

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

POLICY ON PAYMENT OF DEATH GRANT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report recommends a change to the policy on payment of death grant following the death of a member of the Scheme.
- 1.2. The Committee is recommended to approve a revised policy regarding payment of death grant as a consequence of the introduction of Nominated Co-Habiting Partners benefits into the Scheme from April 2008 and in order to expedite the payment of these benefits to the appropriate beneficiaries.

2. EXISTING POLICY

- 2.1. The Policy was considered by the Pensions Committee on 19 January 2006.
- 2.2. Since 1 April 2008 the LGPS Regulations have recognised Nominated Co-Habiting Partners for the purpose of the payment of pension benefits. It would ensure consistency if MPF also recognised them as regards the policy discretion on the payment of any death grant due.
- 2.3. The policy should be amended to reflect that in the absence of a valid death grant nomination, payment will normally be made to the deceased's surviving Spouse or Civil Partner or Nominated Co-Habiting where one exists.

3. REVISED POLICY STATEMENT

The following Policy Statement is submitted for approval and confirmation by the Committee: -

Payment of Death Grants

- (i) **If a member dies, the Administering Authority at their absolute discretion may make payments to or for the benefit of the member's nominee or personal representatives or any other person appearing to the Authority to have been his relative or dependant at the time.**

- (ii) **In exercising this discretion the Authority will normally pay a death grant to or amongst the deceased's nominated beneficiaries.**
- (iii) **Where no nomination has been made, payment of the death grant will normally be made to the deceased's spouse or surviving civil partner or nominated co-habiting partner.**
- (iv) **In all other cases payment would normally be made to the deceased's personal representative named in the Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration.**
- (v) **In the absence of a valid nomination or surviving spouse or registered civil partner or nominated co-habiting partner, or when other persons are claiming all or some of the death grant the Authority will pay the grant as it sees fit to such persons appearing to it to have been a relative or dependant at the time of death.**

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are none directly arising from this report.

5. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are none directly arising from this report.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are none arising from this report.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are none arising from this report.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

8.1. There are none arising from this report.

9. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are none arising from this report.

10. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There are none arising from this report.

11. **MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. There are none arising from this report.

12. **RECOMMENDATION**

12.1. That Committee confirm the revised wording of the policy statement on payment of death grants.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FNCE/237/09