North Yorkshire County Council

This letter contains important pension information. It will apply to you if you have pre-2014 Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) membership with NYCC, another LGPS employer within the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF) or with another LGPS fund which you have not already combined with your current NYPF pension account.

A flowchart is attached to this e-mail which will help you decide if this letter is relevant to you.

North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AD

20 January, 2020

Dear Colleague

Amendment to LGPS Employer Discretion Policy

We are writing to you now as there has been a change to North Yorkshire County Council's (the Council) LGPS Employer Discretion Policy which may affect you.

All employers providing access to the LGPS are required to have a policy regarding how it will apply the discretions allowable under the LGPS regulations. This policy was recently reviewed and a change made regarding the aggregation of previous pension accounts with current membership. A copy of the LGPS Employer Discretion Policy is available on the NYCC intranet for staff to refer to.

In the LGPS, members have a separate pension account for each employment. At the point you joined NYCC you were offered the opportunity to transfer in or combine any previous LGPS pensions you had with your current NYPF pension account. You may also have been informed that you could decide to combine your LGPS pension accounts at any point in the future prior to your date of retirement.

The option of being able to combine your LGPS pension accounts at any point before retirement, has changed. You will now need to decide whether or not you wish to join your previous LGPS pension accounts with your current one. As this is a change to the Council's policy, you will have 12 months to decide whether or not you wish to combine your pension accounts.

This change is only relevant if you have any pensionable service in the LGPS final salary pension scheme which applied prior to 1 April 2014. Please use the attached flowchart to determine if this change may affect you.

A significant factor to be considered, therefore, is the relative values of your pay in your current post and the final pay you received in the post in which you accrued your previous LGPS service.

Information on what combining pension accounts means and the things you need to consider is provided in the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). There are two different sets of FAQs – one for pre-2014 joiners/re-joiners and another for post-2014 joiners/re-joiners. Please ensure you refer to the correct FAQs and take the time to read them.

Additional information can also be found on the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk / New Starters / Combining benefits guide. Alternatively, you can contact the NYPF by e-mail at pensions@northyorks.gov.uk, by telephone on (01609) 536335 or in writing at County Hall, at the address above. When contacting the NYPF please have your National Insurance number available as this will help them deal with your enquiry more efficiently.

Please note, the NYPF and NYCC are not authorised to provide advice regarding your pension benefits, we are only able to provide the facts and figures to help you reach a decision. If you are still unsure whether combining your pension accounts is the best thing for you, you should contact an independent financial adviser.

If you wish to combine your pension accounts then **you must notify the NYPF in writing by 31 December 2020**. If you do not notify them by this date, your pension accounts will remain separate and cannot be combined at a later date.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NYPF should you have any queries regarding the above.

Yours sincerely

Justine Brooksbank
Assistant Chief Executive