



Press Release

4 July 2016

Leicestershire County Council extends partnership with Aquila Heywood to drive faster, more accurate data exchange to meet more easily the requirements of pension regulation

Aquila Heywood, the leading UK provider of life and pensions software, is delighted to report it has successfully won a 30-month contract with Leicestershire County Council (LCC). LCC has already built a long-term partnership with Aquila Heywood and has been using the latest pensions administration platform, *altair*, for three years.

LCC was looking for a solution to capture data on a monthly basis, to avoid the pinch point of resources caused by a year-end posting, and to meet the regulatory changes that have come from the move to a CARE pension scheme, workplace pension reform and the involvement of The Pensions Regulator in public service pension schemes over the last few years.

This contract is to implement i-Connect, an automated data exchange portal. i-Connect seamlessly integrates with *altair* to identify automatically any differences between the data that is being submitted by employers from their payroll platform and the data that is currently on record at the fund. It also creates records for new joiners and identifies any un-notified leavers.

Leicestershire County Council administers pension schemes on behalf of:

- Over 200 employers who have employees in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)
- Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue authorities and Firefighter Pension Schemes

Colin Lewis, i-Connect Managing Director said:

'With continued public sector austerity and the ever increasing demands for LGPS funds to show increased efficiency and savings, i-Connect will provide Leicestershire County Council with business and process efficiency on data exchange between employers and pension administrators.'

Ian Howe, Pensions Manager at Leicestershire County Council, said:

'Implementing i-Connect will allow Leicestershire County Council to provide an enhanced member service by maintaining and updating data on a monthly instead of yearly basis. LCC will be able to validate and increase data accuracy meeting The Pensions Regulator's Codes of Practice.'

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

Aquila Heywood

Aquila Heywood, the Group comprising *aquila*, *heywood*, ATMOS and i-Connect, is the leading supplier of life and pensions administration software systems in the UK. The Group's solutions are used to administer the records of over ten million individuals across 200 major organisations. These solutions cover the whole range of pension schemes including DB, DC, hybrid, career average, cash balance and stakeholder, as well as a full range of other group and individual products including Group Risk, Individual Protection, SPPs and Wraps, Income Drawdown and Annuities.

The Group provides solutions across a diverse range of markets including Financial Services, Third Party Administration and Corporate/Public Sector pension schemes in the UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe.

Pensions Technology Provider of the Year - European Pensions Awards 2016
Best Pensions Administration Software - FT Pension and Investment Provider Awards 2013