Agenda Item	8
Report No	PC/10/23

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Pensions Committee

Date: 21 September 2023

Report Title: The Highland Council Pension Fund – Monitoring of

Retirements

Report By: Head of Corporate Finance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides information relating to retirements from The Highland Council Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Consider the details of the retirements as outlined in the appendices to this report.
- 3. Implications
- 3.1 Resource as covered in report.
- 3.2 Legal none.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) none.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever none.
- 3.5 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, or people) none.
- 3.6 Risk none.
- 3.7 Gaelic none.

4. Introduction

- 4.1 Following recommendations from reports issued by the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland, the Finance Committee agreed on 26 August 1998 that the following information should be monitored and presented annually to the Pensions Committee:
 - Number and types of retirements
 - The total liability to the pension fund and revenue account in respect of these retirements
 - Breakdown of these details between services and all bodies participating in The Highland Council Pension Fund.
- 4.2 In June 2003 Audit Scotland published a further report "Bye now, pay later: a follow up review of the management of early retirement". This report recommended that details of expected savings on early retirements be included in the annual reports and indicated that these reports should be presented to the local authority's Audit Committee, or equivalent.

5. Analysis of Retirements

- 5.1 The Appendices to this report provides details of the following:
 - Summary of retirements (Appendix 1)
 - Highland Council retirements per Service headings at that time (Appendix 2)
 - Non-Highland Council retirements (Appendix 3)
 - Comparisons with previous years (Appendix 4)
- 5.2 The total number of retirements for the whole fund remained reasonably consistent with the 2021/22 experience after a lower number was experienced in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic. In summary, movements were as follows:
 - slightly more voluntary retirements in 2022/23 than in the previous year.
 - reduction in redundancy/efficiency retirals across all fund employers with Highland Council having none for 2022/23.
 - lower number of flexible retirements compared to the previous year.
 - the number of ill health retirements increased compared to 2021/22 but the majority of these were "tier 1" with employees deemed to be unable to work again during their working lifetime in any capacity (83% 39 of the 47 retirals). The remaining 17% (8 of the 47 retirals) were deemed "tier 2" ill health retirements, with the individual classed as unfit for current duties but may be able to work in some capacity before their normal retirement age.

Designation: Head of Corporate Finance

Date: 11 September 2023

Author: Annabel Scott

Background Papers: Altair reports (pension benefits system)

Appendix 1 - Summary of Retirements

Employer	Type of retirement	Number	Capitalised	Capitalised	Total	Saving	Net Cost
			cost to	cost to	Capitalised		
			revenue	pension fund	Cost		
			£	£	£	£	£
THE HIGHLAND	Voluntary	188	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COUNCIL	III-health	34	0.00	2,948,742.55	2,948,742.55	0.00	2,948,742.55
	Flexible	20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employer Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	ALL TYPES	242	0.00	2,948,742.55	2,948,742.55	0.00	2,948,742.55
OTHER EMPLOYERS	Voluntary	98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	13	0.00	1,924,235.28	1,924,235.28	0.00	1,924,235.28
	Flexible	Flexible 5		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	10	323,735.88	576,077.02	899,812.90	3,408,397.61	-2,508,584.71
	Efficiency	2	0.00	30,952.97	30,952.97	0.00	30,952.97
TOTAL	ALL TYPES	128	323,735.88	2,531,265.27	2,855,001.15	3,408,397.61	-553,396.46
TOTALS FOR ALL	Voluntary	286	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMPLOYERS	III-health	47	0.00	4,872,977.83	4,872,977.83	0.00	4,872,977.83
	Flexible 25		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	10	323,735.88	576,077.02	899,812.90	3,408,397.61	-2,508,584.71
	Efficiency	2	0.00	30,952.97	30,952.97	0.00	30,952.97
GRAND TOTALS	ALL TYPES	370	323,735.88	5,480,007.82	5,803,743.70	3,408,397.61	2,395,346.09

NOTES:

- 1) Only retirements in respect of members of the Local Government Pension Scheme are included.
- 2) The capitalised costs have been calculated using a nationally agreed actuarial method. These are the capitalised values of the costs resultant from the early retirements based on the period to the scheme members eligible retirement date.
- 3) The total capitalised cost is the total of the costs to the revenue account and the pension fund.
- 4) For redundancy, efficiency & flexible retirements, although there may be a capitalised cost to the pension fund quoted, this cost is recharged to the revenue account of the employer/employing service by lump sum or in instalments.

