Aberdeen City Council upgrades to *heywood's* next generation *altair* solution

SEPTEMBER 2011

***heywood*, the market leading pensions administration software provider to the Public Sector, is delighted to announce that, following a formal review of the market, Aberdeen City Council (ACC), the Administrating Authority for the North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF), has become the latest *heywood* client to move to its new generation solution, *altair*.**

The contract for the implementation of a fully hosted integrated pensions solution was signed in April this year and *altair* went into production use in July, less than four months after contract signature. The implementation was managed using *heywood*'s standard *AXISe* to *altair* upgrade project and all data, documents and processes were automatically moved to *altair* using the standard migration tool set. The solution will provide ACC with a number of benefits; including increased efficiency, reduced costs and improved service to members in the form of *altair's* Member Self-Service and Employer Services which provide members and Employers with easy to use web portals to access and update data in a safe, secure manner.

Gary Gray, Principal Pensions Officer, Aberdeen City Council, said:

"Our upgrade to *heywood's altair* solution was seamless and most importantly caused virtually no disruption to "business as usual". With the new system now in live use we are confident that it will provide us with all the functionality and flexibility we need to meet our current and future business requirements, ensuring our ability to continue to improve service delivery to scheme members and participating employers".

Pat Marchbank, Client Management Director at *heywood,* said:

"We are delighted to retain Aberdeen City Council as a valued client. The feedback following the successful *altair* implementation further endorses our commitment to fully understanding our clients' requirements, enabling *heywood* to deliver highly automated and effective quality IT solutions".

 # ENDS #

 Copyright Aquila Group Holdings Limited

Contact:

Susan Dixon
Group Marketing & Communications Manager
Direct Line: 01737 857162

Notes to editors:

heywood

Based in Altrincham, *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 life and pensions administration software solutions in the UK. The benefits for nearly 10 million members and policyholders in more than 200 major organisations are run using the Group's administration software solutions. These solutions cover a wide range of pension, insurance and savings products for both Group arrangements and Individual products. Such arrangements and products include Company Pension Schemes, Personal Pensions, Group Risk, Individual Protection, Annuities, (G)SIPPs and Wraps.

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 Aviva, Aegon, Fidelity, Scottish Widows, British Airways, BBC, Asda, BP, Diageo, the European Central Bank, Aon Hewitt, most UK Local Authority schemes and Central Government schemes in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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.

 Copyright Aquila Group Holdings Limited