



Staffordshire Pension Fund

i-Connect implementation

John Wiggins – Technical Pensions Manager



What is i-Connect?

A direct data interchange between your payroll and Staffordshire Pension Fund's Pensions Administration system – **“Altair”**

Simplifies monthly data uploads (now expected by the Pensions Regulator) with in built integrity checking



Advantages of i-Connect

The Pension Fund receives accurate and up to date data, including current pay and address data

Some event and data change notifications no longer required

Year end returns no longer required



The importance of accurate data

Complex Pension Scheme

Pre 2014 Scheme

- All benefits based on final salary



You could get it right at the end.....

Post 2014 Scheme

- Benefits based on 2 salaries:
 - Final salary (old definition)*
 - Actual salary per year (including overtime and bonuses)
- Incorrect actual salary = Incorrect CARE pension for that year
- Assumed pensionable pay



Data requirements are more onerous – accurate record keeping is key



The importance of accurate data

LGPS Scrutiny greater than ever:



Public Service Pensions
(Record Keeping) Regulations



Local Pension Board



HM Treasury



Local Government Pensions

SAB

England and Wales

Scheme Advisory Board



The Pensions
Regulator

Governance and administration of
public service pension schemes



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



i-Connect



Staffordshire
Pension Fund
Local Government Pension Scheme

Implementation

We have now implemented i-Connect for most of our larger employer payrolls including:

OPCC (Staffs Police)

Stoke City Council administered payrolls –SOTCC-SCC-Academies

Tamworth Borough Council

Capita – SCC – Academies - Entrust

Liberata -SCC

As a result a significant proportion of scheme member data is now received on a monthly basis

The Fund aims for all employers to use i-Connect by April 2020



Increased costs for not using i-Connect

From April 2020 without i-Connect Employers will need to complete **monthly** year end (CARE + contributions) returns and answer any Fund data enquiries

The Fund will need to find and fund resources to process 24x more year end events from all employers not using i-Connect.....



Increased costs for the Fund for Employers not using i-Connect

..... as a result an annual charge in the region of **£2000** to **£20000** will be applied to continue to use the manual process (dependant on size of payroll and number of queries raised)

i-Connect is **free** to use!



My organisation wants to use i-Connect?

Detailed information can be found on the Fund's website:



[Home](#) > [About us](#) > i-Connect

For more information please contact our i-Connect team:

Lee Trow

lee.trow@staffordshire.gov.uk

Kate Baxter

kate.baxter@staffordshire.gov.uk





Colin Lewis from i-Connect (part of the Aquila Heywood Group) will explain in more detail....

