

Northumberland County Council Pension Fund

Actuarial Valuation at 31 March 2010

30 March 2011

Prepared for

Northumberland County Council

The Administering Authority of the Northumberland County Council Pension Fund

Prepared by

Chris Archer FIA and Joel Duckham FIA

This report and any attachments and enclosures were prepared under instruction of our client Northumberland County Council and on the understanding that it is solely for the benefit of Northumberland County Council. Unless we provide express prior written consent no part of this report may be reproduced, distributed or communicated to anyone else and, in providing this report we do not accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose other than that described herein or to anyone other than the addressee (s) of the report.

At the request of the addressees, we have consented to their releasing a copy of this report to certain parties and/or via certain communication routes. We consent on the basis that there is no duty of care established toward, and Aon Hewitt disclaims any responsibility or liability arising from, any person having access to the report either directly from Northumberland County Council, indirectly from a third party or through any other means. No recipients of the report as a result of that consent are permitted to reproduce, distribute or communicate any part of this report to any other party.

No decisions should be taken on the basis of this report by any party other than our client, Northumberland County Council, and nothing in this report removes the need for readers to take proper advice in relation to their specific circumstances.

Aon Hewitt Limited | Registered in England No. 4396810
Registered office: 6 More London Place London SE1 2DA
aonhewitt.co.uk

Copyright © 2011 Aon Hewitt Limited. All rights reserved.

This report and any enclosures or attachments are prepared on the understanding that it is solely for the benefit of the addressee(s). Unless we provide express prior written consent no part of this report should be reproduced, distributed or communicated to anyone else and, in providing this report, we do not accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to anyone other than the addressee(s) of this report.

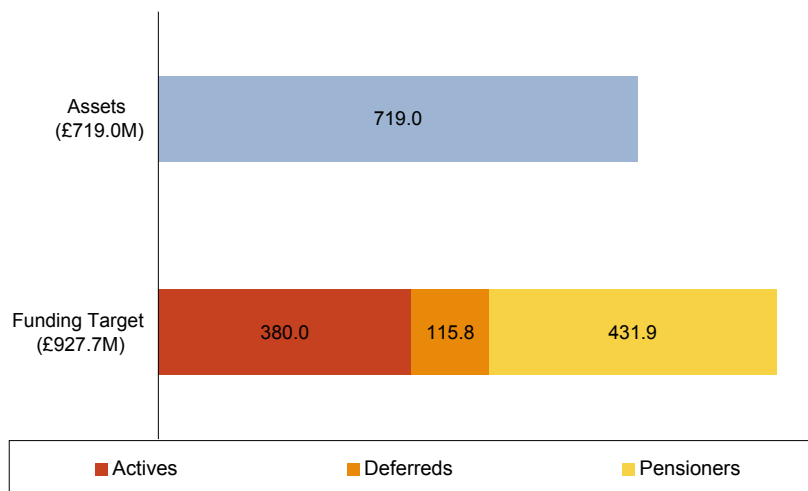


Executive Summary

Valuation results

The financial position of the Fund was assessed against the **funding target** at 31 March 2010.

There is a **shortfall** of £208.7M relative to the **funding target** (i.e. the level of assets agreed by the Authority and the Actuary as being consistent with the **Funding Strategy Statement** appropriate to meet member benefits, assuming the Fund continues as a going concern).



Contribution rates

The aggregate Employer **future service contribution rate** is calculated to be 15.7% of Pensionable Pay.

The aggregate Employer contribution rate required to restore the **funding ratio** to 100%, using a recovery period of 25 years from 1 April 2011 is calculated to be 22.8% of Pensionable Pay, if membership remains broadly stable. The comparable figure at the previous valuation was 21.8% of Pensionable Pay.

Rates of contributions payable by each Employer may differ, because they take into account their particular membership profiles and **funding ratios** and the assumptions and **recovery periods** are specific to their circumstances.

Contents

Executive Summary	i
1. Introduction	1
2. What's Happened Since the Previous Valuation	3
3. Information Used	6
4. Funding Target — The Principles	8
5. Funding Target — Method and Assumptions	10
6. Funding Target — Results	14
7. Other Funding Measures	16
8. Risks and Sensitivity Analysis	18
9. Summary and Conclusions	20
Appendix A — Legal and Actuarial Framework	23
Appendix B — Assets	24
Appendix C — Benefits	25
Appendix D — Membership Data	27
Appendix E — Membership Data by Employer	29
Appendix F — Assumptions for Funding Target	32
Appendix G — Assumptions for Low Risk Funding Measure	35
Appendix H — Details of Employers' Funding Strategies	36
Appendix I — Consolidated Revenue Account	37
Appendix J — Membership Experience	38
Appendix K — Current Contribution Rates	39
Appendix L — Rates and Adjustments Certificate	41
Glossary	46

1. Introduction

Formal valuation

We have carried out an actuarial valuation of the Northumberland County Council Pension Fund at 31 March 2010, as required by Regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008.

The main purpose of the valuation exercise is to review the financial position of the Fund and to recommend the contribution rates payable to the Fund in the future (which is essentially a **planning exercise**).

The valuation process includes setting assumptions. Such matters were considered before this report was produced and are only discussed briefly in this report.

Defined contribution benefits

Throughout the body of this report we have excluded the assets for defined contribution ('DC') **AVC** accounts from both the assets and from the liability measures, because in our view this provides a clearer picture. If they were to be included it would make no difference to the absolute level of **shortfall**, but it would increase the percentage **funding ratios** from those shown in the main body of this report. Similarly we have excluded **AVCs** from the contribution rates given in this report.

A snapshot view

The report concentrates on the Fund's financial position at the Valuation Date. As time moves on, the Fund's finances will fluctuate. If you are reading this report some time after it was produced, the Fund's financial position could have changed significantly.

Words used

Our report includes some technical pension terms. The words shown in bold print are explained further in the glossary and in section 4.

For brevity, we have also used the following shorthand:

Shorthand	What it means
Authority	Northumberland County Council, in its role as the Administering Authority
Pensionable Pay	As defined in the Benefit Regulations
Pensionable Service	Periods of membership, as defined in the Benefit Regulations
Benefits Regulations	The Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 (as subsequently amended)
1997 Regulations	The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 (as subsequently amended)
Administration Regulations	The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (as subsequently amended)
Transitional Regulations	The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2008
Regulations	The 1997 Regulations, Benefit Regulations, Transitional Regulations or Administration Regulations as appropriate
Employers	All bodies with employees participating in the Fund
Fund	Northumberland County Council Pension Fund
Valuation Date	31 March 2010

**Legal and actuarial
framework**

The report was commissioned by and is prepared solely for the Authority.
It meets professional guidance requirements. Please see Appendix A
"Legal and Actuarial Framework" for further details.

2. What's Happened Since the Previous Valuation

Purpose of section	This section summarises what has happened since the previous valuation.
Headlines from previous valuation	<p>The previous valuation at 31 March 2007 revealed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ There was a shortfall of £269.7M relative to the funding target adapted for that valuation. This corresponded to a funding ratio of 71%.▪ The aggregate Employer future service contribution rate was 18.1% of Pensionable Pay. <p>After allowing for short term assumed additional investment returns for some Employers and additional contributions to restore the funding ratio to 100% over a period of 25 years from 1 April 2008, the aggregate Employer contribution rate was calculated to be 21.8% of Pensionable Pay. (Additional amounts were also payable by Employers where strains occurred on early retirement).</p> <p>The Authority has paid the following rates of contribution (expressed as a percentage of Pensionable Pay) since the previous valuation:</p> <p>Year commencing 1 April 2007 20.0%</p> <p>Year commencing 1 April 2008 21.6%</p> <p>Year commencing 1 April 2009 22.5%</p> <p>Year commencing 1 April 2010 22.5%</p> <p>The formal report dated 28 March 2008 signed by Tim Lunn FIA and Becky Durran FIA of Hewitt Bacon & Woodrow Limited includes further information.</p>
Key developments	<p>The financial health of the Fund depends fundamentally on how much cash is paid in, how well the assets perform and are expected to perform, and on what benefits are paid out and are expected to be paid out. The key developments since the previous valuation therefore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The amount of contributions paid to the Fund.▪ The actual returns on the Fund's investments.▪ Any changes to future expectations of benefit payments or investment returns. <p>Contributions</p> <p>Contributions were paid to the Fund as described above. These exceeded the cost of benefit accrual and so have acted to improve the position. Further details are provided in section 6.</p> <p>Investment returns</p> <p>Investment returns have been lower than anticipated which have acted to worsen the position since the last valuation.</p>

Future expectations of benefit payments and investment returns

Investigations have generally shown faster than anticipated improvements in longevity, which have increased the future expected levels and durations of benefit payments.

Some significant benefit changes were made with effect from 1 April 2008. These were taken into account in the previous valuation.

In the Emergency Budget in June 2010, the Chancellor announced a change to the inflation indexation of pensions and deferred pensions for all Public Sector pension schemes, including the Local Government Pension Scheme. In future, pensions will be linked to increases in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Prices Index (RPI) as previously. We have allowed for this change in this valuation.