Appendix 2 - Details of Highland Council Retirements

Service	Type of	Number	Capitalised	Capitalised	Total	Saving	Net Cost	
	retirement		cost to	cost to	Capitalised			
			revenue	pension fund	Cost			
			£	£	£	£	£	
Communties & Place	Voluntary	30	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
	III-health	9	0.00	, ,	1,019,823.58		1,019,823.58	
	Flexible	2	0.00		0.00			
	Employer Consent	0	0.00		0.00			
	Redundancy	0	0.00		0.00		0.00	
	Efficiency	0	0.00		0.00			
Education & Learning	Voluntary	59	0.00	0.00	0.00			
	III-health	12	0.00	, ,	1,097,819.16			
	Flexible	4	0.00		0.00			
	Employer Consent	0	0.00		0.00			
	Redundancy	0	0.00		0.00			
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Health & Social Care	Voluntary	16	0.00	0.00	0.00			
	III-health	4	0.00	,	139,498.37		•	
	Flexible	2	0.00		0.00			
	Employer Consent	0	0.00		0.00			
		-	0.00		0.00			
			0.00	0.00	0.00			
Infrastructure,	,		0.00	0.00	0.00			
Environment			0.00	. ,	191,613.88		•	
& Economy			0.00		0.00			
		-	0.00		0.00			
		-	0.00		0.00			
	-		0.00	0.00	0.00			
Performance &	,		0.00	0.00	0.00			
Governance		-	0.00		0.00			
			0.00 0.00		0.00 0.00			
		-			0.00			
	,	-	0.00 0.00		0.00			
Duamantu 9	•		0.00		0.00			
Property & Housing	,		0.00		306,318.93		0.00 306,318.93	
Housing		_	0.00		0.00		0.00	
			0.00		0.00		0.00	
		-	0.00		0.00		0.00	
	,	-	0.00		0.00		0.00	
Resources &	•		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Finance	,		0.00		193,668.63		193,668.63	
i illalice			0.00		0.00		0.00	
			0.00				0.00	
	Redundancy	0.00		0.00		0.00		
			0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Deputy Chief			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	III-health		0.00		0.00		0.00	
			0.00		0.00		0.00	
			0.00		0.00		0.00	
Deputy Chief Voluntary 3			0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
	,		0.00		0.00		0.00	
TOTALS Voluntary		188	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
FOR ALL SERVICES	III-health	34	0.00		2,948,742.55		2,948,742.55	
	Flexible	20	0.00		0.00		0.00	
	Employer Consent	0	0.00		0.00		0.00	
	Redundancy	0	0.00		0.00		0.00	
	Efficiency	0	0.00		0.00		0.00	
TOTAL	ALL TYPES	242	0.00	2,948,742.55	2,948,742.55		2,948,742.55	

Appendix 3 - Details of Other Employers' Retirements:

Employer	Type of retirement	Number	•	Capitalised	Total	Saving	Net Cost
			employer revenue budget	cost to the pension fund	Capitalised Cost		
			J				
			£	£	£	£	£
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Voluntary	29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health Flexible	4 2	0.00 0.00	441,376.41 0.00	441,376.41 0.00	0.00 0.00	441,376.41 0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	6	281,772.68	178,895.27	460,667.95	1,727,664.64	-1,266,996.69
District Post A Maria	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stornoway Port Authority	Voluntary III-health	0	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
	Flexible	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy Efficiency	0 1	0.00 0.00	0.00 30,124.78	0.00 30,124.78	0.00 0.00	0.00 30,124.78
Cromarty Firth Port Authority	Voluntary	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Flexible	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent Redundancy	0	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inverness Harbour Trust	Voluntary	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	1	0.00	207,089.29	207,089.29	0.00	207,089.29
	Flexible Employers Consent	0	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Joint Valuation Board	Voluntary	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health Flexible	0	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inverness College	Voluntary III-health	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00
	Flexible	1 0	0.00 0.00	108,485.82 0.00	108,485.82 0.00	0.00	108,485.82 0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Louis Cootle College	Efficiency Voluntary	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Lews Castle College	III-health	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Flexible	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy Efficiency	1 0	14,178.46 0.00	1,585.74 0.00	15,764.20 0.00	28,196.90 0.00	-12,432.70 0.00
UHI	Voluntary	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	III-health	1	0.00	241,931.88	241,931.88	0.00	241,931.88
	Flexible	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent Redundancy	0 2	0.00 25,124.00	0.00 395,596.01	0.00 420 720 01	0.00 1,652,536.07	0.00 -1,231,816.06
	Efficiency	0	25,124.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Highland Blindcraft	Voluntary	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Flexible Employers Consent	0	0.00 0.00		0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	1	0.00	828.19	828.19	0.00	828.19
Hebridean Housing Partnership	Voluntary	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health Flexible	0	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Morrison FM	Voluntary	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health Flexible	0 1	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Employer	Type of retirement	Number	Capitalised cost to	Capitalised	Total	Saving	Net Cost
			employer revenue	cost to the	Capitalised		
			budget	pension fund	Cost		
			£	£	£	£	£
HIE	Voluntary	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Flexible	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SDS	Voluntary	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Flexible	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Highlife Highland	Voluntary	14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Flexible	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	1	2,660.74	0.00	2,660.74	0.00	2,660.74
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHS Highland	Voluntary	34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	III-health	5	0.00	600,294.69	600,294.69	0.00	600,294.69
	Flexible	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottish Police Authority	Voluntary	6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(former Northern Joint Police	III-health	1	0.00	325,057.19	325,057.19	0.00	325,057.19
Board)	Flexible	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	Voluntary	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(former Highland & Islands Fire	III-health	0	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Board)	Flexible	0	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	0	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Efficiency	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS FOR OTHER	Voluntary	98	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
EMPLOYERS	III-health	13	0.00	, , ,	1,924,235.28	0.00	1,924,235.28
	Flexible	5	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Employers Consent	0	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Redundancy	10	323,735.88			3,408,397.61	-2,508,584.71
	Efficiency	2	0.00	30,952.97	30,952.97	0.00	30,952.97
TOTAL	ALL TYPES	128	323,735.88	2,531,265.27	2,855,001.15	3,408,397.61	-553,396.46

