

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

13 February 2024

Administering Authorities Discretions Policy

Purpose of the Report

1. To note four minor amendments to the Fund's regulatory discretions.

Background

2. In various parts of the LGPS Regulations, the Fund is afforded discretion over how the rules of Scheme operate, allowing a degree of localised decision making.
3. In line with best practice, the Fund summarises its approach to all of these areas of discretion in an Administering Authority Discretions Policy. This whole policy was last reviewed and approved by the Committee on 31 March 2021.
4. As with all key policies and strategies, it is good practice to review its contents periodically, normally every 3 years for policies of this nature.
5. As one of the core policies identified in the Committee's terms of reference, this policy will be submitted to the Committee for their approval at their March 2024 meeting.

Considerations for the Board

6. As no new LGPS Regulations have been published since the last review officers have not undertaken a full review of all the discretions. However, a full review of all policies and procedures will be undertaken over the next 12 months, notably within the administration area and where required, officers will propose changes to discretions to reflect any updates. Where this occurs, a revised Administering Authorities Discretions Policy will be brought back for further approval.
7. The Board is asked to note, that whilst it is common place to summarise all discretions into a single document, the discretions themselves are wide-ranging and are mostly independent of one another which is why a partial review was deemed a reasonable way forward.
8. For information, the four minor amendments to the Fund's regulatory discritions are:
 - a). Name changes to reflect the new operational staffing structure from January 2023.
 - b). Policy No. 2: Under WPF discretion column, just after... R3(5) & RSch 2, Part 3, para1) "and s75 of the NHS Act" has been included.
 - c). Policy No. 3: Under WPF discretion column just after...where, possible, through reasonable means "and within a reasonable period (specified by the Administering Authority)" has been included.
 - d) Policy No. 4: Under WPF discretion column reference to "Fund" have been changed to "Administering Authority".

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

9. Not applicable.

Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment

10. There are no specific financial and risk assessments resulting from this report.

Legal Implications

11. There are no material legal implications from this report.

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

12. There are no known implications at this time.

Proposals

13. The Board is asked to recommend the recent amendments to the Administering Authority Discretions Policy to the Committee.

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Appendix 1: Administering Authority Discretions Policy