

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 November 2002). 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.

2. Investments

- Quoted investments are stated at market value based on the middle market quotation on the relevant stock exchange ruling on 31 March 2008. Unit Trusts and managed funds are valued at the average of the bid and offer prices provided by the relevant fund managers, which reflect the market value of the underlying investment. Unquoted investments are valued by the fund managers at the year end in accordance with generally accepted guidelines.
- The industrial and commercial properties were valued at open market prices as at 31 December 2007 and then indexed in line with the Investment Property Databank Monthly Index movement to 31 March 2008.

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. 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.