



Statement of Sevenoaks Town Council's employer policy decisions

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013

Regulation 16(2)e and 16(4)d – Shared Cost Additional Pension Contributions (SCAPC)

It is not Sevenoaks Town Council's general policy to operate a SCAPC where a scheme member wishes to purchase extra annual pension (up the limit defined in the regulations).

This does not apply where a scheme member has a period of child related work leave or authorised unpaid leave and elects, within 30 days of return to work, to pay a SCAPC to cover the amount of pension "lost" during the period of absence, Sevenoaks Town Council are required to contribute 2/3rds of the cost. If an election is made after the 30 day time limit the full costs will be met by the scheme member.

When it is not possible to provide the scheme member with the information that is needed for them to make their election within the 30 day deadline, Sevenoaks Town Council will extend the time limit. The scheme member must request this information within 1 month of returning to work and then they must return the election for within one month of the information being required.

Regulation 30(6) & 30(8) – Flexible Retirement

It is Sevenoaks Town Council's policy to provide consent to consider flexible retirement requests only where there are clear financial or operational advantages to Sevenoaks Town Council.

If consent has been given Regulation 30(6) it is not Sevenoaks Town Council's general policy to waive any actuarial reduction unless there is exceptional circumstances.

Each case will be considered on its merits by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Regulation 30(8) Waiving of Actuarial Reductions

It is not Sevenoaks Town Council's general policy to waive any actuarial reductions applied to benefits paid early or where a scheme member has previously been awarded a deferred benefit.

Each case will be considered on its merits by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Regulation 31 – Award of Additional Pension

Sevenoaks Town Council **has the discretion** to award additional pension (up the additional pension limit defined in the regulations) to an active member or within 6 months of leaving the scheme to a scheme member who was dismissed on grounds of redundancy or business efficiency.

Sevenoaks Town Council will only exercise this discretion in exceptional circumstances and only at the discretion of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

TP Regulations 1(1)(c) of Schedule 2 – Whether to allow the rule of 85 to be “switched on” for members from age 55 and before age 60.

It is not Sevenoaks Town Council’s general policy to make use of the discretion to “switch back on” the 85 year rule protections unless there are clear financial or operational advantages to Sevenoaks Town Council.

Each case will be considered on its merits by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Regulations 9(1) & (3) – Contributions

Sevenoaks Town Council will determine the appropriate contribution band for an employee by using the pensionable pay received on 1 April each year and every 6 months thereafter.

Sevenoaks Town Council will notify employees of their individual contribution rates via email in April each year and thereafter when any changes are made.

Regulation 17(1) – Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions (SCAVC)

Sevenoaks Town Council will not operate a SCAVC for employees.

Regulation 21(5) – In determining Assumed Pensionable Pay whether a lump sum payment made in the previous 12 months is a “regular lump sum”

Sevenoaks Town Council will maintain a list which details what Sevenoaks Town Council consider being a regular lump sum payment made to our employees to be used in the calculation the Assumed Pensionable Pay.

Regulation 22(7)(b) & 22 (8)(b) – Aggregation of Benefits

Employees who have previous LGPS pension benefits in England and Wales will have these aggregated with their new LGPS employment unless they elect within 12 months of commencing membership of the LGPS in the new employment to retain separate benefits. Sevenoaks Town Council has the discretion to extend this period beyond 12 months and each case will be considered on its own merits.

Regulation 100(6) – Aggregation of Benefits

If an employee wishes to transfer any pension benefits they have built up in other schemes to the Local Government Pension Scheme, the election to do so must be made within 12 months of starting a new period of membership. This time limit may be extended if the employee can demonstrate exceptional circumstances to justify this.

NB Under Regulation 60(1) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, it is compulsory for all employers to make a policy decision under Regulations 16(2)(e), 16(4)(d), 30(6), 30(8) and 31 and Paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 2 to the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendments) Regulation 2014.

Under Regulation 60(2) a copy of the policies must be sent to the Pension Section and must be published.

Under Regulation 60(3) employers must keep the policies under review and make any appropriate changes.

Under Regulation 60(4) any amendments to these policies must be made available to the Pension Section and to scheme members within a month of the date of change.