

Part A

Report to: Functions Committee
Date of meeting: 23 July 2013
Report of: Head of Human Resources
Title: Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Discretions Policy

1.0 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2008, each Employing Authority is required to publish and maintain a Discretions Policy under the LGPS.
- 1.2 A Discretions Policy has been drafted with proposals on whether Watford Borough Council should adopt each of the discretions available to employers, or not (Appendix 1).

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Statement policy, as set out in Section 3 of the policy in Appendix 1 is approved by the Committee.

Contact Officer:

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Report approved by: Cathy Watson, Head of Human Resources.

3.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that Appendix 1 does not involve the council in making any enhanced payments unless there is an overriding (financial) business case and would therefore support this Report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that the legal implications are contained in Appendix 1. It is a legal requirement to maintain and review a discretions policy..

4.3 **Equalities**

- 4.3.1 There are no known equalities implications.

4.4 Potential Risks

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
Not publishing a Discretion Statement in breach of the legislation.	1	3	3
Lack of transparency and potential for inconsistent decision-making if Discretion Statement not published.	1	3	3

4.5 Staffing

4.5.1 None

4.6 Accommodation

4.6.1 Not applicable

4.7 Community Safety

4.7.1 Not applicable

4.8 Sustainability

4.8.1 Not applicable

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft WBC Policy - Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Statement

Background Papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.

File Reference

None