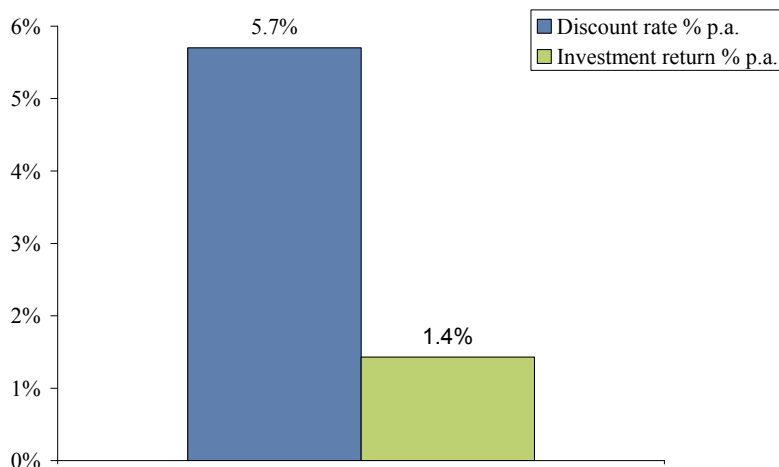
A key aspect over the last three years was the deterioration in the economic environment which has materially affected assumed future investment returns. The impact of this is shown below, and discussed later in this report.

Financial development

A variety of factors affect the financial position of the Fund, including investment returns, changes in anticipated investment returns as indicated by the yields on long dated gilts, pension increases and pay increases. To illustrate the Fund's financial development since the previous valuation, we have compared in the charts below:

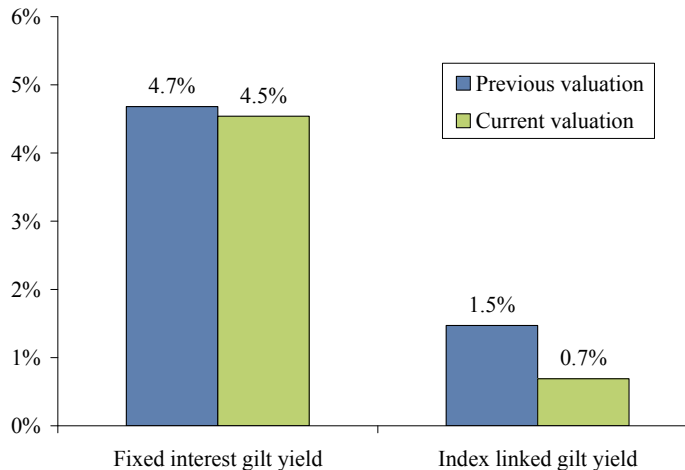
- The investment return achieved on the Fund's assets with the average **discount rate** used at the previous valuation to calculate the **funding targets**.
- The yield on long dated index linked government stocks (gilts) and fixed interest gilts at the previous valuation with the yields at this valuation.
- The assumptions made at the previous valuation for pension and pay increases with what actually happened.

Key experience items – investment returns



The investment return has been significantly lower than the **discount rates** assumed due to the poor performance of the investment markets.

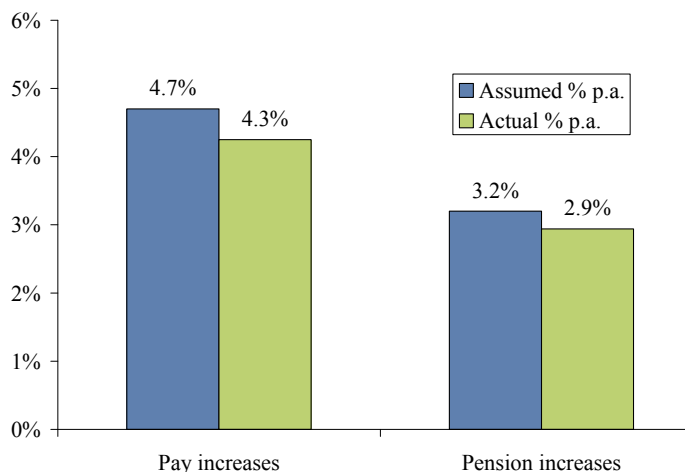
Key experience items – gilt yields



The yield on long dated fixed interest gilts at the Valuation Date is broadly the same as at the previous Valuation Date. However the yield on index linked gilts has fallen in absolute terms and relative to fixed interest gilt yields leading to an increase in implied price inflation.

The gilt yields used at the previous valuation were the index yields on the "FTSE Actuaries UK over 15 year fixed interest gilt index" and the "FTSE Actuaries UK over 5 year index linked gilts index". For the 2010 valuation, the gilts yields have been derived using a curve based on the Bank of England Government Bonds Yield Curve, and taking the average gilt yield which would produce a consistent value of liabilities for schemes with the same duration as the Fund.

Key experience items – pay and pension increases



Increases to pay and pensions in payment were slightly lower than assumed. Note that the pay analysis above includes the impact of promotional pay increases.

Impact on results

Where material, the estimated financial impact of the developments described in this section is shown in section 6.

3. Information Used

Key information

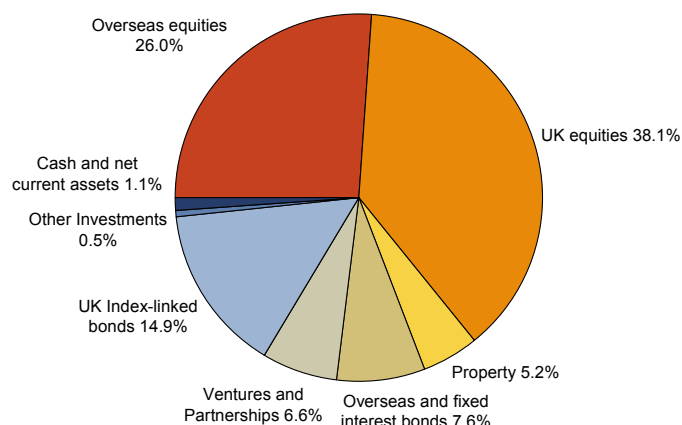
To carry out the valuation, we have obtained information on:

- The assets held by the Fund.
- How benefit entitlements are calculated.
- Member data.

This section sets out a high level summary of the information used. Further details are included in Appendices B, C, D, and E.

Assets

- The Fund's assets had an audited market value of £719.2M (excluding **AVC** accounts) at the Valuation Date, split as follows:



The Fund is due to pay a bulk transfer value to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme in the financial year 2010/11. An estimate of this transfer payment measured at the Valuation Date is £0.2M, which has been deducted from the valuation net assets to be consistent with the liability valuation.

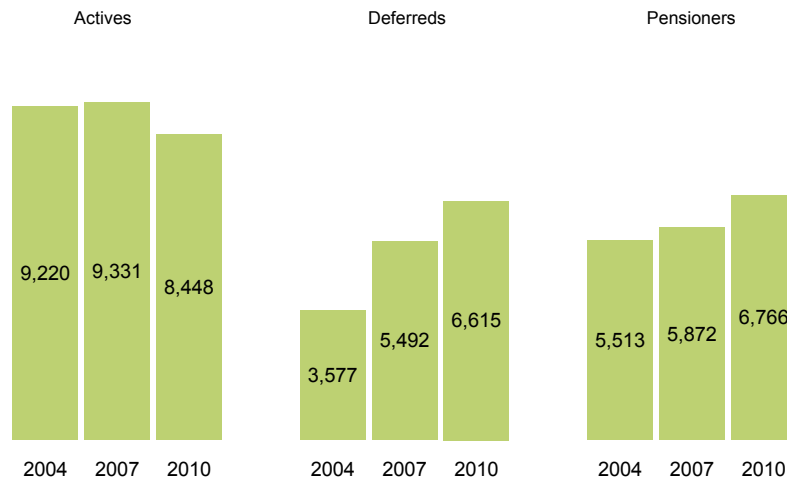
For further details, please see Appendix B.

Benefits valued

Members are entitled to benefits defined in the Regulations. A summary of the benefits taken into account in the valuation is set out in Appendix C.

Employers within the Fund have discretion over payment of certain benefits. It is not practical to make allowance for the policies of each Employer in this regard. However, because most of the benefits which are discretionary are financed as they occur, the financial impact on this valuation is minimal. We have therefore made no specific allowance for these discretions.

For the purposes of this valuation, we have assumed that members will remain in the contribution band to which they are currently allocated. Members' current contribution band was supplied to us in the membership data.



Reliability of information

We have carried out some general checks to satisfy ourselves that:

- The information used for this valuation is broadly consistent with the information used for the previous valuation and also with that shown in the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts.
- The results of this valuation can be reconciled with the results of the previous valuation.

However, the results in our report rely entirely on the accuracy of the information supplied.

4. Funding Target — The Principles

Terms used in this report

Here is a summary of the main terms used in this report. Further details are set out in the Glossary:

Summary of Terms

Funding principle	To hold sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the benefits as they fall due.
Funding target	The target level of assets that the Actuary and Authority have agreed is appropriate to meet promised benefits.
Funding objective	To hold sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the funding target .
Funding strategy statement	A written statement of the Authority's policy for meeting the funding principle . The Actuary must have regard to the Funding Strategy Statement in carrying out this valuation.
Recovery plan	A plan of action for correcting a surplus or shortfall over an agreed period.
Rates and adjustments certificate	A certificate setting out what contributions are payable by each Employer over the three years from 1 April 2011.

Four principles

The Actuary and the Authority have agreed the following four principles:

Principle 1—What funding target to use

To calculate the **funding target**:

- For each year into the future, the benefits paid out by the Fund are estimated.
- A target level of assets is agreed on, that is appropriate to meet the expected benefit payments. The conventional approach here is to 'discount back' the expected benefit payments to the Valuation Date, using an agreed rate of interest known as the **discount rate**.

These two steps require a method to be chosen and assumptions to be made (e.g. how long members live) in order to arrive at a value for the **funding target**. The method and assumptions used for the **funding target** are shown in section 5.

Principle 2—What contributions to pay for future benefits

There are several funding methods recognised by the actuarial profession. These result in different calculations of the **future service contribution rate**. The funding methods used are set out in section 5 and explained in the Glossary.

Principle 3—How to address any shortfall or surplus

As the third principle requiring agreement, a decision must be taken on how any **shortfall** or **surplus** is addressed. Details of the agreed approach are given in section 5.

Principle 4 – How to allow for unanticipated strains on the fund

As the fourth principle requiring agreement, a decision must be taken on how any **strains** arising as a result of events such as early retirement will be dealt with. Details of the agreed approach are given in section 9 and in Appendix L.

5. Funding Target — Method and Assumptions

Purpose of section Building on the previous section which set out the principles to be agreed, this section fills in some of the key details of the method and assumptions used for the **funding target**, the **future service contribution rate** and the **recovery plan**. These have been agreed by the Authority. The assumptions are expanded further in Appendix F.

We also describe where the approach taken for this valuation differs from that used for the previous valuation. For the purpose of this report, Scheduled Bodies include Resolution Bodies but do not include Academies, whilst Admission Bodies include all other Employers participating in the Fund, including Academies.

Key financial assumptions Here is a summary of the key financial assumptions. In our opinion these are compatible with taking the assets at market value.

Key Financial Assumptions

Assumption	This valuation (% p.a.)	Previous valuation (% p.a.)	Comments on assumptions for this valuation
Long dated gilt yields			
▪ Fixed interest gilts	4.5	4.7	For this valuation, derived from Bank of England yield curves at duration appropriate for the Fund's liabilities. For the previous valuation the yields were derived from the gross redemption yield on published indices.
▪ Index linked gilts	0.7	1.5	
Price inflation			
▪ Retail Prices Index (RPI)	3.8	3.2	This has been set using the level of inflation implied by the gilt markets at the Valuation Date (as measured by the above gilt yields).
▪ Consumer Prices Index (CPI)	3.3	n/a	This has been set as 0.5% p.a. lower than the RPI. This deduction has been set having regard to the estimated difference between RPI and CPI (over 20 years as at 31 March 2010) arising from the difference in the calculation approach between the two indices. Note that this estimate will vary from time to time.

Pension increases			
▪ Pensions in excess of GMPs	3.3	3.2	For this valuation this is equal to the CPI price inflation assumption above.
▪ GMPs accrued after 5 April 1988	2.7	2.7	For this valuation this is based on the CPI price inflation assumption above, an assumption about how much price inflation varies each year, and the interaction of price inflation with the maximum annual increase of 3% p.a.
▪ GMPs accrued before 6 April 1988	0	0	
General pay increases	5.3	4.7	Assumed to be average future assumed RPI prices inflation plus 1.5% p.a.
Discount rate – in service			
▪ Scheduled Bodies	6.8	6.2	For this valuation this is equal to the yield on long dated gilts, plus 2.3% p.a.
▪ Admission Bodies	6.0	6.2	For this valuation this is equal to the yield on long dated gilts, plus 1.5% p.a.
Discount rate – left service			
▪ Scheduled Bodies	6.8	5.2	For this valuation this is equal to the yield on long dated gilts, plus 2.3% p.a.
▪ Admission Bodies	5.0	5.2	For this valuation this is equal to the yield on long dated gilts, plus 0.5% p.a.

Rationale for discount rate

The **discount rate** for Scheduled Bodies has been set having regard to the expected return on the Fund assets and the long term financial standing of these bodies. The Fund assets are considered to have a better than evens chance of delivering investment returns in excess of the Scheduled Body **discount rate**.

For Admission Bodies, the **discount rate** has regard to the possibility that participation might cease at any time and anticipates a move to a low risk investment portfolio made up of long dated gilts (of appropriate nature and term) at cessation.

Key demographic assumptions

The key demographic assumption is member mortality, to which the **funding target** can be particularly sensitive.

Since the previous valuation, research has generally shown that life expectancy is improving much faster than previous research envisaged.

The mortality assumptions have been revised in light of this taking into account the results of a review into the Fund's pensioner mortality experience. A 65 year old male pensioner in normal health is now assumed on average to live to 87.1 (rather than 85.9 at the previous valuation). And a 65 year old female pensioner in normal health is assumed on average to live to 89.3 (rather than 88.0).

In view of the importance of the mortality assumption, this assumption will need to be kept carefully monitored in the future.

What's changed since previous valuation

The assumptions differ from those used for the previous valuation:

- The financial assumptions have been updated to reflect movements in gilt yields.
- An assumption for CPI price inflation has been made (this was not relevant for the previous valuation).
- The **discount rate** used for Scheduled Bodies has increased relative to gilt yields. This is to meet the principle set out in the **Funding Strategy Statement** of maintaining as nearly constant an overall contribution rate as possible.
- The **discount rates** used for Admission Bodies have remained the same relative to gilt yields. This is to reflect the anticipated returns resulting from the anticipated move to a low risk investment portfolio on cessation.
- The mortality assumption has been changed to allow for research that suggests people are living longer and reflects a review of the Fund's pensioner mortality experience over the period since the previous valuation.
- The allowance for female future retirements in ill-health has been reduced following a review of the experience since the previous valuation. We have also increased the proportion of retirements assumed to fall under Tier 1 for all members, in the light of the level experienced since this was introduced in 2008.
- The allowance for future withdrawals from service with deferred pension entitlement has been reduced at younger ages and increased at older ages following a review of the experience.

Overall, these changes result in a lower overall **funding target**, i.e. they decrease the value placed on the Fund's liabilities compared with the previous valuation. However some Employer specific **funding targets** may be higher.

Where likely to be material, the overall financial impact of these changes is shown in section 6.

Funding method

As for the previous valuation, the **Projected Unit Method** with a one year control period has been used for most Employers to calculate the **funding target** and the **future service contribution rate**. The **Attained Age Method** has been used for some Employers who do not permit new employees to join the Fund.

In each case no explicit allowance for new entrants has been made.

The resulting **future service contribution rate** can be expected to be broadly stable if

- experience matches the assumptions underlying the **funding target**
- the Fund remains closed for those Employers for whom the **Attained Age Method** has been used
- the membership profile remains stable for those Employers for whom the **Projected Unit Method** has been used
- everything else remains the same.

However, the following additional influences on the **future service contribution rate** are anticipated:

- Assumed chronological improvements within the life expectancy assumptions incorporated in this valuation can be expected to result in a gradual drift upwards.
- The gradual removal of the right to retire early on unreduced pension (if over age 60 and age plus service is greater than or equal to 85 years) can be expected to gradually reduce the **future service contribution rate**, as the proportion of members with these enhanced retirement rights reduces.
- The impact of an ageing workforce for those Employers closed to new members is expected to gradually increase the **future service contribution rate** for these Employers.

Additionally if the **funding target** changes the contribution rates are likely to change.

Addressing the shortfall

The Actuary and the Authority have agreed that the **shortfall** relative to the **funding target** at this valuation will be removed through payment of additional contributions by Employers over a range of different recovery periods of up to 30 years. The recovery period used for each Employer is set out in Appendix H.

The assumptions used to calculate the additional contributions are the same as those used for calculating the **funding target**.

Changes to funding objectives

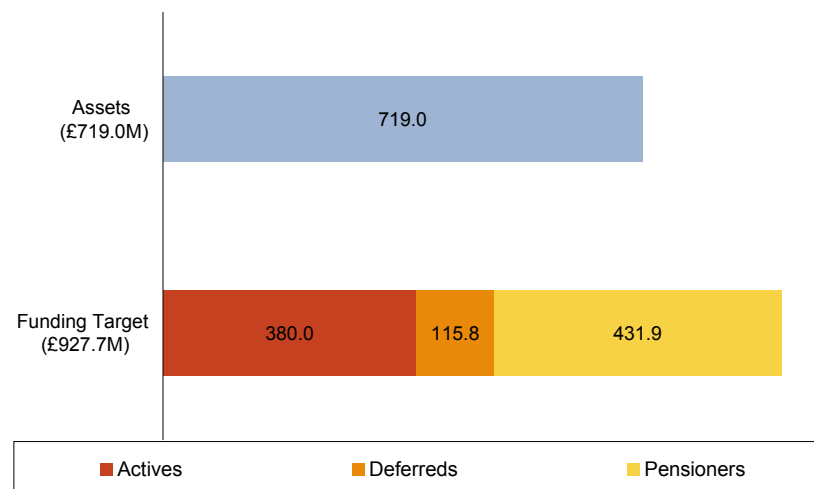
The **funding principle** for this valuation is to hold sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the benefits as they fall due. The **funding objective** is to hold sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the **funding target**. The Actuary and the Authority have agreed that the **funding target** is an appropriate level of assets to hold in order to meet this **funding principle**.

