Bedfordshire Pension Fund and Academy Schools

Bedfordshire Pension Fund is the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Fund for the county area of Bedfordshire. At a meeting of the Pension Fund Committee 6 September 2010 it approved a new policy for the creation of Academy Schools and how they will be treated within the Fund.

*The Bedfordshire Pension Fund is currently assessed to have a deficit. The deficit in respect of pensionable service of the school staff prior to conversion will transfer from the Local Authority (LA) to the academy school. All costs associated with this transfer will be invoiced to the Academy (approximately £3,000).*

There will be a chargeable actuarial assessment done by the fund actuary (Hyman Robertson) but the academy may wish to have their own assessment performed by an independent actuary. The employer contribution rate will be calculated on the basis of the academy’s staff profile and relates only to the academy, whereas nearly all maintained schools in a LA pay the same pooled rate. This means the rate can be higher than the rate which applied to the school when maintained.

Bedfordshire Pension Fund has a triennial valuation where the size of the deficit is recalculated. This means that the contribution rate for academies together with all other employers is reassessed on a three yearly basis.