

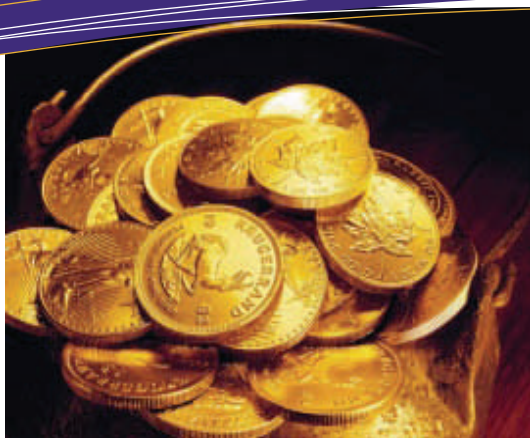
Queries on any of the information enclosed?

Please contact
Andy Cunningham
T: 01225 713612

Members Communications

Following the departure of Nikki Barnes from the role, Zoe Stannard is now in place as our new Fund Communications Manager.

Zoe is responsible for the website and communications to all members. You can contact her regarding setting up presentations to members. Typical presentations are to new or current members, to help them understand the Scheme better, and for members close to retirement age. You can call her to arrange a presentation on: 01225 756599



Fund Valuation 2010

On the 30th September, The Fund Valuation results were presented to the Pension Fund Committee in the morning and Pension Liaison Officers Group (PLOG) meeting in the afternoon.

We have now issued the Valuation Results to all employers.

Normally, employers would pay the theoretical rates from 1 April 2011 with an appropriate phasing in period. However, as discussed at PLOGs, at this Valuation with have enabled 'tax-raising' bodies to enter into a stabilisation policy and for all other employers to apply for contribution relief if required (the slides are available on the website).

We have outlined all this information in a letter to all our finance contacts. We also have asked for confirmation of each employers plans (except Town & Parish Councils) by the end of the year.

If the appropriate contact has not received a letter, please contact Andy Cunningham using the details above.

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Regulation Changes

The LGPS Regulations have recently been amended. Most of these are minor or fairly insignificant amendments but a significant **change to linking/transfers** has been made and is outlined below.

Previously members had 12 months from starting a new post to decide whether or not to link or transfer in previous LGPS service (beyond this time period it was the employer discretion over whether or not to agree). This limit has been temporarily removed and members now have until November 2011 to transfer in any previous LGPS service, regardless of whether it was in Wiltshire or another county. Non-LGPS service is not effected by this change (see next article). During November or December, we will be sending out an active newsletter to all employees which will detail this change and the other benefit changes outlined in this newsletter.

After November 2011, the 12 month limit will apply again.

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

Are any of your employees concerned that they are not building up enough pension?

If so, we suggest that you put them in touch with our AVC provider Prudential who will discuss the options available to them

They can contact Prudential directly on: **0845 607 0077**

Or if there are a number of people interested, you can liaise with Prudential about setting up a presentation at your place of work by speaking to Colin Hamilton: **07802 249718**

Additional Regular Contributions (ARCs)

These are alternative to AVCs and are operated in-house. Unfortunately these are currently suspended until further notice due to changes in Government actuarial factors.



The changes to pension tax relief could affect a significant number of members

It is vital that we receive prompt and accurate end of year pay figures in 2011 as these will be used to see whether someone exceeds the allowance and, if so, by how much.

New Pension Form

On the forms page of the website, you will now find a '**consent to late transfer**' form.

We now require this form to be completed when an employer wishes to exercise its discretion and allows a member to transfer in non-LGPS service after the normal 12 months limit.

The reason for this is to ensure that employers are clear over the potential cost implications of doing this (as outlined on the form) as well as to formalise the process.

Normally we would expect the person or department responsible for the future costs and budget to sign the form.

This form will also be used for transferring in LGPS pensions after November 2011.

Pension Tax Relief

As you may be aware the Government announced during October a number of changes to Pension Tax Relief which are due to apply from April 2011. We understand that nationally, 80% of members earning over £100 000 will be affected by these changes as well as:

- A significant number of employees whose salary increases significantly in a single year,
- Members with a large amount of pension service and/or members that earns a relatively high salary.

We have created a page on the active members section of our [website](#) to explain this in greater depth, which also includes a calculator, and we are sending out further information to all active members

Furthermore, Prudential, our AVC provider, is willing to run presentations relating to this at employees place of work at no cost to the employer. If you are interested in hosting such a session please contact Colin Hamilton on 07802 249718 or on Colins.hamilton@prudential.co.uk.

FAQS

Q. What elements of pay are pensionable?

A. In section 11 of the Employer's Guide (on the website) you will find the exact definition from the Regulations.

Q. Who should I, or employees, direct queries to?

A. Members

The contact page on our website gives a alphabet split used for dealing with benefit cases, alternatively the generic contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Employers

You should use the same contact list for queries regarding individual members.

For general or larger scale issues or questions please contact Andy Cunningham in the first instance.



Hutton Review

You may well be aware, Lord Hutton is currently reviewing all public sector pensions. He released an initial report in October this year and his final report is due in March 2011. The Government has said it fully supports the initial findings.

Summary of key points:

- Employee contribution rates should rise.
- Final salary schemes are unfair and too costly.
- The normal retirement age of 65 should increase.
- The merger of LGPS Funds is being considered

Next Steps:

- A consultation exercise is currently in place, which Wiltshire Pension Fund will be responding to in the next couple of weeks.
- We do not anticipate that any changes will occur before April 2013 but we will provide you with more information once we are aware of it.

Changes to the LGPS are likely to reduce employer contributions

They are also likely to reduce the volatility in employer contribution rates. It is also possible that we will be merged with other Funds.

Annual Report

The Wiltshire Pension Fund annual report for 2009-2010 is now available on the ['Publications'](#) are of our website.



Wiltshire Pension Fund

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