- This is a similar approach to the **funding principle** and the **funding objective** in the previous valuation. However, we would draw your attention to the changes to the assumptions used, as summarised in this section.
-

6. Funding Target — Results

Funding target

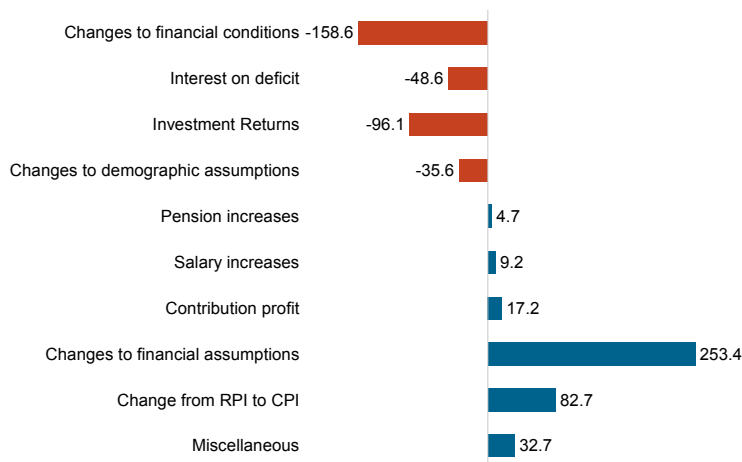
The chart below compares the market value of the assets to our calculation of the **funding target**, using the assumptions agreed with the Authority.



The **shortfall** of the assets relative to the **funding target** is £208.7M. This corresponds to a **funding ratio** of 78%.

Explanation of change

The funding position has improved by £61.0M since the previous valuation, where the shortfall was £269.7M. The change in position is explained approximately as follows:



The figures in this chart are in £M. The analysis shows that the main factors affecting the funding position since the previous valuation are:

- The change in pension indexation from RPI to CPI and the change in the **discount rate** relative to gilt yields, and additional Employer contributions paid, which have acted to improve the position.
- The actual returns on the Fund assets compared to the expected long term return, the significant reduction in index linked gilt yields, and changes to the mortality assumption (included in the 'changes to demographic assumptions' bar), which have acted to worsen the position.

Future service contribution rate

We have also calculated the aggregate Employer **future service contribution rate**. This is the rate of Employer contribution that would normally be appropriate if the Fund had no **surplus** or **shortfall** and the assets were exactly equal to the **funding target**.

	% of Pensionable Pay
New final salary benefits	20.8
Death in service lump sum	0.4
Administration expenses	0.7
Less employee contributions	(6.2)
Net Employer cost	15.7

Explanation of change

The future service rate has reduced by 2.4% of Pensionable Pay since the previous valuation.

The main factors affecting the **future service contribution rate** since the previous valuation are:

- The change in pension indexation from RPI to CPI and the change in the **discount rate** relative to gilt yields, which have acted to reduce the **future service contribution rate**.

These have been partially offset by:

- The change in financial conditions, as reflected in the gilt yields and changes to the mortality assumptions, which have acted to increase the **future service contribution rate**.

7. Other Funding Measures

Low risk measure

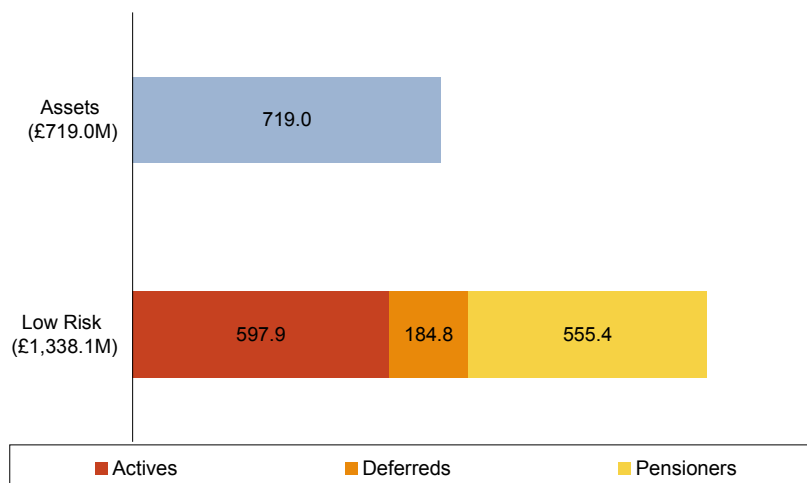
We have also reviewed the low risk position of the Fund, which considers the position if no allowance is made in the **discount rate** for returns on the Fund's assets to exceed gilt yields.

We show this measure for information purposes to give an indication of the level of risk inherent in the funding and investment strategy adopted by the Authority. This is therefore a **planning exercise**.

This measure is generally used for actuarial assessments required under Administration Regulation 38(2), when an Admission Body ceases to participate in the Fund where a move to a notional low risk investment portfolio and funding strategy is appropriate (e.g. if **subsumption** does not apply).

Results

Here is our calculation of the low risk measure in respect of past service.



The **shortfall** of the assets relative to the low risk funding measure is £619.1M. This corresponds to a low risk funding ratio of 54%.

Previous low risk funding ratio

At the previous valuation, the corresponding low risk funding ratio was 63%. The low risk funding ratio has therefore worsened from the previous valuation.

This is largely due to the deterioration in financial conditions since the previous valuation (which resulted in poor returns from investment markets and the change in gilt yields) and the change in the mortality assumptions. The impact of these factors has been partially offset by the move to CPI pension indexation.

**Position on
discontinuance**

It is a requirement of Actuarial Guidance Note GN9 that formal valuation reports consider the funding position should the Fund have been discontinued as at the Valuation Date. However, there are no provisions covering discontinuance in the Regulations.

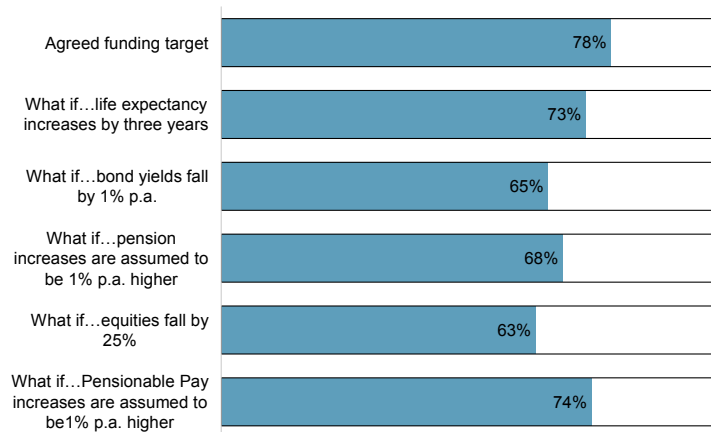
We believe that it is the view of all actuaries who have to report on Funds governed by the Regulations that this requirement does therefore not apply in the case of such valuations. We therefore do not cover this specific eventuality in this report.

**Cover for transfer
values**

Actuarial Guidance Note GN9 requires us to consider whether there is likely to be sufficient assets, if the statutory funding objective were met, for the Fund to pay unreduced **transfer values**. However the statutory funding objective does not apply to the Fund. Furthermore there is no provision under the Regulations for **transfer values** or other benefits to be restricted by the amount of the Fund assets. We do not therefore believe this measure is relevant for the Fund.

8. Risks and Sensitivity Analysis

Purpose of section	This section comments on some of the key risks faced by the Fund.
Key risks	<p>Here is a recap of some of the key factors that could lead to shortfalls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment performance — the return achieved on the Fund's assets may be lower than allowed for in the valuation. Investment volatility — the assets may move differently to the funding target. The Fund may invest in assets (e.g. equities) that are expected to achieve a greater return than the assets that most closely match the expected benefit payments (i.e. gilts and investment grade derivatives), in the hope of reducing the contributions required. The more mismatched the investment strategy is, the greater the potential risks. Mortality — members could live longer than foreseen, for example, as a result of a medical breakthrough. This would mean that benefits are paid for longer, resulting in a higher cost to the Fund. Options for members (or others) — members may exercise options resulting in unanticipated extra costs. For example, members could swap less of their pension for cash at retirement than is assumed. Retrospective changes in the benefits payable by the Local Government Pension Scheme.
Quantifying the risks	<p>To help the Authority understand the susceptibility of the financial position measured against the funding target, we have considered the approximate impact of the following one-off step changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy for a current 65 year old is three years greater than anticipated. Yields on gilts decrease by 1% per annum (with no change in the investment markets). In practice, if yields fell such that the discount rate were reduced, it is possible that there would be some compensating change in asset values, particularly the Fund's bond holdings. This effect is not shown in the chart below. Pension increases (including increases to pensions in deferment) are 1% p.a. higher than assumed. The market values of equities and property fall by 25% (with no change in bond markets). Pensionable Pay increases are assumed to be 1% p.a. higher than assumed. <p>Please see the chart below for the results. The scenarios considered are not 'worst case' scenarios, and could occur in combination (rather than in isolation). The low risk funding measure is also highly sensitive to these factors.</p>



Implications

The above analysis highlights that the Fund is highly susceptible to:

- Equity markets falling, or bond yields falling with no change in investment markets. This risk arises because the Fund is not invested in the assets that most closely match the expected future cashflows (i.e. gilts and investment grade derivatives).
- Members living longer than expected. This risk arises because pension benefits must be paid as long as the beneficiaries are alive.

9. Summary and Conclusions

Headline results

Here are the headlines at the Valuation Date:

- There is a **shortfall** of £208.7M relative to the Fund's **funding target**. This corresponds to a **funding ratio** of 78%.
- The aggregate cost to the Employers of new benefits for members (including lump sums and payable in death in service and administration expenses) is 15.7% of Pensionable Pay.
- The low risk funding ratio is 54%.

