

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

PAYMENT OF DISCRETIONARY COMPENSATION TO EMPLOYEES

POLICY ON EXERCISE OF EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS

East Herts Council as an employer is under a legal duty to prepare and publish a written statement of its policy relating to certain discretionary powers under the Regulations which apply to the Local Government Pension Scheme (“the LGPS”).

East Herts Council is also under a duty to formulate, publish and keep under review the policy that East Herts Council applies in exercising discretionary powers under Regulations relating to the payment of compensation to employees whose employment is terminated as a result of redundancy or certain other reasons.

This document is intended to comply with these duties and, in the following table, sets out the discretionary powers concerned, identifies the relevant Regulation that gives East Herts Council the discretion and describes how the discretion will be exercised.

The policy set out in this document will not be departed from except as provided for in the policy or following a variation to the policy approved by East Herts Council .

This statement is not a definitive statement of the law and is subject to the provisions of the relevant Regulations.

The Regulations that apply to the LGPS are:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (these are referred to as the “Pensions Regulations”);
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (referred to as the “Transitional Regulations”);
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 applied to the LGPS before 1 April 2014, are preserved in part on a transitional basis by the Transitional Regulations and are referred to as the “Benefits Regulations”

The Regulations which apply to the payment of compensation to employees whose employment is terminated as a result of redundancy or other specified reasons are:

- The Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 (referred to as the “Compensation Regulations”).

In the table below:

- (1) “The Scheme” or “the Pension Scheme” means the LGPS and “the Fund” or “the Pension Fund” means the fund maintained under the LGPS;
- (2) “Member” means a member of the LGPS;
- (3) “Active member” means a member in employment and paying, or treated as paying, contributions to the LGPS, or absent from employment for a reason mentioned in Regulation 11 of the Pensions Regulations.
- (4) References to a member with transitional protection are those who can count membership accrued before 1 October 2006 and who have statutory transitional protection under the Transitional Regulations, wholly or partly, from changes that would otherwise be made to their pension entitlements and/or from actuarial reductions that would otherwise be applied to their pension benefits as a result of the coming into force of the Pensions Regulations on 1 April 2014.
- (5) References to a member meeting “the 85 year rule” are those a members whose age in whole years when added to the member’s total membership in whole years is 85 years or more.

The power to exercise and to take any decision in relation to the each of the discretions is delegated to East Herts Council .

This statement was approved by HR Committee and is intended to comply with East Herts Council duties under Regulation 60 of the Pensions Regulations and Regulation 7 of the Compensation Regulations.

| No. | Area | Regulation | Discretion | Policy Summary | Explanation |
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| 1 | Funding of Additional Pension Contributions | Regulations 16(2)(e) and 16(4)(d) Pensions Regulations, | To fund, in whole or in part, additional pension contributions on behalf of an employee where these are to be paid by regular contributions (Regulation 16(2)(e)) or by lump sum (Regulation 16(4)(d)) Note: The amount of additional pension that may be credited to an active member's pension accounts may not exceed the additional pension limit of £6,500 (uplifted annually) | . East Herts Council will not normally fund additional contributions either wholly or in part, but may do so in wholly exceptional circumstances. | This means the employing authority can pay additional pension contributions on behalf of current employees. |
| 2 | Flexible Retirement | Regulation 30(6), Pensions Regulations | To agree to an employee aged 55 or over reducing their hours of work or grade so that they may receive all or some of their retirement pension while still employed | East Herts Council does allow flexible retirement in accordance with its retirement policy. | This means the employing authority can agree to an employee aged 55 or over drawing their pension whilst they continue to work for the employing authority on reduced pay / hours or grade. |
| 3 | Waiving of Actuarial Reduction to Pensions | Regulation 30(8), Pensions Regulations | To agree to waive, in whole or in part, any reduction that would otherwise be made on the early payment of a pension to a former employee aged 55 or to the pension paid to an employee allowed to take flexible retirement under Regulation 30(6) of the Pensions Regulations | East Herts Council does not waive a reduction. | This means the employing authority can agree to waive any reductions to an individual's pension where they have left employment / been granted flexible retirement from age 55. |
| 4 | Award of Additional Pension | Regulation 31, | To award additional pension to: | East Herts does not | This means the employing |

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| | | Pensions Regulations | <p>(1) an active member; or (2) a former active member who was dismissed by reason of redundancy or business efficiency.</p> <p>Note: Any additional pension awarded (including any additional pension purchased by the employer under Regulation 16 of the Pensions Regulations (see above) may not exceed the additional pension limit of £6,500 (uplifted annually).</p> <p>Additionally, in the case of a former active member falling within (2) above, the resolution to award additional pension must be made within 6 months from the date on which the employment ended.</p> | exercise the powers to award additional pension. | authority has the power to award additional pension to either an active (current) member of the LGPS, or, within six months of leaving if the member left on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency. |
| 5 | Aggregation of Benefits: Concurrent Employments | Regulation 22 (7)(b), Pensions Regulations | To allow an active member with concurrent employments, who ceases an employment with an entitlement to a deferred pension, a longer period than 12 months in which to elect not to have the benefits in their deferred member's pension account aggregated with the benefits in their active member's pension account. | East Herts Council does not allow a longer period than 12 months | This means the employing authority can allow members with more than 1 pension under different employment contracts (at the same time) longer than the usual 12 month deadline to choose not to combine the pensions. |
| 6 | Aggregation of Benefits: Deferred Member becoming | Regulation 22 (8)(b), | To allow a deferred member who again becomes an active member a longer | East Herts Council does not allow a longer period | The benefits are usually aggregated (joined-up), unless the member elects |

