Surrey Heath Borough Council
Employment Committee
8 February 2022

Pensions Discretions Policy

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Report Author: Julie Simmonds – HR Manager
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: n/a

Summary and purpose

This report provides the Employment Committee with information regarding the Council's Pensions Discretions Policy which is and annual item on the agenda.

Each pension fund has to have a discretionary policy, which needs to be kept under review. However, it's noted that there is no legal requirement that it be reviewed annually and Surrey County Council have not issued an updated Pensions Discretions Policy.

The policy has not changed but it has come back this year again points as a reminder of the considerations. It has also been reviewed by the Council's new S151 Officer who started December 2021. A number of minor, non-material amendments were proposed by the Joint Staff Consultative Group at its meeting on 13 January 2022.

Recommendation

The Committee is advised to RESOLVE that the Pensions Discretions Policy be updated, as set out at Annex A to this report.

1.   Background and Supporting Information

1.1   The Pension Discretions Policy has to be reviewed and it has been an annual review to date. If there is a need to change it before the annual review it will come back for recommendation sooner.

2.   Reasons for Recommendation

2.1   Each pension fund has to have a discretionary policy, which needs to be kept under review

3.   Proposal and Alternative Options

3.1   The continuation of the existing Pensions Discretions Policy brought to the Committee in January 2020, updated to include the minor amendments proposed by the JSCG in January 2022.

4.   Resource Implications

4.1   n/a

5.   Other Considerations and Impacts

Environment and Climate Change

5.1   n/a

Equalities and Human Rights

5.2   An Equality Impact Assessment was completed Jan 2020 and no changes to the Pensions Discretions Policy have been made since this date

Community Engagement

5.3   n/a

Annexes
Pensions Discretions Policy

Background Papers
n/a