ITEM No …15……..

REPORT TO: **PENSION SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE & PENSION BOARD – 5 MARCH 2018**

REPORT ON: **TAYSIDE PENSION FUND ACTUARIAL VALUATION AT 31 MARCH 2017**

REPORT BY: **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

REPORT NO: **91-2018**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report updates the Committee on the Actuarial Valuation of Tayside Pension Fund at 31 March 2017.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the information contained within this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of the three yearly actuarial valuation is to ensure that the Pension Fund has sufficient resources to provide for their members' pensions and lump sum benefits. The contribution from employees is fixed by statute and the only adjustable variable at each valuation is the level of employer's contributions.

The outcome of the 2017 actuarial valuation is that the employer's contributions for financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 will continue at 17.0%, with exception of Travel Dundee where a fixed 40% employer contribution is applicable.

4 INTRODUCTION

An actuarial valuation is required every three years in accordance with Regulation 60 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

The main purpose of the valuation is to review the financial position of the Fund and to set appropriate contribution rates for each employer in the Fund for the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021. Regulation 60 specifies four requirements that the actuary "must have regard to" and are detailed below:

- the desirability of maintaining as nearly constant a primary rate as possible;
- the current version of the administering authority's funding strategy statement;
- the requirement to secure the solvency of the pension fund; and
- the long-term cost efficiency of the Scheme (i.e. the LGPS for Scotland as a whole), so far as relating to the pension fund.

5 VALUATION PROCESS

The primary objective of the Fund is to provide for member's pension and lump sum benefits on their retirement or for their dependants on death before or after retirement.

Contributions are paid by the employees and employers into the Fund. The employees' contributions are fixed by statute. 1st April 2009 introduced the application of tiered banded contributions at various rates from 5.5% to 12%. The actuarial valuation determines the contributions payable by the employers.

The actuary values the assets and liabilities of the Fund to calculate whether the Fund has a surplus or a deficit. The level of the surplus or deficit determines how much the employer's contribution should be set at to balance the Funds position.

6 **VALUATION OF ASSETS**

To determine the value of assets, the actuary makes various assumptions about the level of returns that are going to be achieved by the Fund. The assumptions at 31 March 2017 are:

	Nominal Return (% pa)	Real Return (relative to CPI) (% pa)
Equities	7.5	4.7
Gilts	1.9	-0.9
Bonds	2.6	-0.2
Property	6.3	3.5

Additionally, an assumption is made of the level of additional contribution the Fund will receive due to increases in pay. The assumptions for pay increases at 31 March 2017 are as follows:

	Nominal % pa	Real (relative to CPI) % pa
Pay increases	3.8	1.0

7 **VALUATIONS OF LIABILITIES**

The valuation of the liabilities is made using assumptions on pension increases. The assumption at 31 March 2017 for pension increases is 2.8% per annum. The cost of providing for benefits depends not only upon the amount but also the incidence of benefits paid i.e. at what point in the future benefits begin to be paid and how long they continue to be paid. The actuary uses statistical assumptions on the incidence of retirement, and mortality to calculate the incidence of benefits paid.

8 **INTERVALUATION EXPERIENCE**

The actual experience of the Tayside Pension Fund since the last valuation at 31 March 2014 also has an impact on the valuation. Overall the experience of the Fund compared to the assumptions adopted at the previous valuation has been positive overall with greater than expected investment returns which have had a positive impact. Reduced improvements on mortality and lower than expected increases in both salary and pensions also contributed positively to the valuation.

9 **TAYSIDE PENSION FUND - VALUATION RESULTS AT 31 MARCH 2017**

At 31 March 2017 the Tayside Pension Fund had a surplus of assets over liabilities of £212.75m. This is translated into a funding level of 107% (including a 10% volatility reserve to allow for adverse short term financial experience in the period to the next valuation).

Based on the above results the actuary recommends that the Fund's employer's contribution rate remains at the 17%p.a. of pensionable pay, utilising the surplus to maintain a stable contribution rate via a negative secondary rate adjustment from the primary rate of 21.5%.

11 **POST 31 MARCH 2017 EXPERIENCE**

Since the valuation date the funding position has remained broadly unchanged although the period has seen significant volatility in financial markets.

12 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

13 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Barnett Waddingham - Tayside Pension Fund Actuarial Valuation (Draft) as at 31 March 2017.

GREGORY COLGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES **12 FEBRUARY 2018**