

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2011

SUBJECT	INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This report seeks to authorise nominated officers to handle appeals at stage 1 and stage 2 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) in respect of the Pension Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1. That the following officers be authorised to act on behalf of the Administering Authority to consider appeals at either stage 1 or stage 2 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure:

Ian Coleman	Director of Finance
David Taylor-Smith	Deputy Director of Finance
Michael Fowler	Head of Support Services
Peter Wallach	Head of Merseyside Pension Fund
Yvonne Caddock	Principal Pensions Officer

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1. The list of officers authorised to act on behalf of the Administering Authority to consider appeals at either stage 1 or stage 2 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure requires amendment due to early retirements.

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1. Section 50 of the Pensions Act 1995 and the Occupational Pensions Schemes (Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures) Regulations 1996, requires the Local Government Pension Scheme to operate a two stage procedure for the resolution of disagreements.

4.2. The Regulations require the individual scheme employers to consider any stage 1 appeal against a decision taken by them. If the applicant is dissatisfied with the stage 1 decision then he or she may appeal further to the Administering Authority which is responsible for consideration of the stage 2 appeal.

4.3. Both stage 1 and stage 2 appeals against decisions taken by the Pension Fund need to be considered by the persons appointed by the Administering Authority to undertake this role. The same appointed person cannot consider an appeal from an individual at both the first and second stage of the process.

4.4. At the present the panel of Appointed Persons established by the Merseyside Pension Fund consists of:-

Ian Coleman	Director of Finance
David Taylor-Smith	Deputy Director of Finance
Stephen Rowley	Head of Support Services
Peter Wallach	Head of Merseyside Pension Fund
Peter Mawdsley	Deputy Head of Merseyside Pension Fund

4.5. Following the transfer of Stephen Rowley to the Department of Adult Social Services, I recommend that Michael Fowler, Head of Support Services, be included on the panel of appointed persons.

4.6. Following the retirement of Peter Mawdsley from 30 June 2011, I recommend that Yvonne Caddock, Principal Pensions Officer, be included on the panel of appointed persons.

5.0. **RELEVANT RISKS**

5.1. If the Pension Fund does not have an appointed person available to consider an appeal then there is a risk of criticism from the Pensions Ombudsman.

6.0. **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1. Any officer could be appointed to consider appeals but I recommend these officers as having the most relevant experience.

7.0. **CONSULTATION**

7.1. No specific consultation has been undertaken with regard to this report.

8.0. **IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

8.1. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

9.0. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. There are no additional requirements.

10.0. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None arising from this report.

FNCE/123/11

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APPENDIX

REFERENCE MATERIAL / SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Pensions Committee	31 March 2008