

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD
11 October 2018

Annual Benefit Statement 2018 Update

Purpose of the Report

1. This report outlines a brief summary of the outcome of this year's Annual Benefit Statement for the Board to note.

Background

2. Wiltshire Pension Fund (WPF) is required to issue annual statements to actively contributing and deferred members each year which include an outline of their benefits accrued and projections. Regulations state the statements should be received by the 31 August.
3. Each year the benefit values for deferred members are reviewed and updated in line with CPI indexation for the 12 month period ending 30 September prior to the ABS date of 31 March.

Considerations for the Board

4. WPF requests the required data from all its employers in a standard format, as at 31 March, and by a set date; this year 7 May. The majority of employers submitted their return by the deadline set.
5. The quality of data received from employers was highly varied and a number of key issues were present, namely assumed pensionable pay and the calculation for the full time equivalent pay figures. Where data issues were identified, the Fund either challenged individual data items as required or asked for re-submissions to be made to address general issues identified. Employer response times to the Fund's queries varied from the same day responses to several weeks and sometimes multiple stages were required to resolve certain data queries.
6. Active and deferred member statements were issued at the same time. Where members had multiple records, the Fund's printers arranged for each members' documents to be despatched in the single envelope (deferred and active statements).
7. Statements were despatched on the 14 August 2018. The despatch included circa 28,900 out of 29,400 deferred records (98.3%), with the majority of the records which were not despatched being due to Fund not holding the correct postal address. Active benefit statements sent amounted to circa 18,820 out of 20,050 records (93.9%), with the remaining records were either not sent due to outstanding queries with the records or because the member was past normal retirement date or within one year of it. A further 910 statements were issued to the printers in September however due to technical issues with the set up were not despatched until 1 October.

8. The remaining queries are being investigated and updated and statements will be issued if requested.
9. The Fund is now stepping up the frequencies of its data reconciliations between itself and employers in an attempt to reduce the amount of data queries present at the end of year and increase the percentage of annual benefit statements sent as well as to realise the benefits of holding cleaner data.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

10. There is no environmental impact from this report

Financial Considerations

11. There are no secondary financial impacts resulting from this report.

Risk Assessment

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

14. There are no known implications at this time.

Proposals

15. The Board is asked to note the outcome of the annual benefit statement exercise for 2018.

Andy Cunningham
Head of Pensions, Administration & Relations

Report Author: Mark Anderson, Data & Systems Manager

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: NONE