

Press Release

3 October 2016

Aquila Heywood leads the way in pension administration operational efficiency for three public sector organisations

Aquila Heywood, the leading UK provider of life and pensions software, is delighted to report it has successfully renewed three UK public sector contracts with North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF), Leicestershire County Council and Croydon Council.

North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF)

NESPF has decided to renew its relationship with Aquila Heywood, due to the significant cost and time savings that the i-Connect product has delivered. In total NESPF has reduced the time taken to complete its year end by 265 days and reduced the cost per member by £0.99 over a three-year period from £1.04 in 2013/14 to £0.05 in 2015/16. This is in addition to significantly increasing the number of data items captured from the employers, with the numbers rising from 266,850 in 2014/15 to 937,386 in 2015/16.

Gary Gray Benefit Administration and Technical Manager, Aberdeen Council (NESPF)

'Aquila Heywood has been outstanding in all our previous interactions with them and i-Connect has delivered real benefits and savings. Deciding to renew our contract with Aquila Heywood was simple.'

Colin Lewis, i-Connect Managing Director said:

'We have a great relationship with NESPF and are delighted they have renewed our contract. We are confident i-Connect will provide even greater cost and time savings for NESPF in the future.'

i-Connect from Aquila Heywood, is an automated data exchange portal. It seamlessly integrates with Altair to identify automatically any differences between the data that is being submitted by employers from their payroll platform and the data that is currently on record at the fund. It also creates records for new joiners and identifies any un-notified leavers.

Additionally, Aquila Heywood has also recently won contracts with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and Croydon Council.

LCC was looking for a solution to capture data on a monthly basis, to avoid the pinch point of resources caused by a year-end posting, and to meet the regulatory changes that have come from the move to a CARE pension scheme, workplace pension reform and the involvement of The Pensions Regulator in public service pension schemes over the last few years.

Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire County Council administers pension schemes on behalf of:

- Over 200 employers who have employees in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

- Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue authorities and Firefighter Pension Schemes

Ian Howe, Pensions Manager at Leicestershire County Council, said:

'Implementing i-Connect will allow Leicestershire County Council to provide an enhanced member service by maintaining and updating data on a monthly instead of yearly basis. LCC will be able to validate and increase data accuracy meeting The Pensions Regulator's Codes of Practice.'

Croydon Council

Croydon was looking to improve its funds processes and operational efficiency, reduce risk and improve the data exchange process for employers whilst ensuring it remained compliant with The Pension Regulators Code of Practice.

Croydon Pension Fund administers the pension scheme on behalf of Croydon Council and the 67 participating employers of the fund.

Vicki Richardson, Head of HR & Financial Service Centre at Croydon Council, said:

'We are looking forward to working with Aquila Heywood as they understand our needs and time constraints. i-Connect will allow us to improve our data exchange processes and the operational efficiency of our fund, and at the same time ensuring the funds and its employer meet their regulatory duties.'

Colin Lewis, i-Connect Managing Director said:

'We are pleased Croydon have selected i-Connect to automate the data exchange process between payroll and pensions and look forward delivering time and cost savings for both the fund and its employers'

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Notes to editors:

Aquila Heywood

Aquila Heywood is the largest pension systems provider across the UK and Ireland and the fifth largest in Europe.

We lead the industry by delivering innovative technologies to simplify pensions administration, harness the power of digital engagement, drive operational efficiency, ensure governance and deliver unique insights through advanced data analytics.

40 years of delighting and inspiring our customers.

Find out more at www.aquilaheywood.co.uk

Pensions Technology Provider of the Year - European Pensions Awards 2016