

****STOP PRESS** Employer briefing note - LGPS regulation changes - Access and Fairness and Councillors**

Dear Employer

Access and Fairness – LGPS regulation changes

Following the changes introduced by [LGPS \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Member Benefits\) Regulations 2026](#) we have produced a briefing note for Scheme Employers to highlight the key points of these changes and actions which need to be taken. The regulations implement the first phase of the Access and Fairness proposals.

Employers should:

- Read the attached briefing guide and ensure actions required to implement changes are taken; refer to further resources highlighted for more detailed information.
- Where payroll services and pension administration is outsourced, you should discuss these changes with your service provider to ensure systems and processes have been amended, as well as agree how information will be exchanged and who is responsible for what part of new processes.
- Watch out for any further updates and guidance.

Further updates and support to follow

Over the coming weeks:

- The LGA will be producing a basic calculator for working out the employer and member costs for the new Qualifying Additional Pension Arrangements (QAPAs), as well as a template communication for members – this is to support employers with this process.
- The LGA will make available a new member brief guide.
- Hampshire Pension Services and LGA will be reviewing and updating websites, technical guides, discretion templates and processes.
- A communication will be issued to all members to let them know about the scheme changes.

Please see the further resources section of this briefing note for links to more detailed information in relation to these changes.

LGPS Access to Councillors and Mayors

The [LGPS \(Amendment\) \(Elected Member Pensions\) Regulations 2026](#) [SI 2026-346] were laid in March 2026 and come into force with effect of 11 May 2026.

These regulations amend both the LGPS Regulations 2013 and the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendments) Regulations 2014, as well as numerous combined

authority and combined county authority establishment orders and the Members' Allowances Regulations 2003, to enable English councillors and mayors to become members of the LGPS.

New Councillors will be able to opt in from the 11 May 2026 and if opting in on this date, will become active members on the 1 June 2026 (the first pay period after 11 May 2026). Under the confirmed approach, councillors and mayors will accrue benefits on the same basis as other LGPS members, including access to the 50/50 section. Pensionable pay will comprise basic allowance and any special responsibility allowances.

Elected members opting in, will be set up as active scheme members in the LGPS under the local authority employer which they are elected, with the same employer contribution rate applying. Details of LGPS employee contributions can be found on our [website](#).

We are waiting for further guidance from the LGA, which is planned later this month. Along with this, we are expecting a template opt-in form and an introduction leaflet for councillors and mayors.

As soon as further information is available, we will let you know.

In the meantime, if you have any queries about the changes, please email pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk

Kind regards

Employer Services

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