

**Report to:** Pension Board

**Date of meeting:** 7 September 2020

**By:** Chief Financial Officer

**Title:** Discretionary Policy for Death Payments

**Purpose:** Annual Review of Discretionary Policy for Death Payments

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**RECOMMENDATIONS: The Pension Board is recommended to:**

**1) consider and comment on the Discretionary Policy for Death Payments prior to reporting to the Pension Committee.**

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**1. Background**

1.1 This report outlines the approach that East Sussex County Council (“ESCC”), acting in its capacity as administering authority to the East Sussex Pension Fund exercises its discretion over who should receive a death grant in a way that is compliant with the Local Government Pension Scheme (“LGPS”) Regulations, in accordance with acknowledged best practice and consistent with precedence established by The Pensions Ombudsman. These policies are subject to annual review, and this report presents the latest update of Discretionary Policy relating to Death Payments, to be formally noted by the Board.

1.2 The report is being passed to the Pension Board ahead of the Committee for prior information and comment.

**2. Supporting Information**

2.1 This policy is necessary to ensure that the death benefit process is fair and transparent for all potential death grant recipients and to provide a robust process that mitigates the risks of successful appeals under the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure.

**3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Board is recommended to consider and comment on the policy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

**IAN GUTSELL**

**Chief Financial Officer**

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