

Adopted Policies on the use of Discretionary Powers in The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme contains a number of discretionary powers that employers can adopt if they feel that it is appropriate. Employers are required to have a policy within which they operate these powers. Details are in the pension scheme booklet, and Merton will be keeping its policies under regular review. Merton's policies are set out in the table below.

Discretionary Power

Permitting scheme members to retire with immediate benefits between age 55 and 60

Permitting preserved benefits to be brought into payment on compassionate grounds

Waiving any reduction in benefits arising from early payment

Awarding additional years of service or additional pension

Paying existing awards of added years from the pension fund

Payment of spouse's pension on remarriage or cohabitation after 1 April 1998 where the employee retired prior to that date

Abatement of pension on re-employment

Merton's Policy

This discretion will not normally be exercised, but the Chief Executive will consider applications that can be justified on financial, equal opportunity or other relevant grounds.

This discretion will not normally be exercised, but the Chief Executive will consider applications supported by the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Human Resources.

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The authority will not generally award added years or additional pension.

The authority will continue to pay for existing awards from the general fund rather than the pension fund.

The authority will not suspend or terminate widows or widowers pensions in such circumstances.

The authority will continue to abate pensions in line with the previous regulatory requirements unless the relevant Chief Officer makes a case to the relevant council committee to modify its application.

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