

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL		
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME STATEMENT OF POLICY - EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS - APRIL 2014		
<p>The introduction of the new Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) from 1 April 2014 required all scheme employers to review their existing discretionary pension policy statements and publish new policy statements effective from 1 April 2014. This is required under Regulation 60(1) of the LGPS Regulations 2013 and Regulation 66 (1) of the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2007.</p>		
<p>This statement is applicable to all employees of Wolverhampton City Council who are eligible to be members of the LGPS and, where applicable, deferred members.</p>		
Regulation	Discretion	Wolverhampton City Council Policy
R9 (3)	Determine rate of employees' contributions From 1 April 2014, contributions are based on actual pay including non-contractual overtime	<p>The contribution band will be assessed each month to maintain an average employee contribution rate of 6.5%. There will be an additional review undertaken in February each year to assess the total contributions paid on actual pensionable pay to date. Any necessary adjustments will be included with March pay. All zero hours employees will be assigned to band 1 (5.5%) in the first instance and reviewed monthly.</p> <p>This is a revised policy decision</p>
R16(2)e R16(4)d	Whether, how much, and in what circumstance to contribute to a shared cost Additional Pension Cost scheme	<p>The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion</p> <p>This is an existing policy decision</p>
R30(6) TP11(2)	Whether all or some benefits can be paid if an employee reduces their hours or grade (Flexible Retirement)	<p>The Council has a Flexible Retirement Policy and will consider each case on its merit. Any cost that has to be met by the Council will be taken into consideration</p> <p>This is an existing policy decision</p>
R30(8)	Whether to waive, in whole or in part, actuarial reduction on benefits paid on flexible retirement	<p>The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion</p> <p>This is an existing policy decision</p>

R30(8)	Whether to waive, in whole or in part, actuarial reduction on benefits which a member voluntarily draws before normal pension age.	The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion This is an existing policy decision
TPSch 2, para 2 (2)	Whether to "switch on" the 85 Year Rule for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60	The Council will not exercise this discretion except in exceptional circumstances. Any cost that has to be met by the Council will be taken into consideration. This is a new policy decision
TPSch 2, para 2 (3)	Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits from pre 01.04.14 membership where the employer has "switched on " the 85 Year Rule for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60	The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion This is a new policy decision
R31	Whether to grant additional pension to an active member or within 6 months of ceasing to be an active member by reason of redundancy or business efficiency (by up to £6,500 p.a.)	The Council has no intention to make use of this discretionary power This is a new policy decision
B12	Whether, for a member leaving on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency on or before 31 March 2014, to augment membership (by up to 10 years). The resolution to do so would have to be made within 6 months of the date of leaving. Hence this discretion is spent entirely after 30 September 2014	The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion This is a new policy decision
B30(2)	Whether to grant application for early payment of deferred benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60	The Council will not exercise this discretion except in exceptional circumstances. Any cost that has to be met by the Council will be taken into consideration. This is an existing policy decision
B30(5)	Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to deferred benefits paid early under B30	The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion This is an existing policy decision

B30A(3)	Whether to grant an application for early payment of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension on or after age 55 and before age 60	The Council will consider each case on its merit. Any cost that has to be met by the Council will be taken into consideration This is a new policy decision
B30A(5)	Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early under B30A	The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion This is an existing policy decision
31(2)	Grant application from a post 31.03.98/pre 01.04.08 leaver or from a councillor for early payment of benefits on or after age 50/55 and before age 60	The Council will consider each case on its merit. Any cost that has to be met by the Council will be taken into consideration This is a new policy decision
31(5)	Waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early for a post 31.03.98/pre 01.04.08 leaver or a councillor leaver	The Council will consider each case on its merit. Any cost that has to be met by the Council will be taken into consideration This is a new policy decision
31(7A)	Councillor optants out and pre 01.04.08 employee optants out only to get benefits paid from NRD if employer agrees	The Council has resolved not to make general use of this discretion This is a new policy decision
R22 (A)	Applications to make absence contributions Employing Authorities have the discretion to extend the period beyond 30 days for a person to apply in writing to make contributions	The Council will extend the period of 30 days in circumstances beyond the employees control or in exceptional circumstances. This is an existing decision
R25	Shared Cost AVC The Council may resolve to establish and maintain a Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme (SCAVC)	The Council has no intention to make use of this discretionary power This is an existing decision
R100(6)	Inward transfers of pension rights A person who becomes an active member who has relevant pension rights may request their fund authority to accept a transfer value for some, or all, of their former rights. An election must be made in writing before the expiry of the period of 12 months, beginning with the date that they became an active member (or any such longer period as their employer may allow	The Council will respect the 12 month time limit for the automatic acceptance of a transfer value request and will not accept requests outside this period unless there are special circumstances which support an extension of a time limit - under the 2014 Scheme both the employer and the Fund have to agree to the acceptance of a late election. This is a revised decision

From June 2004, an amended Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure will apply to active members of the LGPS and to others such as deferred and pensioner members, whose position may be affected by decisions taken by their former employer or LGPS administering authority.

R57 A Notification of first instance decisions

Responsibility for determinations under the first stage of the procedure now rests with "specified person appointed by the Council The Councils specified person is: Mr P Gough

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