

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE –4 DECEMBER 2009

PAYMENT OF DEATH BENEFITS

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (2007) state that if a scheme member dies before his 75th birthday, the administering authority at their absolute discretion may make payment, in respect of the death grant to or for the benefit of the member's nominee or personal representatives or any person appearing to the authority to have been his relative or dependant at any time.
2. In accordance with the Council's Constitution and Scheme of Delegated Powers this decision can be made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee.
3. In the case detailed below Pension Services were asked to make payment ahead of the next scheduled Committee meeting. There were no contentious issues surrounding this request.

Case 1

4. Death in service on 21 July 2009.
5. Member was survived by his wife, daughter and two step-sons. A copy of the member's will has been provided confirming that the estate is payable to his wife.
6. A death benefit of £47,684.88 plus interest is payable from the Local Government Pension Scheme.
7. A report was made to the Chief Executive, who after consultation with the Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee agreed that payment should be made to the widow of the deceased.

Delegation

8. Currently in all cases where a scheme member has not made any expression of their wishes the decision regarding the payment of death benefit is referred to this Committee.
9. As this particular case has shown, this can lead to delays in making payment at a time of personal distress and possible financial difficulties. Therefore this report asks members to consider whether the decision to make payment in straightforward and non-contentious cases can be delegated to the Assistant

Head of Shared Services (Financial Services) after consultation with the Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

10. **The Pension Fund Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
- (a) note the decision in making payment of the death benefits detailed above; and**
 - (b) delegate authority to the Assistant Head of Shared Services (Financial Services), after consultation with the Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee, to determine non-contentious cases, subject to reporting to the next meeting of the Committee on such determinations.**

SUE SCANE
Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Background papers: Nil

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