

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE**

**7 February 2017**

**Report of the Director of Finance**

**REQUEST FOR DOMAIN NAME FOR A FUTURE STAND-ALONE  
DERBYSHIRE PENSION FUND WEBSITE**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

To ask the Committee as the administering authority of the Derbyshire Pension Fund to approve a request to secure and utilise the domain name [www.DerbyshirePensionFund.org.uk](http://www.DerbyshirePensionFund.org.uk) for a future Derbyshire Pension Fund website.

**2 Information and Analysis**

Derbyshire County Council is the administering authority for the Derbyshire Pension Fund (the Fund) under the terms of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (the Regulations).

The Fund administers the Local Government Pension Scheme within the county geographic area and is one of 89 Funds in England and Wales.

At the moment, the Fund's webpages, which carry information about the Local Government Pension Scheme for members and employers, are located on the Derbyshire County Council website in the section titled "Working for Us". However, this is inconsistent with the Fund's customer base of active, deferred and pensioner members, the majority of whom do not work for Derbyshire County Council.

There are 96,700 members of the Derbyshire Pension Fund, of whom 21,800 are currently employed by Derbyshire County Council. So, less than 1 in 4 scheme members fit the criteria for utilising the "Working for Us" section of the County Council's website.

During the Autumn a number of pension "Planning for Retirement" sessions were held at different locations in the county, and attended by active members

from the County Council and from other scheme employers. Common reactions fed back from attendees at the sessions were that:

- members were unaware that the Pension Fund had a web presence in the County Council's website, and
- members from other employing authorities felt the "Working for Us" part of the County Council website was an inappropriate location and came across as being exclusive for County Council employees.

A specific website for the Fund will improve accessibility for all its members and also help to make clear the distinction between the Pension Fund and County Council.

Therefore, as a key part of the Communications Strategy, the Pension Fund is committed to launching a stand-alone website, and this requires a specific domain name. The provision of a stand-alone website forms part of the current contract with Civica. However, data issues with Civica's UPM system mean that this development has been delayed. This need not hold up developments entirely though, as a distinct website for the Pension Fund can still be established on the DCC platform, and work can begin on developing the various pages and their functionality. To take this step would also require the domain name.

Ultimately, the benefits of this will be:

- improved customer accessibility and support, thereby boosting awareness among members and scheme employers,
- improved Pension Fund administration service to members by the provision of 24 hour information, a speedier way to record address and other personal detail changes, and the facility to model different pension benefit outcomes,
- savings for the Fund by reducing the printing and posting costs of Annual Benefits Statements and other letters and documentation,
- Fund members will better be able to distinguish between the administering authority and employing authorities, so that they direct queries correctly and get prompt responses, and
- bringing Derbyshire Pension Fund in line with the majority of other LG Pension Funds, which have offered their Fund members these facilities for a number of years.

Before any further work can commence towards a new website, the Pensions and Investments Committee is asked to approve a request to secure a domain name for a future stand-alone Derbyshire Pension Fund website ([www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk)). This is currently available and would bring the Fund in line with similar domain names used by other LGPS Funds.

### **3 Financial Considerations**

The County Council's Network and Communications Manager has advised that the cost of the domain name is approximately £10 - £20 per year.

Other costs relating to the website build will be included in the Pension Fund's contract with its software supplier.

### **4 Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal and human rights, human resources, equality and diversity, health, environmental, transport, property, social value and prevention of crime and disorder.

### **5 Officer's Recommendation**

That the Pensions and Investments Committee agrees to approve the request to secure a domain name for a future Derbyshire Pension Fund Website utilising the domain name [www.DerbyshirePensionFund.org.uk](http://www.DerbyshirePensionFund.org.uk)

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