



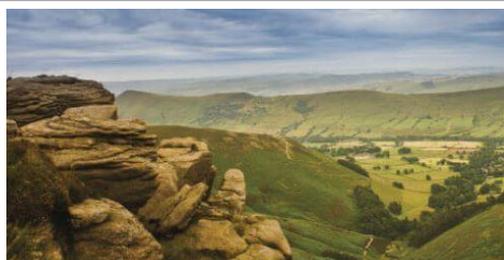
Derbyshire Pension Fund

Local Government Pension Scheme
Employer Newsletter

Issue 166
March 2020

In this issue:

- Coronavirus
- Year end return 2019/20
- Valuation results & employer contribution rates
- Funding Strategy Statement 2020
- LGPS employee contribution bandings 2020/2021
- Auto enrolment
- Opting out
- McCloud



Coronavirus

The impact of Coronavirus is changing rapidly and affecting much of our normal day to day activities.

We're doing everything we can to minimise the disruption to our services during the current situation. This includes protecting our scheme members against delays or interruptions to their payments or other pension related matters.

Employees contacting the fund

Due to the number of staff working remotely, there may be a delay to our normal response time in dealing with telephone, postal and electronic enquiries from your employees.

As a temporary measure, our telephone helpline is currently only available for limited times, on weekdays from 9am to 1pm only.

It would be helpful if you could ask your employees to visit our website in the first instance if they have a query as it will provide answers to most questions.

Please provide the following message to your employees as soon as possible:

“Contacting Derbyshire Pension Fund during the coronavirus outbreak

The answer to most queries in relation to your pension can be found on the fund's website:

derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk

Enquiry form

If you need to contact the fund, please use their online enquiry form. This is the best way to ensure your message is received and your enquiry is dealt with as soon as possible.

derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/enquiry

Secure emails

If you need to send the fund electronic attachments, email pensions@derbyshire.gov.uk.

It's your responsibility to ensure your personal data is sent securely. Please check with your own email provider if you're unsure how to do this."

Your leavers

To ensure we're able to contact your employees leaving employment during the coronavirus outbreak, we'll be adding a field to the L1 leavers' form for your employee's email address.

This will help us to establish email contact with your ex-employees about their pension during the current situation, as we're aware that some people might be self-isolating and unable to get out of the house to a post box or post office to return important forms to us.

We'll need personal email addresses rather than work emails. This information will help us to process pension benefits as quickly as possible.

Your role

Your role as an employer in the fund is vital in supporting us to maintain our service.

Please ensure that you continue to meet deadlines for your contribution payments and submissions of data (CR1's, starter's forms, leaver's forms etc.).

If you have any concerns, please contact the Regulations and Communications team by email: pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk.

Year end return 2019/20

As noted in our [February newsletter](#), we've issued the 2019/2020 Year End Return template. The deadline for this year's return is **Monday 20 April 2020**.

If you haven't begun already, please start preparing for the completion of your return.

We have a page on our website dedicated to [contributions and reconciliations](#). It includes the following resources:

- A copy of the template
- Guidance notes
- A short PowerPoint presentation about completing the return

If you use Derbyshire County Council or Derby City Council's payroll services, your year end return will be submitted automatically as part of your payroll arrangements.

If you have any queries, please contact Rachel James via email at: pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk

Valuation results & employer contribution rates

You should have received information about your employer contribution rate from 1 April 2020. If you haven't heard from us, please contact the Regulations and Communications team by email: pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk.

We're now issuing CR1 forms for your contribution returns for 2020/2021. If you're responsible for submitting the CR1 forms each month, and you haven't received your new template by 31 March, please contact our Technical Team by email: pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk.

Funding Strategy Statement 2020

Our revised Funding Strategy Statement sets out information about how employers' pension liabilities are calculated, and how employers pay for their own liabilities.

Following the period of consultation (which closed on 2 February 2020), the final version of the revised statement has now been published following approval by Derbyshire County Council's Pensions & Investments Committee (as the Administering Authority of the Fund) at their meeting on 4 March 2020, and is available [on our website](#).

LGPS employee contribution bandings 2020/2021

The new bandings for employee contributions from 1 April 2020 are shown in the following table. Please arrange for your payroll provider to ensure that the revised bandings are applied in time for April's pay:

Annual pay bandings from 1 April 2020	Employee Contribution Rate (Main Section)	Employee Contribution Rate (50/50 section)
Up to £14,600	5.50%	2.75%
£14,601 to £22,800	5.80%	2.90%
£22,801 to £37,100	6.50%	3.25%
£37,101 to £46,900	6.80%	3.40%
£46,901 to £65,600	8.50%	4.25%
£65,601 to £93,000	9.90%	4.95%
£93,001 to £109,500	10.50%	5.25%
£109,501 to £164,200	11.40%	5.70%
£164,201 or more	12.50%	6.25%

Auto enrolment

The government has announced that the earnings trigger for auto enrolment is remaining at £10,000 for 2020/2021.

Please remember – New starters and employees beginning a new contract eligible for the LGPS **must** be entered into the scheme when they start or begin a new contract, regardless of their pay.

Those with contracts of less than 3 months or who are employed on a casual or relief basis should only be entered into the scheme if they elect to join or meet the auto enrolment triggers. However, they must all be given the opportunity to join when they start.

Opting out

Some members have contacted the fund with concerns about how the turbulent economic situation may affect their pensions. As a defined benefit pension scheme, LGPS pension benefits are guaranteed and unaffected by financial instability.

You may find that some employees contact you if their household income is being affected by the current situation. This may result in some employees asking about opting out of the scheme.

Please remember that, as the employer, you **cannot** provide your employees with an "opt out" form. Doing so would be a serious breach of guidelines set by The Pensions Regulator.

If employees ask about opting out, please point them to the [Opting out](#) page on our website, which sets out information to consider before making a decision about opting out of the scheme.

McCloud

In our previous newsletter we asked you to retain employee records in case they're needed once an outcome to the McCloud case has been agreed.

The LGPS Scheme Advisory Board have now issued a [new statement](#) which confirms that changes to public sector pension schemes will be made to remove the age discrimination issues which are the basis of McCloud issue.

The note indicates that the McCloud outcome is expected to cause little or no change to LGPS scheme members' pensions when it's confirmed.

Email addresses

A quick reminder of our email addresses and what they should be used for:

dpf.employers@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting member notification forms such as the S1, L1, C1 and estimate requests. All found [here](#).

pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting contribution returns (CR1), data and payment queries.

pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk - For queries relating to LGPS regulations, employer visits, events and communications.

pensions@derbyshire.gov.uk - For queries and requests from members of the LGPS.

**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

Email: pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk

Website: www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk

