

**Hampshire Pension Fund employers' newsletter**

**We hope you find it informative, as always we welcome any feedback you may have.**

**Customer Service Excellence 2019** ..... 2

**Pensions Administration for West Sussex County Council** ..... 2

**Consultation on Employer Grouping for Funding Purposes** ..... 2

**Annual returns 2018/19** ..... 3

**Open consultations** ..... 3

**Discretion policies – minor amendments**..... 4

**Pension Scheme for Education Sector Website**..... 5

**Changes to ill-health certificates** ..... 5

**Employer Focus Group**..... 6

**Upgrade to Member Portal** ..... 7

**Change of Payroll and other legal changes** ..... 7

**Other news** ..... 8

DCLG bulletins .....8

**Dates for your diary** ..... 9

Annual Employer Meeting (AEM)..... 9

Employer training days 2019 .....9

## Customer Service Excellence 2019



In April 2019, the Hampshire Pension Fund had its first year (full) assessment for Customer Service Excellence (CSE). We are pleased to advise that we have been assessed as fully compliant in all areas required under CSE and have also been awarded compliance plus in 7 areas.

## Pensions Administration for West Sussex County Council

Hampshire Pension Services took on the administration of the LGPS and Fire pension scheme on behalf of West Sussex County Council in March 2019.

You may find some of the forms on our website has been updated with both the Hampshire and West Sussex logos, however we would like to re-assure you that all of other information requested remains the same. If you have any questions to the forms that we have, please let us know.

## Consultation on Employer Grouping for Funding Purposes

We are inviting feedback regarding proposed changes to the way in which employers are grouped together for funding purposes in the Hampshire Pension Fund.

Information about the proposals and how the proposals impact different groups of employers can be found on the 'Grouping Briefing Note' available on our website.

Relevant Links

[Employer News](#)

We recently invited employers who would be affected by these proposals to attend an Actuary led workshop to understand these in more detail. Copies of the slides and recordings from these events can also be found on our website.

We would be grateful for comments to be sent to [pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk) no later than **5pm on Wednesday 26 June**, to allow the responses to be collated for a report to be considered by the Pension Fund Panel and Board at their meeting on 12 July.

## Annual returns 2018/19

**The deadline for the completed and signed annual returns was 30 April 2019.**

By this date we received 79% of all returns (compared to 79% last year). Thank you to all employers who sent these on time.

We are now checking and uploading more than 300 scheme employers annual returns which we need to complete by the end of June in order to provide data to the Fund Actuary for Valuation purposes as well as generate annual benefit statements and meet the statutory deadline for these to be available by 31 August 2019.

**If we do raise any queries with you** following the processing of your annual return, please respond promptly in order for us to finalise and issues annual benefit statements to all of your employees who are members of the scheme.

## Open consultations

There are currently a number of consultations open, which you may wish to review and respond to:

### **Exit payments Cap**

HM Treasury have launched a consultation called 'Restricting exit payments in the public sector: consultation on implementation of the regulations'. The consultation closes on 3 July 2019.

The LGPC have produced a briefing note which ties together the contents of the consultation documents. The briefing note and the consultation documents can be found: - on the non-scheme consultations page of [www.lgpsregs.org](http://www.lgpsregs.org)

### **LGPS: Changes to the local valuation cycle and the management of employer risk policy**

MHCLG have a [policy consultation](#) called 'LGPS: Changes to the local valuation cycle and the management of employer risk policy'.

The consultation closes on 31 July 2019 and covers the following areas:

- amendments to the local fund valuations from the current 3 year (triennial) to a 4-year (quadrennial) cycle

- a number of measures aimed at mitigating the risks of moving from a triennial to a quadrennial cycle
- proposals for flexibility on exit payments
- proposals for further policy changes to exit credits
- proposals for changes to the employers required to offer local government pension scheme membership

The consultation is open and you may wish to review and respond.

