



Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 (Administered by the Cheshire Pension Fund)

Employer Pension Discretions Policy Statements for Employees

Employer name: Northwich Town Council

Effective date of discretions: 13th April 2026

Completed by: Chris Shaw Chief Officer

***Signed:** *Chris Shaw*

Date: 13th April 2026

***We cannot accept your discretions if you have not signed this document. If you are completing an electronic copy please type your name in full.**

Employer Discretions

COMPULSORY - Policy Statements in accordance with Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013

REGULATION 16 (2)(e) & (4)(d)

Ability to contribute to a shared cost additional pension contribution (APC) scheme

EXPLANATION Where an employee has elected to pay Additional Pension Contributions (APCs) an employer can elect to fund part or the entire employees share of the contributions.

In your policy you must decide:

- if you would consider contributing to a shared cost APC,
- in what circumstances you would enforce this discretion, and,
- how much you would contribute.

Note: this discretion only relates to cases where the member is working as normal rather than being on authorised leave without pay. For cases where members are on authorised leave without pay e.g. as a result of an approved career break or unpaid additional maternity leave the employer must fund 2/3rds of the contribution if the member makes an election within 30 days of returning to work.

Please state your policy in the box below:

Employees may elect to pay additional pension contributions into a scheme established by the Pension Fund. The Council has not exercised its discretion to contribute to this APC scheme under the APCs arrangement.

Applications by employees to buy extra pension through APCs are available for scheme members. In order to comply with scheme requirements, applications must be supported by the Council to verify the employee is in good health.

REGULATION 30 (6) & (8)

Ability to award flexible retirement & waive actuarial reduction

EXPLANATION A member who is aged 55 or over and with their employer's consent reduces their hours and/or grade, can then, but only with the agreement of the employer, make an election to the administering authority to receive all or part payment of their accrued benefits without having retired from that employment. In your policy you must decide:

- if you will consider granting flexible retirement,
- the circumstances in which flexible retirement will be awarded, and
- whether to waive any reduction that will be applied to the members benefits.
There will be a direct cost to the employer.

Please state your policy in the box below:

Employees aged 55 and above may apply to reduce their hours of work and/or their pay grade and to seek agreement to early release to some, or all of their pension.

Requests will be considered if:

Either their substantive grade reduces by a minimum of 1 grade (e.g. grade 6 to grade 5) or equivalent, and/or their contract hours reduce by a minimum of 1/5th and at the same time the employee requests early release of their pension.

Where flexible retirement requests are approved and pension is released, payment of all of the pension will be on an actuarially reduced basis, unless they are in the protected group of employees as covered in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

REGULATION 30 (8)

Ability to waive some or all of early retirement reduction on benefits if a member retires before Normal Pension Age (NPA) – For both active and deferred members

EXPLANATION Employers can elect to waive some or all of the reduction on benefits if a member chooses to retire and take their benefits before their Normal Pension Age (NPA).

In your policy you must decide:

- if you will consider waiving any reductions,
- the circumstances in which you would consider waiving any reductions, and
- whether to waive any reduction that will be applied to the members benefits.
There will be a direct cost to the employer.

Please state your policy in the box below:

Policy for Active and Deferred Members–

The Council will generally only exercise this discretion on compassionate grounds taking into account the economic impact on the Council. Benefits released under this discretion will be at an unreduced rate.

TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS – Regulation 1 (1)(c) SCHEDULE 2

Power of employing authority to ‘switch on’ the 85 year rule for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60

EXPLANATION A member who meets the 85 year rule and elects to draw their pension benefits from age 55 will no longer require their employer’s consent if they retire after 31st March 2014. However certain members will lose some 85 year rule protections if they wish to draw their pension between age 55 and 59.

An employer may decide to ‘switch on’ protection to the 85 year rule for a member who voluntarily retires from age 55 but before age 60, and meet any additional cost of the retirement.

In your policy you must decide:

- if you will consider switching the 85 year rule on for this group of members which may result in a direct cost for the employer.

Please state your policy in the box below:

An employee may voluntarily retire from age 55. The Council will not consider ‘switching on’ protection to the 85 year rule for members who retire from age 55 but before age 60, and will therefore not meet additional retirement costs under this regulation.

REGULATION 31

Ability to grant additional pension to an active member or within 6 months of ceasing to be an active member by reason of redundancy or business efficiency

EXPLANATION An employer may decide to award a member additional pension up to a limit of £6755 per year* payable from the same date as their pension is payable.

You must resolve to award additional pension while the member is active. If the member has been made redundant or retired on efficiency grounds you must make this resolution within 6 months of them leaving.

***IMPORTANT NOTE: The amount of additional pension that can be awarded will increase each April.**

In your policy you must decide:

- if you will consider awarding additional pension to a member, and
- the circumstances in which you will consider awarding additional pension

Please state your policy in the box below:

The Council has agreed this provision to enable an active scheme member or a member within 6 months of leaving to purchase additional membership where their employment was terminated on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency.

The Council will not consider funding in part with the employee or wholly an APC purchase.