Developments since the Valuation Date

- In the Emergency Budget on 22 June 2010, the Chancellor announced that Public Sector pensions will be linked to increases in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). We have allowed for this change in this valuation.
- Since the Valuation Date, equity markets have risen slightly, fixed interest gilt yields have fallen slightly but index-linked gilt yields are broadly unchanged. These developments will have had little impact overall on the financial position of the Fund under both the **funding target** and low risk funding measures (calculated with financial assumptions updated in line with market movements).
- The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton, has been established to review all aspects of pension provision in the Public Sector. The Commission's final report was issued on 10 March 2011 and proposes a number of changes for all public service pensions, including an increase in normal retirement age and a move from final salary to a career average revalued earnings framework. However no specific changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme have as yet been announced or incorporated in the Regulations. We have not therefore made explicit allowance for any changes in this valuation. Any changes will be reflected in future valuations once these have been incorporated in the Regulations.
- In the 2010 Spending Review HM Treasury set out the Government's intention to increase employee contributions into public sector pension schemes. The stated aim was to phase in the increases from April 2012, with the objective of collecting an extra £1.8bn by 2014/15. This would, on average, lead to employee contributions increasing by 3% of Pensionable Pay. It is not yet clear how this will be implemented. Any changes will be reflected in future valuations once these have been incorporated in the Regulations.

Addressing the shortfall

Based on the agreed approach set out in section 5, the overall additional shortfall contributions payable to the Fund from 1 April 2011, required to eliminate the **shortfall** over 25 years would be equivalent to about 7.1% of Pensionable Pay, provided that membership numbers remain broadly stable, and Pensionable Pay increases in line with our assumptions. This would give an aggregate contribution rate of 22.8% of Pensionable Pay.

Contributions paid by individual Employers and their recovery periods will reflect their own circumstances (see below).

Individual Employer rates set by the Actuary

The Employer contribution rates are set by the Actuary taking into account a number of factors including:

- Administration Regulation 36 – which requires the Actuary to have regard to
 - The existing and prospective liabilities
 - The desirability of maintaining as nearly constant a rate as possible and
 - The Authority's **Funding Strategy Statement**.
- The results of the valuation.
- Developments since the Valuation Date.
- Discussions between the Actuary, the Authority and Employers.

Contribution rates for Employers who contribute to the Fund are set out in the **Rates and Adjustments Certificate** in Appendix L.

Rates of contribution payable by individual Employers, or groups of Employers, differ because they take into account their particular membership profiles and funding ratios and, in some cases, the assumptions and recovery periods are specific to their circumstances.

Aggregate Employer contribution rate

The aggregate Employer contribution applicable from 1 April 2011 can be summarised as follows:

Aggregate Employer contribution from 1 April 2011

Year	Future service contribution rate (% Pensionable Pay)	Annual shortfall contribution (£Ms)
2011/12	15.7	11.8
2012/13	15.7	11.8
2013/14	15.7	11.8

Notes:

- The annual **shortfall** contributions above are the aggregate of the **shortfall** contributions for individual Employers in each year. Details of the contributions payable by individual Employers are set out in Appendix L. **Strain** payments in respect of early retirements are payable in addition.

- The **shortfall** contributions for each employer (bar Northumberland County Council) are anticipated to increase on 1 April 2014 (and every three years thereafter) by 16.8% (representing three years of the salary increase assumptions of 5.3% p.a. compound). Contributions in respect of Northumberland County Council are anticipated to increase at 5.3% per annum commencing from 1 April 2014.
- At the end of each Employer's recovery period, if cessation of participation does not occur, contributions are anticipated to be in line with the future service contribution rate.
- The contributions will be subject to review at future actuarial valuations.
- Member contributions are payable in addition to the Employer rates set out above and in Appendix L, at the rates set out in the Benefits Regulations. **AVCs** and **strain** payments as a result of early retirements are payable in addition.
- Contributions by active members and Employers should be paid to the Fund at such time and at such frequency as required by the Administration Regulations. Any monetary **shortfall** contributions have been calculated on the basis that they are payable uniformly over the relevant year.

Monitoring the Fund

In the light of the volatility inherent where investments do not match liabilities, we suggest the Authority monitors the financial position in an appropriate manner on a quarterly basis.

The next formal actuarial valuation under Administration Regulation 36 is due to take place as at 31 March 2013.

**Signed on behalf of
Aon Hewitt Limited**

Chris Archer FIA



Joel Duckham FIA

Appendix A — Legal and Actuarial Framework

Scope of advice

It is a legal requirement to carry out a full valuation at least once every three years, and this report is produced in compliance with

- Administration Regulation 36.
- The terms of the agreement between us and the Authority on the understanding that it is solely for the use and benefit of the Authority.

Unless prior written consent has been given by Aon Hewitt Limited, this report should not be disclosed to or discussed with anyone else unless they have a statutory right to see it. In particular we permit the Authority to release copies of this report to the following parties only:

- Any Employer which contributes to the Fund.
- Department of Communities and Local Government.

We also permit Communities and Local Government to pass out report to the Government Actuary's Department in connection with their statutory duties. None of the above bodies have our permission to pass our report on to any other parties.

Notwithstanding such consent, neither we nor Aon Hewitt Limited accepts or assumes any responsibility to anyone other than the addressees of this report.

Professional Guidance Note GN9

We confirm that this report has been prepared in accordance with version 9.0 of Guidance Note 'GN9: Funding Defined Benefits - Presentation of Actuarial Advice' published by the Board for Actuarial Standards. However the following aspects of GN9 are not relevant to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and its funds in the current circumstances and we have not reported on them:

- Paragraph 3.4.16 of GN9 requires the actuary to include the certification of technical provision in relation to a valuation under Part 3 of the Pensions Act 2004. As Part 3 of the Pensions Act 2004 does not apply to the LGPS, this report does not comply with paragraph 3.4.16 of GN9; and
- Part 3.5 of GN9 requires the actuary to report on the value of the liabilities that would arise had the Fund wound up on the Valuation Date (based on the cost of buying out the accrued benefits with insurance policies). As the LGPS is a statutory scheme, there is no regulatory provision for scheme wind up and the scheme members have a statutory right to their accrued benefits. Therefore the concept of solvency on a buy-out basis does not apply to the Fund. Accordingly, this report does not comply with part 3.5 of GN9.

For the purposes of compliance with Section 4 of GN9 we have treated the Rates and Adjustments Certificate and shortfall contributions as analogous to the schedule of contributions and recovery plan referred to in section 4.

Appendix B — Assets

Assets

The audited Fund accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 show its assets as £719.2M, split as follows.

Asset type	Market value (£M)	% of Total
Overseas equities	187.0	26.0%
UK equities	275.0	38.1%
Property	37.3	5.2%
Overseas fixed interest bonds	54.3	7.6%
Ventures and Partnerships	47.2	6.6%
UK index linked bonds	107.0	14.9%
Other Investments	3.4	0.5%
Cash and net current assets	8.0	1.1%
Total	719.2	100.0

The above excludes assets for defined contribution **AVC** accounts.

For the purpose of our valuation we have reduced the assets by £0.2M in respect of the bulk transfer payment to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme due to be paid after the Valuation Date in respect of those members of the former Magistrates Court Committee who transferred on 1 April 2005.

Appendix C — Benefits

Introduction

The benefits of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) are set out in Regulations, the principal Regulations currently being the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 as subsequently amended. A broad summary of the benefits currently payable by the LGPS to contributory full time members as at the Valuation Date is given below.

Readers should refer to the Regulations for further details.

	Benefits provided as at Valuation Date
Normal retirement age	65
Member contributions	<p>Rate between 5.5% of pay and 7.5% of pay dependent on contribution band in which member is situated.</p> <p>Special provisions apply for certain categories of former manual workers.</p>
Final pay	Generally Pensionable Pay over the 12 months prior to retirement or earlier exit or, if higher, in one of the preceding two years, or the best three year average level of Pensionable Pay over the ten years prior to retirement or earlier exit.
Normal retirement pension	<p>1/60 of Final Pay for each year of Pensionable Service on or after 1 April 2008.</p> <p>For each year of Pensionable Service before 1 April 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a pension of 1/80 of Final Pay, plus ▪ a lump sum of 3/80 of Final Pay
Lump sum	<p>Pension can be surrendered for lump sum to a maximum lump sum of one quarter of the total value of benefits.</p> <p>Conversion rate is £12 for each £1 p.a. of pension given up.</p>
Early retirement pension	<p>Reduced pension payable on retirement after age 60, or after age 55 with Employer consent. Pension calculated as for normal retirement but based on Pensionable Service to early retirement date.</p> <p>Certain categories of member eligible for protection can retire on unreduced pension if their age plus Pensionable Service is greater than or equal to 85 years.</p>
Incapacity and ill-health pensions	<p>Tier 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Payable to members with more than 3 months' Pensionable Service based on Final Pay at exit and potential Pensionable Service that would have been completed to age 65. ▪ To qualify for this benefit there must be no reasonable prospect of the member undertaking employment before Normal Retirement Age.