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| | Active Member | Pensions Regulations | period than 12 months in which to elect not to have the benefits in their deferred member's pension account aggregated with the benefits in their active member's pension account. | than 12 months | to keep them separate. The employing authority can agree to a former member having longer than the usual 12 month deadline to choose not to combine the pensions. |
| 7 | Early Payment of Pension in cases of Members with Transitional Protection | Schedule 2, Transitional Regulations | To agree to that the transitional protections set out in Paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 2 to the Transitional Regulations should apply. This affects members with transitional protection who choose to retire between the ages of 55 and 60. The transitional protections offer complete or partial protection from actuarial reductions depending on the circumstances. | It is not East Herts Council policy to agree to the application of Paragraph 1 (3) of Schedule 2 to the Transitional Regulations, which means that the Council will not agree to the payment of unreduced retirement benefits to a member with transitional protection who meets the 85 year rule until they are aged 60. | This means that the employing authority can agree to '85 year rule' transitional protection being 'switched on'. |
| 8 | Waiver of Actuarial Reductions to Pension in cases of Members with Transitional Protection | Schedule 2, Transitional Regulations | To waive on compassionate grounds, any Reduction that would otherwise be made to a member's pension payable on early retirement. | East Herts Council does not waive a reduction. | This means the employing authority can agree to waive any reduction to pension benefits that would otherwise apply on compassionate grounds. |
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| 9 | Inward Transfer of Pension Rights | Regulation 100, Pensions Regulations | <p>To allow a person more than 12 months beginning with the date when they first became an active member in an employment to request the acceptance of a transfer value for certain accrued pension rights.</p> <p>Note: Regulation 100 of the Pensions Regulations requires that a request must be made within 12 months beginning with the date on which the member became an active member in an employment or such longer period as the employer and the Administering Authority may allow. The discretion is, therefore, exercisable concurrently by the Administering Authority.</p> | East Herts Council does not allow a longer period than 12 months | This means the employing authority can agree to allow an individual who has been a member for more than 12 months to request to transfer previous pension funds into the LGPS fund. |
| 10 | Forfeiture Certificates | Regulation 91, Pensions Regulations | <p>To apply to the Secretary of State for the issue of a forfeiture certificate.</p> <p>Note: A forfeiture certificate may be applied for where a member has been convicted of an offence committed in connection with the member's employment and because of which the member has left that employment. A forfeiture certificate is a certificate, issued by the Secretary of State that the offence was gravely injurious to the State or is liable to lead to serious loss of confidence in the public</p> | East Herts Council will consider each case on its merits, both in relation to applying for a forfeiture certificate and in relation to the giving of a direction, where a forfeiture certificate has been issued, that pension benefits be forfeited. | This means the employing authority can apply for a certificate from the secretary of state which permits withholding pension benefits from an individual who has been convicted of certain offences. |

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| | | | <p>service.</p> <p>To direct, where a forfeiture certificate has been issued, that any rights under the Pensions Regulations be forfeited.</p> <p>Note: If the former employer has suffered loss as a direct consequence of the offence, a direction may only be given if the loss cannot be recovered except after an unreasonable time or at disproportionate cost.</p> <p>A direction may only be given if the application for a forfeiture certificate was made within a period of three months beginning with the date of the conviction</p> | | |
| 11 | Recovery of Money Owed as a result of Misconduct | Regulation 93, Pensions Regulations | <p>To recover money owing to the former employer where a person has left employment as a result of grave misconduct or of a criminal, negligent or fraudulent act or omission in relation to that employment and owes money to the employer arising out of such that misconduct, act or omission.</p> <p>Note: If there is a dispute about the amount owed the County Council may only recover the money from the employee's pension benefits under a court order or the award of an arbitrator.</p> | East Herts Council will normally seek to recover any money owing as a result of a former employee's grave misconduct, or criminal, negligent or fraudulent acts or omissions from the employee's pension benefits. | This means the employing authority can look to recover money from an ex-employee where they have left employment as a result of grave misconduct or of a criminal, negligent or fraudulent act or omission in relation to that employment. |

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| 12 | Redundancy Payments | Regulation 5, Compensation Regulations | To base redundancy pay on actual pay where actual pay exceeds the statutory maximum under the Employment Rights Act 1996. | East Herts Council will base redundancy payments on an employee's actual pay in all cases. | This means the employing authority can increase the statutory limit on a week's pay for redundancy payments (£464.00) to the actual rate, if it is higher. |
| 13 | Compensation for loss of Employment | Regulation 6, Compensation Regulations | <p>To pay compensation to a person whose employment ceases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by reason of redundancy; - in the interests of the efficient exercise of the employing authority's functions; <p>or</p> <p>in the case of a joint appointment, because the other holder of the appointment leaves</p> <p>Note: Compensation may not be paid under this Regulation if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a person's period of membership of the Pension Scheme has been increased under Regulation 12 of the Benefits Regulations (see above); or - a person has been awarded an additional pension under Regulation 13 of the Benefits Regulations (see above). | East Herts Council uses the Government's Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) statutory redundancy pay calculation but increases the statutory multipliers of 0.5, 1 and 1.5 weeks by 2.6. | This means the employing authority can make an award of up to 104 week's pay (less any redundancy payment payable). |

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| | | | <p>In all cases the amount of compensation paid under this Regulation may not exceed 104 weeks' pay.</p> <p>In all cases the decision to pay compensation under this Regulation must be made no later than 6 months after the date of termination of the person's employment.</p> | | |
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