

Vice-Chairman of Audit Committee - Comments

Subject: Strathclyde Pension Fund-Review of Policy on Representation

As requested, my comments on the (Draft) Policy on Representation for Chris Dalgarno-Platt to include in his report to the SPC.

I have stated my serious concerns regarding the pension arrangements for Argyll and Bute at the last three meetings of the Audit Committee.

As matters stand no officer or elected member of Argyll and Bute Council exerts any executive management or control over the Argyll and Bute portion of the Strathclyde Pension Fund. That portion is in the order of £140 million and requires an annual contribution of £16 million to maintain. The absence of direct executive involvement in the management of these amounts is incomprehensible and could be viewed as an abrogation of stewardship on behalf of the Argyll and Bute constituency and the members of the scheme.

The (Draft) Policy on Representation does not address the fundamental issues and is a marginal advance on the existing arrangements which allow a "contribution" to decision taking. That part of the policy relating to Local Authority representation is ludicrous: churning twelve people after each four meetings does not suggest any commitment to informed participation.

My concerns are unanswered. This Policy is window dressing. It will be my intent to progress a different approach under the aegis and remit of the Audit Committee.

Regards

I.M.M.Ross

Vice Chairman - Audit Committee