

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 16th March 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Corporate Director Chief Executive's Delivery Unit

PORTFOLIO: Leader's

SUBJECT: Pensions Discretions Statement 2023/24.

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required to publish a Pensions Discretion Statement annually, to advise the discretions it intends to exercise under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LPGS).
- 1.2 This report accompanies the proposed statement for 2023/24.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the Pensions Discretions Statement for 2023/24.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Pensions Discretion Statement for 2023/24 is based upon the statement for 2022/23, which was approved by Executive Board in February 2022.
- 3.2 No new discretions have been added
- 3.3 There have been no material changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 that would result in a change to the statement. Regulation 60 of those regulations sets out what the statement should contain, and the statement is compliant.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council is required to publish a written policy statement on how it will exercise its discretions provided by the scheme. The policies adopted seek to achieve the correct balance between cost to the council tax payer, good employee relations and staff recruitment and retention.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are financial implications for the Council in considering the application of these discretions. Each case will be different, and a

business case will be required when such a discretion is exercised, balancing the interests of the Council with the interests of the individual.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The statement complies with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, and enables the Council to make balanced decisions taking into account all risks.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The recommendations will apply equally to all staff who are members of the LGPS. Those regulations have been subject to an equality impact assessment by government at the point of enactment into statute, and at any review points thereafter.

8.2 Employees have a right of appeal if they feel they have been treated incorrectly/unfairly.

In the first instance, appeals are made to the Head of HR Operations, who acts in the capacity of the Independent Person for the Independent Disputes and Resolution Procedure.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report, its advice, and its recommendation is limited to regulatory compliance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

9.2 The impact on the Council's response to the climate emergency is neutral.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (Statutory Instrument 2013 No. 2356)	Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes	Head of HR Operations