Derbyshire Pension Fund

Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Newsletter

Issue 221 June 2025

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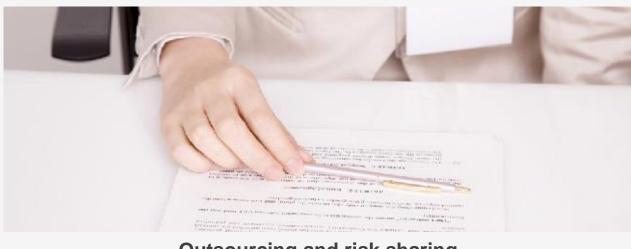


Derbyshire Pension Fund actuarial valuation 2025

The <u>actuarial valuation</u> reviews each participating employer's funding position and determines any changes to employer contribution rates, where appropriate, to take effect from 1 April 2026.

The latest actuarial valuation is being based on membership information up to 31 March 2025. Any unresolved queries from our Data & Systems team regarding your employee data for the 2024/2025 scheme year may affect your future employer contribution rates.

We're planning to host an online employer forum about the valuation on 11 December 2025, so please mark this date in your calendar. We'll be in touch again with more information about how your main contact with responsibility for LGPS funding can register for the event.



Outsourcing and risk sharing

If you're considering outsourcing a function or service, or entering into a contract with a new provider for a service already outsourced, it's important that you inform us as early as possible. This ensures that LGPS-eligible staff who are being transferred retain their pension scheme rights.

To notify us about any outsourcing arrangements, please complete the <u>initial admission bodies</u> <u>notification form</u> and direct the contractor to our <u>website</u>.

Preparing to outsource

It is important when preparing information for potential bidders for a contract that the details of any pension risk sharing arrangements are included. Providing this information will set realistic expectations for LGPS-related costs, including actuary fees. For example, if you offer a pass-through arrangement (retaining the majority of pension funding risks), allowing for a fixed LGPS employer contribution rate, it will provide a level of certainty for the prospective contractor and simplify the process.

Schools and academies

Local authority-maintained schools should consult with their appropriate local authority before agreeing to a pass-through arrangement, and before transferring LGPS-eligible staff to a contractor.

Schools can only agree a pass-through arrangement with the consent of their local authority. This is because the local authority, either Derbyshire County Council, or Derby City Council, would be the ultimate guarantor for the contractor's pension liabilities.

When academy trusts outsource, a pass-through arrangement means the majority of pension funding risks remain with the academy trust.

The Department for Education provides a guarantee in the event of an academy trust closure.

LGPS consultation reminder: Access and fairness

We issued an email on 11 June 2025 to our main contact at each employer about a new consultation opened by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG): <u>LGPS in England</u> and Wales: Access and fairness.

The consultation covers potential changes to the LGPS regulations in England and Wales. The proposals cover several areas, including:

- Survivor pensions and death grants
- The gender pension gap in the LGPS
- Reporting numbers and reasons for employees opting out of the LGPS
- Forfeiture of pensions

The changes aim to improve access and fairness within the scheme, ensuring that it continues to provide security and support for scheme members.

Please share our <u>access and fairness consultation news item</u> with your LGPS eligible members to make them aware of this consultation.

If you and your members wish to respond to the consultation, MHCLG has indicated that its preferred method is by the <u>online survey</u>.

The consultation is open until 7 August 2025.



2025 Member Engagement Forum

Derbyshire Pension Fund is hosting the second meeting of its Member Engagement Forum on Tuesday 22 July 2025.

We recently contacted your LGPS members who are registered on our <u>My Pension Online</u> member self-service portal, providing them with an opportunity to attend and share their experiences of engaging with the Fund.

Our aim is to discuss topics such as the My Pension Online service and we are looking forward to receiving feedback on this so that we might continue to develop and improve the service that we provide to members.

If you are aware of any LGPS employees who would like to get involved in the Forum, please ask them to contact <u>pensions.bookings@derbyshire.gov.uk</u> to ensure a place. The deadline for responses is Friday 11 July 2025.

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) – Excess service update

This article only applies to employers who also participate in the TPS:

Background

Employers participating in the LGPS and TPS should be aware that Teachers' Pensions are in the process of identifying their scheme members with full-time **and** additional part-time membership in the scheme's Transitional Protection remedy period (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2022).

Where TPS membership is being converted back into the 'final salary' arrangements, any additional part-time membership identified as 'excess service' is not pensionable in the TPS.

Where a TPS members' employer also participates in the LGPS, the 'excess service' may be pensionable in the LGPS.

Update

The TPS project to identify teachers with 'excess service' is still ongoing, however a review has resulted in a much smaller group of teachers being in scope than originally identified.

The Fund will be in touch with any LGPS employers who employed any teachers with 'excess service' in the TPS during the relevant period in due course to confirm the process for the excess service to become pensionable in the LGPS.

Employee details changes

It's important that you let us know as soon as possible when an employee's details change, for example, title, name, address. This helps us to minimise the risk of data breaches occurring.

If you're not using i-Connect yet, please notify us using the C1 form when any of your LGPS members change their personal and contact details. Member notification forms are on the <u>forms for</u> <u>employers</u> section of our website.

Email addresses

Our email addresses and what they are used for:

dpf.employers@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting member notification forms

pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting contribution returns (CR1s) and payment queries

pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk - For queries relating to i-Connect onboarding, regulations, training and events

For queries and requests from members of the LGPS, please direct them to the <u>enquiry form</u> on our website.

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 Tel: 01629 538900 Email: <u>pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk</u> Website: <u>www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk</u>

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