

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Statement of Recommended Practice

- The Pension Fund accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting recommendations of the Financial Reports of Pension Schemes – a Statement of Recommended Practice (revised May 2007). However, disclosures have been limited to those required by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: a Statement of Recommended Practice. The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

2. Investments

- Quoted investments are stated at market value based on the closing bid price quoted on the relevant stock exchange on 31 March 2010. Unit Trusts and managed funds are valued at the closing bid price. Unquoted investments are valued by the fund managers at the year end in accordance with generally accepted guidelines.
- Derivatives with an initial purchase price are included in the accounts as purchases. Those that do not have an initial purchase price but require a deposit such as an initial margin to be placed with the broker are recorded at cost on purchase. Derivative contracts are included in the net asset statements at fair value.
- Open Future contracts are recognised in the net asset statement at their fair value. Amounts included in the change in market value represent realised gains or losses on closed future contracts and the unrealised gains or losses on open future contracts
- The industrial and commercial properties were valued at open market prices in accordance with the valuation principles laid down by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The valuation has been undertaken by Colliers CRE, as at 31 December 2009
- The results of the valuation have then been indexed in line with the Investment Property Databank Monthly Index movement to 31 March 2010.

3. Currency Transactions

- Assets and liabilities in foreign currency are translated into sterling at exchange rates ruling at the year-end. Differences arising on the translation of investments are included in investment gains.
- All foreign currency transactions are translated into sterling at exchange rates ruling at the transaction date.

4. **Contributions, Benefits and Transfer Values**

- Normal contributions from County Council members, are accounted for in the payroll month to which they relate, contributions from members of other employers are accounted for on a received basis. All contributions are at rates as specified in the rates and adjustments certificate. CIPFA has revised the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: a Statement of Recommended Practice, the revision requires that augmentation costs are recognised when they vest rather than on a deferred basis when an employer has negotiated payments in future years.
- Payment of pensions and pensions increases are accounted for on an accruals basis. Lump sum payments are accounted for on the date of retirement or on death.
- Transfer values into and out of the Fund, return of contributions and other intermittent transactions are not dealt with on an accruals basis but are included in the accounts when the transactions occur.
- The numbers of pensioners shown on page xx include persons in receipt of injury allowances, gratuity and compensation payments and other non-fund benefits.

5. **Investment Income**

- Dividends, rents and cash deposits have been accounted for on an accruals basis and where appropriate from the date quoted as ex-dividend (XD). Foreign income has been translated into sterling at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.
- Income arising from overseas investments is subject to deduction of withholding tax unless exemption is permitted by and obtained from the country of origin.

6. **Expenditure**

- All expenses and benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis except that no account is taken of the long-term liabilities to pay benefits.
- The administrative costs relating to the payment of pensions, allowances and other benefits, maintaining employees records, arranging transfer values etc are borne by the Fund.
- Costs relating to investments are also borne by the Fund. Fees in respect of investment management, including custody, are calculated as a percentage of the value of the investments under management.