

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET ON 13 JANUARY 2015 FROM  
THE RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE PANEL AT ITS MEETING  
ON 6 JANUARY 2015**

RP99: **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act, 2971, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

RP100: **EXEMPT CABINET REPORT: MAJOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – FINAL APPROVAL**

The Corporate Project Officer presented the report that updated Members on progress made with the project since the last report to Cabinet on the 7 October 2014, when the Council's preferred bidder was approved.

The report explained the overall financial impact the project would have on the Council and sought Cabinet to recommend to Council that final authority be given for the whole project to commence.

The Corporate Project Officer, Deputy Chief Executive and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Industrial Assets responded to questions and comments from the Panel.

**RESOLVED:** That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report.

**RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION**

**The Panel adjourned at 7.30 pm and reconvened at 7.37 pm.**

RP101: **CABINET REPORT: PENSION FUND – EMPLOYER'S POLICY STATEMENT**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report and explained that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) legislation required the Authority to issue a written Policy Statement on how it would exercise the various discretions provided by the scheme. The changes introduced by the 2014 revisions required corresponding updates to the Authority's Policy Statement.

The Panel's attention was drawn to the following sections of the report:

- Section 3: Discretions to be Revised – Early Payment of Pension.
- Section 4: Discretions to be Removed.

In conclusion, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that as a result of the corresponding updates to the Authority's Policy Statement, there was no change in policy and therefore no cost to the Council.

Councillor D Tyler asked for clarification on compassionate grounds and whether it included medical grounds. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Council would not exclude medical grounds and that they would be dealt with separately on a case by case basis.

Councillor Humphrey questioned the use of the word "normally" throughout the report. However, he added that it was relevant to leave the word "normally" in the recommendation set out on page 23 of the report. The Deputy Chief Executive undertook to liaise with the Executive Director, Central and Community Services and respond direct to Councillor Humphrey.

In response to questions from Councillor Humphrey regarding early payment of pension, the Chief Executive explained that the Council exercised discretion and provided that there was no cost to the Council, the employee would have the right to take early payment of pension from age 55.

Following comments from Councillor Wareham on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), the Deputy Chief Executive explained that the LGPS was operated by Norfolk County Council Pension Services and included a portfolio of investment and explained how the fund dealt with any cost of pension strain. However, if any pension strain costs were incurred by the Borough Council, the authority had a restructure reserve to deal with any such costs and gave an example when redundancies/early retirements had occurred during the Cost Reduction Programme resulting in a reduction of approximately 90 staff. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the LGPS was not an annuity scheme.

**RESOLVED:** That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

- (1) That the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk would not normally exercise their discretion to fund Additional Pension for scheme members.
- (2) That the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk would not normally exercise their discretion to consent to the immediate payment of benefits to a scheme member who is aged 55 or more and has left the Authority's employment prior to April 2014 without an entitlement to immediate LGPS benefits. However, it will give consideration to granting consent in those cases where there are no costs to the Authority associated with early payment. This discretion will be exercised by the Executive Director (Central and Community Services) in consultation with the Resources Portfolio Holder.

- (3) If the benefits payable under (2) above would normally be reduced for early payment the Authority would not normally agree to waive all or part of the reduction on any grounds, including compassionate.
- (4) That reference to discretions relating to Award of Additional Membership and Absence Contribution Time Limits will be removed from the Authority's Policy Statement.