Incapacity and ill-health pensions

Tier 2

- Payable to members with more than 3 months' Pensionable Service based on Final Pay at exit and service completed to date of exit plus 25% of the period from date of exit to Normal Retirement Age.
- To qualify for this benefit the member must be expected to be capable of undertaking gainful employment at some point after three years but before Normal Retirement Age.

Tier 3

- Payable to members with more than 3 months' Pensionable Service based on Final Pay at exit and Pensionable Service completed to date of exit.
- To qualify for this benefit the member must be expected to be capable of obtaining gainful employment at some point in the next 3 years.
- Payable for 3 years or until gainful employment obtained, if earlier.

In each case members must be permanently incapable of efficiently discharging their current duties to qualify.

Leaving Pensionable Service

Pension payable on retirement at age 65 based on Final Pay at exit and Pensionable Service to date of exit.

Certain categories of member can retire early on unreduced pension if over age 60 and their age plus service is greater than or equal to 85 years. Service in this case includes the period between the date of exit and Normal Retirement Age.

Pension increases

- Pensions in payment in excess of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions are increased each year in line with price inflation. With effect from the increase in April 2011 this will be measured by the annual increase in the Consumer Prices Index (previous increases had reflected the Retail Prices Index).
- Deferred pensions are similarly increased in deferment.
- Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (**GMPs**) increase in deferment in line with State revaluation factors.
- **GMPs** accrued after 6 April 1988 increase in payment each year at the lower of 3% and price inflation, as measured above.

Death benefits in service

- A lump sum of 3 x Final Pay at exit.
- A cohabitee's pension of 1/160 of Final Pay at exit for each year of Pensionable Service, including a service enhancement that would have applied had retirement due to ill-health under Tier 1 occurred at the date of death.

State pension scheme

The Scheme is contracted out of the State Second Pension Scheme.

Appendix D — Membership Data

Active members at 31 March 2010 (31 March 2007)

		Number	Average age	Total Pensionable Pay (£000 p.a.)	Average Pensionable Pay (£ p.a.)	Average Pensionable Service (years)
Men	2010	2,369	46.4	53,296	22,497	13.5
	2007	2,753	46.6	59,691	21,682	13.6
Women	2010	6,079	45.2	79,053	13,004	6.6
	2007	6,578	44.4	77,866	11,837	6.1
Total	2010	8,448	45.5	132,349	15,666	8.5
	2007	9,331	45.0	137,557	14,742	8.3

Note: Pensionable Pay is that over the year to the Valuation Date. Annualised pay is included for entrants in the last year. Part time pay is included for part-timers.

Deferred pensioners at 31 March 2010 (31 March 2007)

		Number	Average age	Total pension (£000 p.a.)	Average pension (£ p.a.)
Men	2010	1,758	44.5	3,529	2,008
	2007	1,551	48.5	3,141	2,025
Women	2010	4,857	44.6	4,526	932
	2007	3,941	46.9	3,851	977
Total	2010	6,615	44.5	8,055	1,218
	2007	5,492	47.6	6,992	1,273

Note: The deferred pensions have been increased to the Valuation Date and include increases granted in April 2010 (2007: April 2007).

In addition to the numbers above there are 511 members who had yet to decide whether to take a transfer payment. Suitable allowance has been made for these in our calculations.

Pensioners at 31 March 2010 (31 March 2007)

		Number	Average age	Total pensions (£000 p.a.)	Average pension (£ p.a.)
Men	2010	2,532	69.4	19,166	7,570
	2007	2,261	68.4	15,165	6,707
Women	2010	3,291	68.6	9,444	2,870
	2007	2,666	68.2	6,934	2,601
Dependants	2010	943	76.5	2,344	2,485
	2007	945	76.6	2,208	2,337
Total	2010	6,766	70.0	30,954	4,575
	2007	5,872	69.1	24,307	4,139

Note: The pensions have been increased to the Valuation Date and include increases granted in April 2010 (2007: April 2007).

The 2010 figures exclude 45 children (2007: 54) who are in receipt of pensions. Suitable allowance has been made for these in our calculations.

Appendix E — Membership Data by Employer

Employer Name	Number of active members	Total Pensionable Pay of active members (£000s)	Number of deferred pensioners	Number of pensioner and dependant members
Age UK Northumberland	14	403	12	8
Amble Joint Burial Committee	0	-	0	1
Bede Academy	68	866	6	0
Berwick Borough Housing	15	314	5	3
Blyth Resource and Initiative Centre	1	(see note below)	0	0
Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure Trust	98	1,577	29	8
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington High School)	3	(see note below)	0	1
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington Learning Partnership)	6	21	1	0
Bullough Cleaning Services (Cramlington High School)	2	(see note below)	0	0
Bullough Cleaning Services (Prudhoe High School)	4	30	1	1
Community Action Northumberland	10	206	22	16
Corbridge Parish Council	2	(see note below)	0	0
Creative Management (Coquet)	4	37	1	0
Creative Management (Prudhoe)	2	(see note below)	3	0
CSB Contract Services	6	25	4	1
Helping Hands	1	(see note below)	0	0
Hexham Town Council	5	87	1	3
Homes For Northumberland	201	4,573	65	31
Isos Housing Limited	43	891	20	37
Morpeth Town Council	4	100	0	1

Employer Name	Number of active members	Total Pensionable Pay of active members (£000s)	Number of deferred pensioners	Number of pensioner and dependant members
North County Leisure (Alnwick)	11	129	11	0
North Country Leisure (Tynedale)	59	949	31	9
Northumberland Aged Mineworkers Homes Association	8	220	0	6
Northumberland Care Trust	100	2,250	48	33
Northumberland Church of England Academy	250	2,616	12	1
Northumberland College	160	2,745	164	97
Northumberland County Blind Association	7	126	6	2
Northumberland County Council	7,084	107,934	5,988	6,377
Northumberland National Park Authority	75	1,754	59	15
Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	6	152	2	4
Northumberland Tyne & Wear Valuation Panel	1	(see note below)	1	7
Ponteland Parish Council	0	-	0	1
Queens Hall Arts Centre	4	97	1	3
Superclean (Ponteland High School)	1	(see note below)	1	0
Superclean (St Benet Biscop School)	2	(see note below)	0	1
The Disabilities Trust	2	(see note below)	3	3
The Maltings Trust	1	(see note below)	3	1
Wansbeck Homes	152	3,423	14	12
Woodhorn Trust	36	610	2	0
Former Employers (No Active Members)	0	0	99	128
Total	8,448	132,349	6,615	6,811

Note: Pensionable Pay is that over the year to 31 March 2010. Part time pay is included for part-timers. Annualised pay is included for entrants in the last year.

For Employers with three or fewer members, Pensionable Pay is not shown for confidentiality reasons.

The number of Pensioners and Dependant members includes 45 child pensioners.

All employers which will be subsumed by Northumberland County Council have been included within their membership figures.

Appendix F — Assumptions for Funding Target

The assumptions used for assessing the **funding target** are summarised below. Different assumptions are used for the low risk funding measure, as explained in Appendix G.

Financial Assumptions

Yields on long dated gilts:	% p.a.
▪ Fixed interest	4.5
▪ Index linked	0.7
In service discount rate	
▪ Scheduled Bodies (Excluding Academies)	6.8
▪ Admission Bodies and Academies	6.0
Left service discount rate	
▪ Scheduled Bodies (Excluding Academies)	6.8
▪ Admission Bodies and Academies	5.0
Rate of pay increases (in addition to promotional increases)	5.3
Rate of price inflation	
▪ Retail Prices Index	3.8
▪ Consumer Prices Index	3.3
Rate of pension increases (on benefits in excess of GMPs)	3.3
Rate of pension increases on post-5 April 1988 GMPs	2.7
Rate of deferred pension increases	3.3
Rate of GMP increases in deferment	5.3

Demographic Assumptions

Post-retirement mortality	<u>Normal health base rates</u>
	<i>Year of Birth base rates</i>
	Standard SAPS All Lives Normal Health tables
	<i>Scaling factors</i>
	Rates adjusted by scaling factors derived having regard to the Fund's experience:
	Men 100%
	Women 100%

Ill-health base rates

Year of Birth base rates

Standard SAPS Ill-Health tables

Scaling factors

Rates adjusted by scaling factors derived having regard to the Fund's experience:

Men	100%
Women	100%

Improvements to base rates

An allowance for improvements in line with the CMI 2009 improvements (for men or women as appropriate), with a long term rate of improvement of 1.25% p.a.

What does this mean?

A 65 year old male pensioner in normal health is now assumed on average to live to 87.1 (rather than 85.9 at the previous valuation). And a 65 year old female pensioner in normal health is assumed on average to live to 89.3 (rather than 88.0) at the previous valuation.

Pre-retirement mortality

Base rates of standard SAPS Normal Health year of birth tables adjusted by a scaling factor of 75% (derived having regard to the Fund's experience).

An allowance has been made for improvements in line with the CMI 2009 improvements (for men or women as appropriate), with a long term rate of improvement of 1.25% p.a.

Early retirements

All members are assumed to retire at the earliest age at which they can retire as of right, with no reduction to benefits accrued prior to 1 April 2008.

Members joining on or after 1 October 2006 are assumed to retire at age 65.

Withdrawals

Allowance made for withdrawals from service (see sample rates below).

On withdrawal, members are assumed to leave a deferred pension in the Fund, and are not assumed to exercise their option to take a **transfer value**.

