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Minutes of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 22 September 2014 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S M Le Chevalier

Councillors: M D Conolly
M R Eddy
C J Smith

Officers: Chief Executive
Director of Governance
HR Business Partner (EK Human Resources)
Team Leader – Democratic Support
Democratic Support Officer

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received from Members.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute Members appointed.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME 2014

The Director of Governance presented his report on the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 to the Committee for its consideration. Members' approval was sought for the Pensions Discretion Policy Statement which was required under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (the 'Regulations').

On 1 April 2014 the new Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 (LGPS) was introduced requiring all scheme employers to review their existing pension policy statements and publish new policy statements in line with the Regulations. Under Regulation 60 of the LGPS 2013, the Council was required to publish and keep under review a written policy statement on how it would apply the discretionary powers in relation to certain provisions of the scheme.

Members were referred to the new policy statement within the report and advised by the Director of Governance of some of the main changes to the scheme:

- The pension scheme would change from final salary pension scheme to a career average scheme;
- Existing rights of current scheme members would be protected;

- Flexible retirement – would allow flexible retirement from age 55;
- Discretion to ‘switch on’ of 85 Year Rule for 55 – 60 year olds;
- A named adjudicator must be appointed.

Requests under the new scheme would be considered by the Director of Governance, together with the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the Head of EK Human Resources. Any application by a Chief Officer of the Council or a contentious application by an employee would be referred to General Purposes Committee for a decision.

RESOLVED: That the Pension Discretion Policy Statement be approved; and

- (a) That the Chief Executive be appointed as the adjudicator for the purposes of Regulation 74 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013;
- (b) That the Director of Governance be authorised to make any necessary minor changes to the Pensions Discretion Policy Statement.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm.