

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LGPS 2008 DELIVERED ON TIME

***heywood* software helps administrators manage their scheme changes**

ALTRINCHAM – 01 April 2008

Despite concerns relating to the availability of the Regulations and the impact on software providers, *heywood* worked closely with both the CLASS Group and the Department for Communities and Local Government in order to provide an effective and timely solution for their clients. *heywood* have delivered the majority of the requirements for the new LGPS 2008 scheme within the latest release of their software, with final instalments due to be developed as soon as the GAD guidance has been confirmed.

Neil Buxton, Pensions Manager at Warwickshire County Council and Chairman of the CLASS West Pennines User Group, stated:

“As always, *heywood* has proved to be a valuable partner in helping us manage the changes relating to the new scheme rules. It is reassuring to work with such a proactive and experienced team who are always on hand to help or answer any queries.”

The *heywood* team kept in close contact with clients and the relevant Government departments through the consultation process, constantly assessing the impact on administrators and reviewing the changes required to the software. As details are still being finalised, the team have built in optional solutions to cater for any items which are still unconfirmed, so that clients are able to immediately “switch in” the correct solution as and when details of the changes are confirmed.

The success of the project is due to the involvement of the CLASS Group, a partnership between local authorities and *heywood*, designed to promote efficiency through cost and resource sharing. In the case of LGPS 2008, the CLASS Group members were able to share the cost of developing the software, and also several members volunteered to take part in testing the updates on behalf of the Group and make best use of their limited resources.

Kevin Gerard, Principal Pensions Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council and Chairman of the CLASS South West and South Wales User Group stated:

“Carmarthenshire joined with six other authorities in testing the LGPS development on behalf of the CLASS Group. The whole exercise demonstrated first hand the significant benefits that the CLASS Group provides and just how thorough *heywood* is in delivering our requirements.”

ENDS

For further information on how *heywood* delivered this solution, contacts for interviews and press comment on the LGPS 2008 scheme and the CLASS Group response, please contact:

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Notes to editors

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 over 7 million members in more than 200 major organisations are run using the Group's administration software solutions. 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, Diageo, the European Central Bank, Aon Consulting, JLT, 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, *altair* 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.