Appendix 4 - Comparison With Previous Years

Employer	Type of retirement	2022/23 No	% of Retirals	2021/22 No	% of Retirals	2020/21 No	% of Retirals	2019/20 No	% of Retirals	2018/19 No	% of Retirals	2017/18 No	% of Retirals	2016/17 No	% of Retirals	2015/16 No	% of Retirals	2014/15 No	% of Retirals	2013/14 No	% of Retirals
THE	Voluntary	188	77.69%	165	79.32%	102	75.00%	114	61.62%	119	69.19%	110	71.90%	91	29.55%	100	35.10%	110	65.87%	99	69.23%
HIGHLAND	III-health	34	14.05%	21	10.10%	26	19.12%	51	27.57%	25	14.53%	20	13.07%	12	3.90%	17	5.96%	14	8.38%	8	5.59%
COUNCIL	Flexible	20	8.26%	21	10.10%	8	5.88%	17	9.19%	25	14.53%	17	11.11%	14	4.54%	50	17.54%	33	19.76%	30	20.98%
	E'er Consent	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	1.31%	11	3.57%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Redundancy	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	1.62%	3	1.75%	4	2.61%	180	58.44%	117	41.05%	9	5.39%	5	3.50%
	Efficiency	0	0.00%	1	0.48%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.35%	1	0.60%	1	0.70%
TOTAL	ALL TYPES	242	100%	208	100%	136	100%	185	100%	172	100%	153	100%	308	100%	285	100%	167	100%	143	100%
OTHER	Voluntary	98	76.56%	110	62.50%	90	72.58%	92	65.25%	87	74.36%	85	67.46%	100	64.51%	69	58.97%	98	68.06%	70	61.40%
EMPLOYERS	III-health	13	10.16%	14	7.95%	7	5.65%	26	18.44%	12	10.26%	17	13.49%	14	9.03%	11	9.40%	11	7.64%	15	13.16%
	Flexible	5	3.91%	14	7.95%	13	10.48%	11	7.80%	13	11.11%	13	10.32%	15	9.68%	23	19.66%	16	11.11%	12	10.53%
	E'er Consent	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	1.59%	2	1.29%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Redundancy	10	7.81%	28	15.91%	10	8.06%	7	4.96%	2	1.71%	8	6.35%	23	14.84%	14	11.97%	17	11.80%	15	13.16%
	Efficiency	2	1.56%	10	5.68%	4	3.23%	5	3.55%	3	2.56%	1	0.79%	1	0.65%	0	0.00%	2	1.39%	2	1.75%
TOTAL	ALL TYPES	128	100%	176	100%	124	100%	141	100%	117	100%	126	100%	155	100%	117	100%	144	100%	114	100%
TOTALS FOR	Voluntary	286	77.30%	275	71.61%	192	73.85%	206	63.19%	206	71.28%	195	69.89%	191	41.25%	169	42.04%	208	66.88%	169	65.76%
ALL	III-health	47	12.70%	35	9.12%	33	12.69%	77	23.62%	37	12.80%	37	13.26%	26	5.62%	28	6.96%	25	8.04%	23	8.95%
EMPLOYERS	Flexible	25	6.76%	35	9.12%	21	8.08%	28	8.59%	38	13.15%	30	10.75%	29	6.26%	73	18.16%	49	15.76%	42	16.34%
	E'er Consent	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	1.44%	13	2.81%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Redundancy	10	2.70%	28	7.29%	10	3.84%	10	3.07%	5	1.73%	12	4.30%	203	43.84%	131	32.59%	26	8.36%	20	7.78%
	Efficiency	2	0.54%	11	2.86%	4	1.54%	5	1.53%	3	1.04%	1	0.36%	1	0.22%	1	0.25%	3	0.96%	3	1.17%
GRAND TOTALS	ALL TYPES	370	100%	384	100%	260	100%	326	100%	289	100%	279	100%	463	100%	402	100%	311	100%	257	100%