



Derbyshire
Pension
Fund

Local Government Pension Scheme
Employer Newsletter

Issue 159
February 2019

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Derbyshire Pension Fund is moving to a new system

The pension fund is starting to implement its move to a new administration system this week. (w/c 4 February 2019)

As part of the move, the team will have limited access to member's records in order to help with enquiries between **Wednesday 6 and Friday 8 February 2019**.

The team will have full access restored from Monday 11 February.

If you have a general enquiry about the scheme, you'll be able to find the information you need by using our website (see below).

Derbyshire Pension Fund website

derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk

We announced the launch of our new Derbyshire Pension Fund website in our last newsletter in September 2018.

We hope that as scheme employers you're finding the website a valuable resource, which also holds a wealth of important information for all of our scheme members.

Our goal is for all our employers and members to use the site as the first point of contact for anything you or they might need to know about the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Please add it to your "favourites".

Your feedback about the website will be helpful as we will be continuously improving and developing it as time progresses, so please let us know whether you find it a helpful resource.

Message for scheme members

To help scheme members get to know about the site, **please could you share the following message with all of your staff** who are either members of, or eligible for, the LGPS:



Derbyshire Pension Fund

*Derbyshire Pension Fund, which administers the Local Government Pension Scheme in Derbyshire, has launched a new website for scheme members.
(www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk)*

If you're a new member, looking to retire in the near future or would like to know more about how your pension works, take a look at the [new site](#).

You can print off forms, produce estimates of your pension benefits and find out about paying more into your pension, plus lots more useful information.

November's Employer Sessions

Thanks to everyone who attended our Employer Training Sessions in November 2018. They were both well attended and the feedback we received from attendees was very positive.

We'll be holding more sessions during 2019, with the first coming up on 13 March to be held at The Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale.

A separate employer training bulletin will be issued in the next few days with booking details.

2018/19 Year End Return and the Pension Fund Valuation

2018/19 Deadline

The deadline for your 2018/19 Year End Return, which needs to include data about all of your staff who have been in the LGPS during the year, is **Thursday 18 April 2019**.

Fund Valuation

It's always crucial that all employers submit their year end return to us on time, but this year it is particularly important as the 3 yearly pension fund valuation is due and will be based on the data you provide.

The quality of data we hold for your scheme members is critical to the outcome for you as an employer, as faulty data could lead to you paying a higher contribution rate from April 2020.

Delays in submitting your return and responding to any of our queries will prevent us from providing you with your new rate, which your finance colleagues will need as early as possible for budgeting purposes.

Year End Template

We'll be sending out the 2018/19 year end template and guidance notes by email during week commencing 4 February 2019 to the contact details we hold. If you have any queries please email us at Pensions.Tech@derbyshire.gov.uk.

Employer Discretions Policy

Further to the scheme regulations being amended from 14 May 2018, you need to review your Employer Discretions Policy. You have until **14 May 2019** (the anniversary of the changes coming into force) to review your policy and let us have a copy of the revised version electronically to our pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk email address.

Mandatory requirement

We know that some employers are yet to set a policy. It's mandatory for every employer to have a policy in place, publish it and keep it under review. Not having one is a breach of the scheme regulations.

Your policy must cover current staff and also former employees who have deferred benefits in the fund. You still have a connection to them and may need to make a decision when they want to draw their LGPS pension.

Resources

We've prepared some Employer Discretions resources which are available on [our website](#) including a [guidance document](#), and [example template](#) to help set your discretions.

Fund annual report

The fund's annual report for the year to 31 March 2018 was prepared by the 1 December 2018 deadline and is now available on our website at the following address:

<https://www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/annualreport>

Each year the fund is required to produce an annual report by 1 December. This report covers the following topics:

- Governance, management & financial performance
- Investment policy and performance
- Arrangements for the administration of the fund
- Fund activity
- Actuarial report
- Statement of accounts
- Auditor's opinion

New Fair Deal

Proposed consultation changes

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has launched a consultation on proposed changes to the LGPS which would introduce new regulations, in line with the Government's New Fair Deal guidance from 2013, protecting the pensions position of staff who are compulsorily transferred as part of an outsourcing arrangement.

These proposed regulations would replace the Best Value Authorities Staff Transfers (Pensions) Direction 2007 which provided pension protection for compulsory transfers from local government.

New Fair Deal guidance was originally introduced in October 2013 and covered compulsory staff transfers from central government departments including academies.

The consultation can be viewed by clicking the following link:

[LGPS Fair Deal Open Consultation](#)

Your feedback

MHCLG would appreciate your feedback on the consultation, especially from those who deal with HR, finance and contract management issues, by **4 April 2019** to the following email address: lgpensions@communities.gov.uk

Leavers

Leavers and casual contracts

Where a member of the LGPS with a casual or zero hours contract leaves employment, please use the **date when the contract ends** as the leaving date for the L1, rather than the last date they actually worked.

Revised L1

A new version of our leaver form (L1 v2.4) can now be found [here](#), along with all our other notification forms. It now includes the reason for leaving "Employee Reaching age 75", as although members of the LGPS can remain in employment after 75, they cannot continue to pay contributions and their benefits must be paid before this date.

Due to the increased number of scheme members breaching their [annual allowance](#) in their final year of active membership, the L1 also now captures more detail relating to AVCs.

Reminder

We would like to remind you that the **current version of the L1 must be used for all leavers**, even for historic cases, or re-submissions.

All our member notification forms now accept the insertion of electronic images of signatures for convenience. Please email pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk if you believe your employer's list of authorised signatories requires updating.

III Health Retirement

At its December 2018 meeting, the Pension & Investments Committee asked us to pass on a message which is important where a scheme member is applying for III Health Retirement.

If any of your employees (or ex-employees) attend assessments or interviews with your Independent Registered Medical Practitioners (IRMP) as part of an ill health retirement

application, please advise them to consider taking a friend, colleague, family member or union representative with them for support. The attendance of a third party may help to ensure that the outcomes are consistent with the understanding of all parties.

**If you have any queries about the information provided in this Newsletter,
or about the LGPS in general, please contact us at:**

Derbyshire Pension Fund, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AH

Tel: 01629 538862

Email: pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk

Website: www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk



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