

Agenda Item No 4(b)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE**

3 August 2016

Report of the Director of Finance

**DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)**

1 Purpose of the Report

To update the Committee on decisions relating to individual members of the Derbyshire Pension Fund and to propose the delegation of a further type of decision to the Director of Finance.

2 Information and Analysis

At its meeting on 29 July 2015 the Pensions and Investments Committee approved the delegation of certain decisions relating to individual members of the Derbyshire Pension Fund to the Director of Finance. The types of decisions included:

- recovery of a pension overpayment,
- determination of the recipient of a death grant,
- decision to put a deferred benefit into payment on compassionate grounds (in the Committee's role as employing authority), and
- other very occasional decisions, for example, determining co-habitation, and the extension of time limits for decisions to be made by scheme members.

Activity in each of these areas over the past twelve months has been as follows:

(a) Recovery of a pension overpayment

All pensions overpayments recovered in the past twelve months have been either routine cases, as a result of a delay in notification of a death being received or ongoing recoveries relating to abatement which were approved by the Committee prior to the delegation of this responsibility.

(b) Determination of the recipient of a death grant

There have been fourteen cases in the past year which have been determined by the Director of Finance following discussion with the Chair of the Committee as agreed by the Committee.

The ability to have these matters resolved speedily and efficiently has been appreciated by the bereaved relatives, and also by the administration team.

(c) Decision to put a deferred benefit into payment on compassionate grounds

These are decisions that the Committee has delegated in its role as employing authority. Each application is decided by the former employing department on behalf of the County Council. The number of applications dealt with in the last 12 months will be reported verbally to the Committee.

(d) Other very occasional decisions around, for example, determining co-habitation, and the extension of time limits for decisions to be made by scheme members

No decisions of this nature have been required during the past twelve months.

There is a further category of decision that was not included in the report to the Pensions and Investment Committee meeting of 29 July 2015. When there is a request for deferred benefits being brought into payment, but the employing authority is no longer 'live' in the Pension Fund, the request is referred to the administering authority for consideration. These cases are rare, but there is one example on the Committee's agenda today. These cases are similar to those identified in (c) above, although a central record can be kept and reported on. It is proposed, therefore, that these cases are also delegated to the Director of Finance.

3 Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, human resources, equality and diversity, health, environmental, transport, property, social value and prevention of crime and disorder considerations.

4 Officer's Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 4.1 notes the delegated activity that has been undertaken by the Director of Finance over the last 12 months
- 4.2 approves the proposal to delegate decisions in respect of requests for deferred payments to be brought into payment to the Director of Finance where the previous employing authority no longer exists in that capacity.

PETER HANDFORD

Director of Finance