

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 21st July 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME FOR COUNCILLORS

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10th June 2014 General Purposes and Licensing Committee considered a report updating them on the Government's decision to withdraw access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for Councillors and setting out the discretionary functions for which a formal policy was required to be made. The discretionary policies set out a right of appeal to a Members Appeal Panel, such delegation requiring the approval of full Council.
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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Government's decision to withdraw access to the Local Government Pension Scheme for Councillors and the proposed discretionary policies with regard to Councillor pensions agreed by General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 10th June 2014 be noted.
- (2) That Council agrees that in the event that a Councillor is not satisfied with a decision of the Chief Officer's Early Retirement Panel there will be a right of appeal to a Members Appeal Panel consisting of three Members who are not Members of the same Committee(s) as the Councillor.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy. Under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations, Councils are required to agree a formal policy for the exercise of certain discretionary functions.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Pension fund
 4. Total current budget for this head: £35.5m expenditure (pensions, lump sums etc.), £39.5m income (contributions, investment income etc), £6266.1m total fund market value as at 31st March 2014.
 5. Source of funding: Contributions to the Pensions Fund
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement. Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. Full Council decisions are not subject to call-in
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): There are currently 37 deferred pensioner Members in the Scheme.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Government has withdrawn Members' access to the LGPS and membership for Councillors ceased on 26th May 2014 . General Purposes and Licensing Committee at its meeting on 10th June 2014 approved discretionary policies to be applied with regard to the early payment of benefits. The report considered by the Committee is attached. The new policies include a provision for Councillors to appeal where they are not satisfied with the decision of a Chief Officer Early Retirement Panel. The Committee agreed to recommend that Council agree the delegation to consider such appeals to a Member Appeals Panel consisting of three Members who are not Members of the same Committee(s) as the Councillor

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel/Policy/Finance/Legal
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	See attached report