

MEETING	PENSIONS COMMITTEE
DATE	12 DECEMBER 2008
TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PENSION FUND WEBSITE
RECOMMENDATION	TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE AND THE SETTING UP OF THE STAND ALONE WEBSITE
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1. Background

The Pensions Committee has previously approved the Pension Fund's Communication Improvement Plan. This includes developing the Gwynedd Pension Fund Website which will provide information for scheme members and the Fund employers. In addition a link enabling members to see their own personal service records and allow calculation of prospective retirement benefits will be available.

2. Developing the Fund Website

Following a review of other Pension Fund Websites and consulting with Gwynedd's Information Technology unit, it is recommended that the best way forward is to develop a stand alone Gwynedd Pension Fund Website, which will provide a comprehensive user friendly facility.

The planned website will include sections on:

- Active members
- Deferred Members
- Councillors
- Pensioners
- Employers
- Investments

Links to other useful Pension Sites will be provided, along with the AXISE system on-line, allowing members to:

- View their recorded data
- Carry out benefit calculations
- Complete forms
- Request information

3. Expenditure Requirements

Website Development Costs: This relates to the cost of commissioning a Web Designer to design the website in accordance with Gwynedd Council's Web-structure requirements. Data will be inputted and maintained by Gwynedd Pension Fund staff.

The website will be built in phases. The first phase for active members is due for completion by April 2009. The introduction of subsequent phases will be included as part of the Pension Section's Business Plan in future years.

Costs of implementing software upgrade: A consultant from our software provider, Heywood, will need to install Phase E of the AXISE Internet Member Self Service system onto the new web server. This will allow the progression of the Website's AXISE system on-line.

4. Cost summary

In order for the unit to implement the Stand alone website and meet the Communication Improvement Plan targets the permission of this committee is required for these additional costs for the Website's development:

	2008 / 09
Website development costs	£6,000
Costs of implementing software upgrade	£2,500
Total	£8,500

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Pensions Committee approves the Stand alone Website and authorise the additional expenditure of £8,500 in 2008/09 to implement the development to the Fund's website in accordance with the Communication Improvement Plan.