Retirement due to ill-health

Allowance made for retirements due to ill-health (see sample rates below). Proportions assumed to fall into the different benefit tiers applicable after 1 April 2008 are:

Tier 1	80%
Tier 2	10%
Tier 3	10%

Family details

A man is assumed to be three years older than his spouse, civil partner or cohabitee. A woman is assumed to be three year's younger than her spouse, civil partner or cohabitee.

90% of non-pensioners are assumed to be married or cohabiting (with a person eligible for death benefits) at retirement or earlier death.

90% of pensioners are assumed to be / have been married or cohabiting (with a person eligible for death benefits) at the date of the valuation, or age 65 if earlier.

Commutation

Each member assumed to exchange 50% of the maximum amount permitted of their past service pension rights on retirement for additional lump sum.

Each member assumed to exchange 75% of the maximum amount permitted of their future service pension rights on retirement for additional lump sum.

Promotional salary increases

Allowance made for age-related promotional increases (see sample rates below).

Expenses

0.7% of Pensionable Pay added to the value of future benefit accrual.

Sample rates

The table below illustrates the allowances made for withdrawals from service and ill health retirements at various ages. Also shown is the allowance included for promotional pay increases, which is shown as the percentage increase over the next year.

Current age	Percentage leaving the Fund in the next year as a result of withdrawal from service	Percentage promotional pay increase over year
	Men and women	Men and women
20	15.0	3.5
25	12.5	2.9
30	10.3	2.0
35	8.0	1.1
40	6.3	-
45	4.8	-
50	3.5	-
55	2.3	-
60	1.0	-

Current age	Percentage leaving the Fund in the next year as a result of ill health	
	Men	Women
20	0.01	0.00
25	0.04	0.03
30	0.08	0.05
35	0.16	0.09
40	0.23	0.13
45	0.39	0.24
50	0.54	0.34
55	1.22	0.79
60	1.89	1.24

Appendix G — Assumptions for Low Risk Funding Measure

Derivation of assumptions

We have set the **discount rate** for the low risk measure equal to the yield on fixed-interest gilts of appropriate term at the Valuation Date.

All other assumptions are as used for the **funding target** as set out in Appendix F.

Summary of assumptions

Here is a summary of the main assumptions underlying our low risk funding measure, where these are different to the **funding target** basis:

Assumption	What is used for low risk measure % p.a.
In service discount rate	
▪ Scheduled Bodies	4.5
▪ Admission Bodies	4.5
Left service discount rate	
▪ Scheduled Bodies	4.5
▪ Admission Bodies	4.5

Appendix H — Details of Employers' Funding Strategies

Recovery periods

We show below the recovery periods from 1 April 2011 used for Employers in the Fund.

Employer	Recovery period
Age UK Northumberland	30
Bede Academy	25
Berwick Borough Housing	Future working lifetime
Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure Trust	25
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington High School)	0.4
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington Learning Partnership)	0.4
Bullough Cleaning Services (Cramlington High School)	0.4
Bullough Cleaning Services (Prudhoe High School)	0.4
Community Action Northumberland	30
Corbridge Parish Council	20
Creative Management (Coquet)	0.3
Creative Management (Prudhoe)	4.3
Helping Hands	Future working lifetime
Hexham Town Council	20
Homes for Northumberland	10
Isos Housing Limited	25
Morpeth Town Council	25
North Country Leisure (Tynedale / Alnwick)	25
Northumberland Aged Mineworkers Homes Association	30
Northumberland Care Trust	25
Northumberland Church of England Academy	25
Northumberland College	10
Northumberland County Blind Association	30
Northumberland County Council	25
Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	25
Northumberland National Park Authority	10
Northumberland Tyne & Wear Valuation Panel	25
Queens Hall Arts Centre	25
Superclean (Ponteland High School)	0.4
Superclean (St Benet Biscop School)	0.4
Tees Active Leisure	N/A
The Disabilities Trust	30
The Maltings Trust	30
Wansbeck Homes	25
Woodhorn Trust	Future working lifetime

Appendix I — Consolidated Revenue Account

		Total £000
Fund at 31 March 2007		666,822
Income		
Contributions	Employer normal	88,691
	Employer additional	6,429
	Employer special	17,187
	Employee	26,001
Transfers-in		9,494
Investment income		18,976
Total income		166,778
Outgo		
Pensions paid		81,339
Lump sums and death benefits		29,562
Transfers-out		11,083
Refunds of contributions on leaving		12
Expenses of investment		5,298
Expenses of administration		2,762
Other outgo		1
Total outgo		130,057
Change in market value		15,684
Fund at 31 March 2010 *		719,227

Notes

* In addition we have allowed for £0.2M to be paid out of the Fund in respect of the bulk transfer payment to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme due to be paid after the Valuation Date in respect of those members of the former Magistrates Courts Committee who transferred on 1 April 2005.

1. This includes the change in accounting guidelines to account for investments at bid value. Previously investments were valued at mid value.
2. The figures above exclude members' **AVCs**.

Appendix J — Membership Experience

The table below compares the actual numbers of movements from the Fund over the period 2007 to 2010 with the numbers expected on the basis of the assumptions adopted for the current valuation.

	Males	Females
Death in service:		
Actual	7	9
Expected	7	9
Withdrawals excluding refunds:		
Actual	565	1766
Expected	399	1029
Normal and voluntary retirements from active:		
Actual	127	269
Expected	277	238
Ill-health retirements:		
Actual	52	54
Expected	42	27
Severance and redundancy retirements:		
Actual	192	214
Expected	-	-

Appendix K — Current Contribution Rates

We show below the contributions payable by each Employer in the year ending 31 March 2011.

Employer	% Pensionable Pay	Additional monetary amount
Scheduled Bodies (excluding Academies)		
Corbridge Parish Council	23.50%	
Hexham Town Council	23.60%	
Homes for Northumberland	21.90%	
Morpeth Town Council	22.50%	
Northumberland County Council	22.50%	
Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	22.40%	
Northumberland National Park Authority	20.80%	
Northumberland College	20.10%	
Northumberland Tyne & Wear Valuation Panel	22.50%	
Admitted Bodies and Academies		
Age UK Northumberland	19.50%	
Bede Academy	27.70%	
Berwick Borough Housing	23.80%	
Blyth Resource and Initiative Centre	22.70%	
Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure Trust	19.10%	
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington High School)	19.70%	
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington Learning Partnership)	24.60%	
Bullough Cleaning Services (Cramlington High School)	22.00%	
Bullough Cleaning Services (Prudhoe High School)	20.50%	
Castle Morpeth Housing	17.60%	
Community Action Northumberland	22.40%	
Creative Management (Coquet)	15.00%	
Creative Management (Prudhoe)	15.00%	
Helping Hands	24.30%	
Milecastle Housing Ltd	26.20%	
North County Leisure (Alnwick)	14.00%	
North Country Leisure (Tynedale)	21.10%	
Northumberland Aged Mineworkers Homes Association	22.40%	
Northumberland Care Trust	13.60%	

Employer	% Pensionable Pay	Additional monetary amount
Northumberland Church of England Academy	29.10%	
Northumberland County Blind Association	22.40%	
Superclean (Ponteland High School)	2.90%	
Superclean (St Benet Biscop School)	19.40%	
The Maltings Trust	22.40%	
Queens Hall Arts Centre	22.50%	
The Disabilities Trust	27.00%	
Wansbeck Homes	19.80%	
Woodhorn Trust	21.30%	

Appendix L — Rates and Adjustments Certificate

In accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (the 'Administration Regulations'), we certify that contributions should be paid by Employers at the following rates for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.

- A common rate of 15.7% of Pensionable Pay.
- Individual adjustments which, when added to or subtracted from the common rate, produce the following Employer contribution rates:

Employer	Contribution rate 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014 % pay	Additional Monetary Amount Year commencing 1 April £000		
		2011	2012	2013
Scheduled and Resolution Bodies				
Corbridge Parish Council	16.9	2.4	2.4	2.4
Hexham Town Council	16.9	6.9	6.9	6.9
Homes for Northumberland	15.2	221.0	221.0	221.0
Morpeth Town Council	16.9	6.9	6.9	6.9
Northumberland College	14.3	192.0	192.0	192.0
Northumberland County Council	14.8	10,200.0	10,200.0	10,200.0
Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	16.9	10.5	10.5	10.5
Northumberland National Park Authority	14.2	128.0	128.0	128.0
Northumberland Tyne & Wear Valuation Panel	16.9	2.5	2.5	2.5
Admission Bodies				
Age UK Northumberland	23.7	42.9	42.9	42.9
Bede Academy	21.5	24.6	24.6	24.6
Berwick Borough Housing	21.8	-	-	-
Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure Trust	21.5	121.0	121.0	121.0
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington High School)	24.1	5.5*	-	-

Employer	Contribution rate 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014 % pay	Additional Monetary Amount Year commencing 1 April £000		
		2011	2012	2013
Bullough Cleaning Services (Ashington Learning Partnership)	0.0	-	-	-
Bullough Cleaning Services (Cramlington High School)	27.0	1.1*	-	-
Bullough Cleaning Services (Prudhoe High School)	25.1	13.2*	-	-
Community Action Northumberland	23.7	27.1	27.1	27.1
Creative Management (Coquet)	25.9	28.1*		
Creative Management (Prudhoe)	25.6	1.1	1.1	1.1
Helping Hands	22.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Isos Housing Limited	24.0	184.0	184.0	184.0
North Country Leisure (Tynedale / Alnwick)	22.2	111.0	111.0	111.0
Northumberland Aged Mineworkers Homes Association	23.7	28.9	28.9	28.9
Northumberland Care Trust	23.8	155.0	155.0	155.0
Northumberland Church of England Academy	22.2	114.0	114.0	114.0
Northumberland County Blind Association	23.7	16.5	16.5	16.5
Queens Hall Arts Centre	24.3	9.1	9.1	9.1
Superclean (Ponteland High School)	23.7	4.5*	-	-
Superclean (St Benet Biscop School)	24.7	7.5*	-	-
Tees Active Leisure	25.3	-	-	-
The Disabilities Trust	26.6	12.6	12.6	12.6
The Maltings Trust	23.7	1.6	1.6	1.6
Wansbeck Homes	23.3	132.0	132.0	132.0
Woodhorn Trust	18.6	-	-	-

* Amount payable over period to end of contract

These represent the minimum contributions to be paid by each employer. Employers may choose to pay additional contributions from time to time subject to agreement by the Administering Authority.

