

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLASS GROUP LOOKS FORWARD AT THIS YEAR'S AGM**

**ALTRINCHAM – 12 July 2006**

With local government pensions currently undergoing a vast number of changes, 115 delegates representing 58 local authorities met recently for the thirty-first CLASS Group AGM. The CLASS Group is a partnership between local authorities and *heywood*, the specialist provider of pensions administration software solutions, designed to promote efficiency through the use of a common system. At this year's AGM, a number of topical subjects were debated including the challenges facing pensions administrators and developments in technology. *heywood*, which has worked in partnership with the CLASS Group for over thirty years, presented its new next generation software solution, *altair*.

The CLASS AGM was hosted by The City and County of Swansea Council and in welcoming the attendees, Steve Evans, Swansea Council's Interim Director of Finance said:

"In Wales, the Gershon efficiency agenda is driven by the Welsh Assembly government and is called "making the connections" – the key theme being connecting the various agencies and authorities in the Welsh Public Sector to join up provision of services. The CLASS Group with the private and public sector working together providing a common system to the benefit of all users and customers, is an excellent example of this vision. A key feature over the thirty-one years of the CLASS Group has been the stability provided on both sides of the partnership from local government pensions departments and *heywood*."

*heywood* showcased its ground breaking new product, *altair*, to the Group. The introduction of *altair* continues the company's long track record of developing and building systems focused on improving efficiency and driving down costs for clients.

Pat Marchbank, Head of Public Sector at *heywood* commented:

"We are very excited to be showing the CLASS Group our next generation pensions solution, *altair*, and are delighted with the positive response we have received. We have worked closely with members of the CLASS Group and our other clients to ensure that *altair* will meet the needs of our clients both now and in the future. We are keen to continue to work together to help local authorities, as well as police and fire authorities, meet the changing legislative needs and continue to improve services to members."

## **Contact:**

Karen Turner  
Group Marketing Manager  
[karen.turner@aquilauk.co.uk](mailto:karen.turner@aquilauk.co.uk)  
Direct Line: 01737 857158

## **Notes to editors**

### **CLASS Group**

CLASS Group stands for Computerised Local Authority Superannuation System and was formed in 1975 with eleven members. The idea behind the CLASS Group was to develop a system to computerise their pensions administration and the selection of *heywood* and the close working relationship *heywood* has had with the CLASS Group since its formation is one of the most successful examples of Public and Private Sector co-operation. The CLASS Group now has 87 members.

### ***heywood***

*heywood* was established in 1975 and has been part of *aquilaheywood* since 2002. *aquilaheywood*, the Group comprising *aquila* and *heywood*, is the leading supplier of pensions administration software solutions in the UK. The pension schemes for nearly 7 million members in more than 200 major organisations are run using the group's three administration software solutions, *administrator*, *AXISe* and *altair*. These solutions cover the whole range of available schemes including DB, DC, hybrid, career average, cash balance and stakeholder.

The Group provides solutions to the Financial Services, Third Party Administration, Corporate and Public Sector pension scheme markets in the UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe. Its clients include Prudential, Norwich Union, BBC, Asda, BP, the European Central Bank, Aon Consulting and most local authority schemes.

*altair* is *heywood's* next generation pensions software solution, which is fully browser-based with advanced web capabilities and takes full advantage of modern technology.

For those clients who wish to out-source their pensions IT function, both *altair* and *AXISe* can be offered via a fully hosted or ASP service. To ensure a low risk implementation, the group provides experienced consultancy services for business management comprising project management, process engineering, data migration, management information and system integration.