

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13(a)
23 JULY 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME DISCRETIONARY POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM : Head of Human Resources
That Council agrees the revised copy of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) discretionary policy (APPENDIX A) which has been updated to take account of the April 2014 changes to the pension scheme

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 All employers in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) are required to formulate, publish and keep under review a statement of policy on certain discretions in the scheme. The draft revised policy includes new discretions arising from the LGPS regulations that came into force on 1 April 2014. The policy also includes the previously published discretions which apply to the 2008 and the 1997 regulations.
- 1.2 The 2008 discretions apply to scheme members who ceased active membership between 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2014. The 1997 discretions apply to scheme members who ceased active membership between 1 April 1998 – 31 March 2008.
- 1.3 There is no proposal to change the discretions that were previously in place. However, there are certain discretions applicable from 1 April 2014 that will require agreement before the policy becomes effective.

2. BACKGROUND (& CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 A copy of the published policy statement must be sent to the Pension Fund administering authority. (Local Government Shared Services administer the scheme on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council).
- 2.2 In formulating and reviewing its policy the council is required by the regulations to have regard to the extent to which the exercise of its discretionary powers could lead to a serious loss of confidence in the public service. The revised policy has been written taking account of advice from Local Government Shared Services, agreed by Corporate Management Team, and has been shared with the joint trade unions.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The policy allows the council to take consistent, fair decisions when dealing with a request from a pension scheme member. The HR department respond in the first instance to all applications. The adjudicator for the decisions is the Head of HR. The Chief Executive must approve any decisions that are outside of the agreed policy.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Understanding Employer Discretions and Policies – Local Government Association 17
March 2014

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)