In addition, any extra liabilities falling on the Fund in respect of retirements under Regulations 18, 19 or 30 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2008 (the 'Benefits Regulations') should be financed by additional Employer contributions, calculated in a manner advised by the Actuary, and payable over a period of up to three years.

In addition, any additional benefits granted under Benefits Regulations 12 or 13 should be financed by additional Employer contributions, under Administration Regulation 40, or as calculated in a manner advised by the Actuary.

Additional contributions may be payable by any Admission Bodies which have ceased to participate in the Fund since 31 March 2010 and will be certified separately.

Where payments due from an Employer listed in this Certificate are expressed as capital amounts, the amounts payable by that Employer should be adjusted to take account of any amounts payable, in respect of a surplus or shortfall to which those capital payments relate, by new employers created after the valuation date which have been credited with proportions of the assets and liabilities of the relevant Employer. Any adjustment should be as advised by the Fund Actuary.

Contribution rates for Employers commencing participation in the Fund after 31 March 2010 will be advised separately.

This certificate should be read in conjunction with the notes overleaf.

For Aon Hewitt Limited
40 Queen Square
Bristol
BS1 4QP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CSL'.

Chris Archer FIA
30 March 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joel Duckham'.

Joel Duckham FIA
30 March 2011

Notes to Actuary's Certificate

The contribution rates certified overleaf have been assessed using the actuarial methods and assumptions detailed in our report dated 30 March 2011.

These assumptions imply the following levels of new retirement liabilities from active membership status:

Type of Retirement	Anticipated retirements over 4 year period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2014	
	Number	New Pension £'000
Normal and voluntary under Regulations 16 or 30 of the Benefit Regulations	771	5,462.3
Comments on Funding	<p>Such retirements are generally 'cost neutral'. Additional funding would not normally be required if actual retirements exceed the number anticipated, unless retirements occur before the later of age 60 and the rule of 85 age and no reduction for early payment applies.</p> <p>The Authority requires separate funding of liabilities arising from such retirements and, as such, the financial impact of these retirements is neutral</p>	
Ill-health under Regulation 20 of the Benefit Regulations	153	929.3
Comments on Funding	<p>Such retirements increase costs due to the early payment of enhanced benefits. If actual retirements exceed the number anticipated, and no action is taken before the next valuation, this would be identified as a source of loss at the next valuation.</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 38(5)(b) of the Administration Regulations the Authority should monitor the number of ill-health retirements arising over each Fund year and refer the position to the Actuary if numbers exceed the levels implied above.</p>	
Severance and redundancy under Regulation 19 of the Benefit Regulations	Nil	Nil
Comments on Funding	<p>Such retirements increase costs due to the early payment of benefits. Any enhancement of benefits through the Fund would increase costs further. If actual retirements exceed the number anticipated, and no action is taken before the next valuation, this would be identified as a source of loss at the next valuation.</p> <p>The Authority requires separate funding of liabilities arising from such retirements and, as such, the financial impact of these retirements is neutral.</p>	

Flexible retirement under Regulation 18 of the Benefit Regulations	Nil	Nil
Comments on Funding	<p>Such retirements may increase costs due to the early payment of benefits. If actual retirements exceed the number anticipated, and no action is taken before the next valuation, this would be identified as a source of loss at the next valuation.</p> <p>The Authority requires separate funding of liabilities arising from such retirements and, as such, the financial impact of these retirements is neutral.</p>	

Glossary

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)	Voluntary contributions paid by members under Administration Regulation 25 to secure defined contribution (DC) benefits. AVCs and any associated Shared Cost AVCs paid by the employer are excluded from the valuation.
Attained Age Method (AAM)	<p>One of the common methods used by actuaries to calculate a contribution rate to the scheme.</p> <p>This method calculates the present value of the benefits expected to accrue to members over their expected remaining membership of the scheme expressed as a percentage of their expected future Pensionable Pay. It allows for projected future increases to pay through to retirement or date of leaving service. The method is based on the current membership takes no account of the possibility of further members joining the scheme. If there are no new members, this method would be expected to result in a stable contribution rate, once surpluses or shortfalls are taken into account, and if all the other assumptions are borne out. However, if more members join the scheme to replace older leavers, the contribution rate can be expected to fall.</p>
Best estimate	This is an estimate of a figure such that the eventual outcome is considered to be equally likely to be higher or lower than the best estimate .
Discount rate	This is used to place a present value on a future payment. A 'low risk' discount rate is usually derived from the investment return achievable by investing in government gilt-edged stock. A discount rate higher than the 'low risk' rate is often used to allow for some of the extra investment return that is expected by investing in assets other than gilts.
Funding objective	To hold sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the funding target .
Funding principle	To hold sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the benefits as they fall due.
Funding ratio	This is the ratio of the value of assets to the funding target .
Funding Strategy Statement	<p>A document produced by the Authority in accordance with Regulation 76A of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997, which sets out the funding strategy adopted for the Fund. The statement is produced and maintained in consultation with the Employers and the Actuary.</p> <p>The Actuary must have regard to this statement in preparing the valuation under Administration Regulation 36.</p>

Funding target	An assessment of the present value of the benefits that will be paid from the scheme in the future, normally based on Pensionable Service prior to the Valuation Date, and agreed by the Actuary and the Authority to be appropriate to meet the promised benefits.
Future service contribution rate	The contribution rate (expressed as a percentage of Pensionable Pay) required to meet the cost of benefits which will accrue to members in future.
GMPs	Most schemes that were contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) before April 1997 have to provide a pension for service before that date at least equal to the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP). This is approximately equal to the SERPS pension that the member would have earned had the scheme not been contracted out. GMPs ceased to build up on 6 April 1997 when the legislation changed.
Planning exercise	A planning exercise involves the estimation of an amount for budgetary or target setting purposes.
Present value	Actuarial valuations involve projections of pay, pensions and other benefits into the future. To express the value of the projected benefits in terms of a cash amount at the Valuation Date, the projected amounts are discounted back to the Valuation Date by a discount rate . This value is known as the present value . For example, if the discount rate was 6% a year and if we had to pay a lump sum of £1,060 in one year's time the present value would be £1,000.
Projected Unit Method (PUM)	<p>One of the common methods used by actuaries to calculate a contribution rate to the scheme.</p> <p>This method calculates the present value of the benefits expected to accrue to members over a control period (often one year) following the Valuation Date. The present value is usually expressed as a percentage of the members' Pensionable Pay. It allows for projected future increases to pay through to retirement or date of leaving service. Provided that the distribution of members remains stable with new members joining to take the place of older leavers, the contribution rate calculated can be expected to remain stable, if all the other assumptions are borne out. If there are no new members however, the average age will increase and the contribution rate can be expected to rise.</p>
Prudent	Prudent assumptions are assumptions that, if the Fund continues on an ongoing basis, are more likely to overstate than understate the amount of money actually required to meet the cost of the benefits.
Rates and Adjustments Certificate	A certificate required by the Administration Regulations setting out what contributions are payable by each employer over the three years from 1 April 2011.

Recovery period	The period over which any surplus or shortfall is to be eliminated.
Recovery plan	Where a valuation shows a funding shortfall against the funding target , the recovery plan sets out how the funding objective will be met.
Shortfall	This is the funding target less the value of assets. If the value of assets is greater than the funding target , then the difference is called the surplus .
Strains	This represents the increase in the present value of a member's benefits as a result of additional benefits granted in certain circumstances. This includes the provision of enhanced benefits on retirement (for example as a result of waiving an actuarial reduction for early payment) or any discretionary benefits granted.
Subsumption	<p>When an employer ceases participation in the Fund, such that it will no longer have any contributing members, it is possible that another employer in the Fund will agree to provide a source of future funding in respect of any emerging deficiencies in respect of the liabilities of the ceding employer. In this document this is referred to as 'subsumption'.</p> <p>In such circumstances the ceding employer's liabilities are known as 'subsumed liabilities' (in that responsibility for them is subsumed by the accepting Employer).</p>
Surplus	This is the value of assets less the funding target . If the funding target is greater than the value of assets, then the difference is called the shortfall .
Transfer value	Members generally have a legal right to transfer their benefits to another pension arrangement before they retire. In taking a transfer, members give up their benefits in the scheme, and a sum of money (called the transfer value) is paid into another approved pension scheme; this is used to provide pension benefits on the terms offered in that scheme.