## Discretion policies – minor amendments

Following revised versions of the Discretionary policy list and guide, Hampshire Pension Services have updated the links on our website to the new LGA guidance which reflect the minor changes including those to the mandatory discretionary policies including:

### Useful Links

[Discretions information](#)

- whether to grant the application for early payment of deferred benefits (in respect of a member who left active membership before 1 April 1998) on compassionate grounds
  - application may now be granted by the administering authority where the former employer no longer exists .
- where a member who opted out of the scheme continues to be employed by a Scheme employer, the member is only entitled to receive their benefits at NRD if their employer consents to them doing so (in respect of a member who opted out of the scheme after 31 March 1998 and before 1 April 2008)

Employers should review their policies as appropriate. If a revised policy is published, a copy should be sent to Hampshire Pension Services at [pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk)

## Pension Scheme for Education Sector Website

As highlighted in the LGA Bulletin 183 we wanted to take the opportunity to remind schools, colleges and academies must by law, contractually enrol their non-teaching staff into the LGPS.

TPT Retirement Solutions have introduced a defined benefit scheme called the Pension Scheme for the Education Sector. We understand the scheme is primarily aimed at independent schools due to the increase in employer contributions planned for the Teachers' Pension Scheme. However, the LGA have contacted TPT Retirement Solutions to raise our concerns that the website is advertising that the scheme is open to schools, colleges and academies.

## Changes to ill-health certificates

[Ill Health certificates](#) have been amended to include the updates made by the LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2018, changes to in November 2018 and number of other minor corrections.

Employer should use the new updated ill-health certificates for future ill-health retirements and can be found under the [Employer Forms](#) section of our website.

More information on the actions you should take when dealing with a possible ill-health retirement, can be found in our [Employer Manual](#). However, if you do have any questions, please email [pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk)

## Employer Focus Group

There will be an **Employer Focus Group on 21 June 2019**. The focus this time will be around:

- Initial feedback from employers on the upgrade to member portal to enable continual improvement
- Discuss ways to encourage uptake of member portal and awareness of the 2019 annual benefit statements (ABS)
- Opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on a draft communication that employers could send to their active members/employees to help employers promote the member portal and ABS availability

### **Purpose of the group**

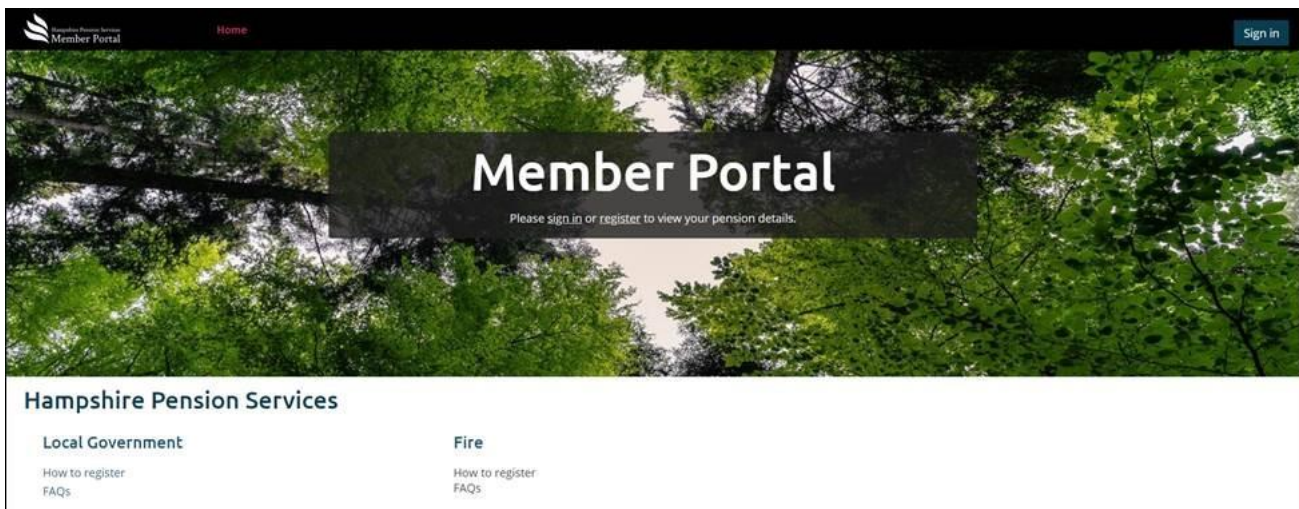
The purpose of the focus group is primarily to help Hampshire Pension Services create and improve communications, feedback to help with administration policy setting and review of documents for both members and employers. We try to limit the focus group' to one representative per employer as spaces are limited to ensure the aims of the group are met and feedback obtained across a breadth of organisations. It typically covers:

- Feedback on current issues affecting administration in the LGPS
- Feedback on documents being reviewed by HPS (in the past this has included member portal, forms and website)
- Look at regulation changes and changes required by employer/fund – opportunity for us to understand and consider employer issues
- Feedback on employer and member communications

As we administer over 500 employers we are initially asking for volunteers to be part of the group and be a representative to the employer base.

