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## Employer contribution rate review

You should be aware from previous communications, that the Fund's triennial valuation is currently being undertaken. This means that your employer contribution rate (ie the % you pay as a percentage of your employees' actual pensionable pay) will be reviewed as part of the valuation.

Any change to your rate will become effective from April 2020 and will be notified to you by December 2019. We will also be consulting with employers on a revised **Funding Strategy Statement**. This will explain how employers' contribution rates are set. The current version of the statement in respect of the [2016 valuation](#) which set rates from April 2017 is available on our [website](#).

All employers will have an opportunity to attend the Fund's **employer valuation meeting**, which will include a presentation by the Fund's actuary, on **13 January 2020** at County Hall, Matlock. Further details of the meeting will follow in due course.



## Drop in sessions

Most of your employees who are LGPS members will have received their annual benefit statements over the last few weeks. This can generate queries from your employees and may add to your workload. If you would like us to come to one of your workplaces to hold a drop in session to help members understand their statement and to answer questions about their pension benefits or the LGPS in general, please get in touch:

[pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Availability for these sessions is limited, so please contact us as soon as possible.

You may also wish to refer your employees to our website which contains lots of information and includes a guide to understanding annual benefit statements:

[derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/abs](http://derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/abs)

Information for employees with deferred benefits can be found here:

[derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/deferredabs](http://derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/deferredabs)

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## LGPS employer HR seminar

We are pleased to invite you to an LGPS employer seminar on **25 November 2019**. The venue will be confirmed soon, but we would ask you to make a note of the date.

The session will focus on HR issues and employer decisions relating to members' LGPS benefits. In particular there will be presentations about ill health retirement and the appeals process.

It will also be an excellent opportunity to ask questions and share your experiences of LGPS related HR issues, with us and your counterparts from other employers.

We'll let you know how to book your place shortly.

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## TUPE - options for members

If you outsource part of your service/function or have taken on a contract and become an admitted body in the LGPS, it is important that all involved understand the impact on affected staff.

Normally, when a scheme member transfers via TUPE, their pension continues unaffected by the transfer.

It is important to note though, that a transfer via TUPE, provides an opportunity to start a new LGPS pension from the date of the TUPE. This means that LGPS members aged 55+, can decide, subject to having 2 years' qualifying membership, to take their pension benefits that have been built up to that point. However, drawing their pension early will usually result in benefits being paid at a reduced level.

Members who aren't eligible to take their pension, but have at least 2 years' qualifying membership, have the option to defer the benefits built up to the point of TUPE or to transfer them out.

If no action is taken by the member, their pension record will automatically continue as if there has been no break in service.

Further information can be found on our website:

[derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/leaving-before-retirement](http://derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/leaving-before-retirement)

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## L1a leaver revision form

When you submit our L1 leaver form, but find that you need to change some information, such as pay details, hours or the leaving date, you should submit our 'L1a – Leaver revision form', instead of another full L1 form.

This form is very useful where you have projected the pensionable pay to a future date of leaving on the original L1 submission and found that it subsequently needs amending.

Please only use the L1a for revised information after submitting a fully completed L1.

The latest versions of our notification forms are on our website:

[derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/employer-forms](http://derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/employer-forms)

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## Contributions payment references

Please ensure that when you or your payroll provider is paying your monthly remittances for LGPS contributions, that the payment reference includes your employer number, which is found on your contributions return template (CR1), and the month to which the payment relates, e.g. **P912345April19**.

Without the reference in this format, we may not be able to trace the payment, meaning that we can't reconcile contributions and you may be recorded as not having paid at all.

The LGPS regulations allow Funds to recover additional administration costs directly from employers who generate extra work.

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## Pensions Administration Strategy

An updated version of the Fund's [Pensions Administration Strategy](#) is now available on our [website](#). The strategy sets out the LGPS related roles and responsibilities of scheme employers and the fund.

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## New and improved pension calculator

We have recently launched an updated version of the [pension calculator](#) on our [website](#).

This revised version can be used by all active scheme members to get an estimate of what their pension may be if they retire at a future date of their choice. The calculator will estimate the member's future pension by using the pay details they enter, so the quote it works out is based on today's values.

It would be helpful if you could let your LGPS members know that the updated calculator is available. They will need to have their annual statement to hand when they use it.



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

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Tel: 01629 538862

Email: [pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk)

