitee financial dependence or interdependence	20
(9)	Commutation of small pensions	63
(10)	Commutation of pensions in exceptional circumstances of ill health	0
(29)	Waiving of overpaid pensions on compassionate grounds	0
(32)	Agreeing employers can bring forward their staging date	0
(33)	The making of small ex gratia compensation payments or gifts	14

### 4. NEW ADMITTED BODIES

- 4.1 Admission agreements completed during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. The bodies concerned and their respective guarantors are shown in the table below.

Name of body	Type of admission body	Date of agreement	Guarantor	Actuarial pool
Possabilities C.I.C. (Ex RMBC)	Community	01/04/2014	Rochdale MBC	Rochdale
Dolce Limited (MCC)	Transferee	22/04/2014	Manchester City Council	Manchester City Council
Wales Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	

Cumbria and Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
London Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Essex Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Beds, Northants, Cambs and Herts Community Rehab Co Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehab Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Community Rehab Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Bristol, Gloucs, Somerset and Wilts Community Rehab Co Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehab Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Derbys, Leics, Notts and Rutland Community Rehab Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Staffs and West Mids Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehab Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Humberside, Lincs and N Yorks Community Rehab Company Ltd	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	

Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
KGB Cleaning & Support Svs Ltd. (Ex M/C Enterprise Academy)	Transferee	01/06/2014	The Secretary of State for Justice	
Blue Support Services Limited	Transferee	01/07/2014	Oldham MBC	Oldham
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	Transferee	07/07/2014	Rochdale MBC	Rochdale
CRI - Crime Reduction Initiatives	Transferee	01/09/2014	Wigan MBC	Wigan
Greenwich Leisure Ltd (Ex Manchester CC - Manchester Sports)	Transferee	01/10/2014	Manchester City Council	Manchester City Council
Market Operations Ltd	Transferee	01/10/2014	Trafford MBC	Trafford
Greenwich Leisure Ltd (Ex Manchester CC - Wythenshawe Forum)	Transferee	01/10/2014	Manchester City Council	Manchester City Council
Taylor Shaw - Kingsway High School, Stockport	Transferee	01/12/2014	Stockport MBC	
KGB Cleaning and Support Services Ltd.(Barlow School Ex MCC)	Transferee	15/12/2014	Manchester City Council	Manchester City Council
Catering Academy Ltd - Waterhead Academy	Transferee	01/02/2015	Oldham MBC	Oldham
Salix Homes Ltd	Community	23/03/2015	Salford City Council	Salford

## 5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is recommended that the Panel note the report.