

## WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

### WILTSHIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

15 October 2020

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### Administering Authorities Discretions Policy

#### Purpose of the Report

1. To note the amendment of four of 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 10 December 2015.
4. As with all key policies and strategies, it is good practice to review the contents periodically, normally every 2 to 3 years for policies of this nature.
5. This report was presented to the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee on 24 September 2020 and the proposed changes were approved by the Committee.
6. Officers will review the remaining discretions either later in 2020 or in early 2021, depending on other work priorities.

#### Considerations for the Board

7. Due to time constraints, officers have not undertaken a full review of all discretions but due to certain issues arising recently, officers propose changing the discretions outlined in paragraph 8 now and undertaking a full review of the other discretions at a later date.
8. 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.
9. Officers proposed changes in relation to the following discretions were made at the Committee meeting (see the **Appendix** for details of the discretion area, the current and proposed wording and the explanation for the proposed change):
  - a). **Acceptance of certain 'non-club' transfer in** (broadly speaking, private sector, defined contribution pensions)
  - b). **Death grants:** The Fund has discretion over to whom any death grants are paid.
  - c). **Child pensions:** The approach as to whether child pensions are suspended during a break in higher education.

d). **Medical certificate requirements for APCs:** The Fund has discretion over whether to ask for a medical certificate when someone takes out an APC.

### **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

10. Not applicable.

### **Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment**

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

### **Legal Implications**

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

### **Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact**

13. There are no known implications at this time.

### **Reasons for Proposals**

14. To rectify the issues relating to each discretion as outlined in the Appendix.

### **Proposals**

15. The Board is asked to note the recently approved amendments to the Administering Authority Discretions Policy and the plans to undertake a further review either later in 2020 or in early 2021.

**Andy Cunningham**  
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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report:       NONE