To express interest in attendance at the Focus Group, please email [pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk)

# Upgrade to Member Portal



Following the upgrade to the Member Portal we have received an increase in registrations.

Here is what a member is now able to view and update:

- ✓ Add and amend 'expression of wish' nominations – **NEW**
- ✓ Change your address, name or marital status
- ✓ Securely view payslips and P60's (*for pensioners only*)
- ✓ Update bank details (*for pensioners only*) - **NEW**
- ✓ View tax code changes (*for pensioners only*) – **NEW**

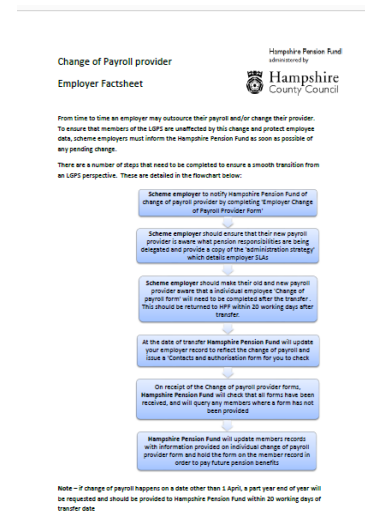
## Change of Payroll and other legal changes

### Change of Payroll

Please let us know if you have or are planning on changing your payroll provider by emailing [servdev.pensions@hants.gov.uk](mailto:servdev.pensions@hants.gov.uk), we will then let you know what actions we need to take to ensure members are not affected by this change.

### Other legal changes

If you are making any legal changes to your organisation e.g. mergers, name changes, transfers, setting up Wholly Owned Companies please let us know, so we can advise if there will be any LGPS impacts or requirements.



Please email [servdev.pensions@hants.gov.uk](mailto:servdev.pensions@hants.gov.uk) as soon as possible to register your interest.

### DCLG bulletins

Since the last Pensions Matters the DCLG have released the following bulletins on their website

<http://www.lgpsregs.org/index.php/resources/news-updates>

#### Bulletin 179 - December 2018

- LGPS (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Indexation of Public Service Pensions
- Pensions Dashboard

#### Bulletin 180 – February 2019

- Commentary for LGPS administering authorities on changes to the LGPS

#### Bulletin 181 – February 2019

- Contribution bands 2019/20
- Discretionary policies
- Exit credits

#### Bulletin 182 – March 2019

- Annual updates including member contributions

#### Bulletin 183 – March 2019

- Valuation 2019
- Member leaflet on LGPS (misc. Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Aggregation and concurrent employment

#### Bulletin 184 – April 2019

- Fair deal consultation
- CARE Scheme – Five year anniversary

#### Bulletin 185 – May 2019

- Consultations
- McCloud and Cost Management



## Dates for your diary

### Annual Employer Meeting (AEM)

The AEM will take place on Friday **18<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Please update your diaries accordingly. Held in Winchester (Invites sent to high level contacts, although open to all Scheme Employer representatives)

### Employer training days 2019

If you are new to the LGPS, either as a new employer in the scheme or if you have recently taken on a role that involves LGPS administration for the first time, this is an ideal opportunity to come along to a session aimed at helping you understand some of the complexities of the employer role in the LGPS. The sessions could also be used as a refresher for existing staff.

Following feedback from employers, we will now run the day in two halves, covering the following:

- 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – 9.30 to 4.30pm (**Fully booked**)

Morning – LGPS overview 9.30 – 12.30

Afternoon – Pensionable pay workshop 1.30 – 4.30

- 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – 9.30 to 4.30

Morning – LGPS overview 9.30 – 12.30

Afternoon – Pensionable pay workshop 1.30 – 4.30

- 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – 9.30 to 4.30

Morning – LGPS overview 9.30 – 12.30

Afternoon – Pensionable pay workshop 1.30 – 4.30

If you would like to register your interest or book a place on the full or partial day, please email [pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk)

All sessions are held in Winchester.

**We hope you find this edition of *Pensions matters* helpful. If you have any comments or queries please email [pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.employer@hants.gov.uk) and we'll be glad to help.**