

AVON PENSION news



THE NEWSLETTER FOR AVON PENSION FUND MEMBERS

my pension online



The easiest way to manage
your pension account
is online

Find out more at: www.avonpensionfund.org.uk/my-pension-online

AVON PENSION FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

New LGPS employee pay bands and contribution rates from April 2022

The rate of contributions you pay into the LGPS is based on how much you are paid. There are nine different pay bands with contribution rates ranging from 5.5% to 12.5% of your pensionable pay. If you elect for the 50/50 section of the scheme you would pay half the Main section rate. The rate you pay depends on which pay band you fall into.

When you join, and every month when necessary afterwards, your employer will decide your contribution rate and they should let you know what it is. If your pay changes throughout the year, your employer may decide to review your contribution rate.

| Contribution table 2022/23 | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Pay band | Actual pensionable pay | Contribution rate | |
| | | Main section | 50/50 section |
| 1 | Up to £15,000 | 5.5% | 2.75% |
| 2 | £15,001 to £23,600 | 5.8% | 2.9% |
| 3 | £23,601 to £38,300 | 6.5% | 3.25% |
| 4 | £38,301 to £48,500 | 6.8% | 3.4% |
| 5 | £48,501 to £67,900 | 8.5% | 4.25% |
| 6 | £67,901 to £96,200 | 9.9% | 4.95% |
| 7 | £96,201 to £113,400 | 10.5% | 5.25% |
| 8 | £113,401 to £170,100 | 11.4% | 5.7% |
| 9 | £170,101 or more | 12.5% | 6.25% |

Preparing for retirement

A series of free pre-retirement workshops are available to assist members when they begin to think about planning for retirement.

The workshops are aimed at anyone considering leaving employment on normal, early or ill health retirement, or taking flexible retirement within the next three years or so. Partners are encouraged and welcome to attend.

The Avon Pension Fund is working with Affinity Connect, one of the largest providers of retirement and redundancy services to the public sector in the UK, to help scheme members plan for a positive retirement.

To guide you through the options available, Affinity Connect will be running a dedicated 2-hour Pre-Retirement Online Course on the following dates.

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 21 June 2022 | 1pm - 3.30pm |
| 13 July 2022 | 9.30am - 12pm |
| 16 August 2022 | 9.30am - 12pm |
| 2 September 2022 | 1pm - 3.30pm |
| 18 October 2022 | 4pm - 6.30pm |
| 17 November 2022 | 1pm - 3.30pm |
| 14 December 2022 | 1pm - 3.30pm |

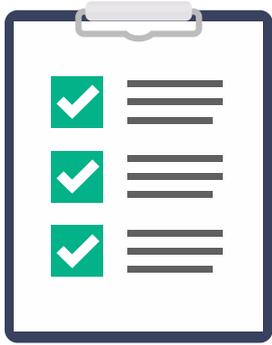
How to book

For further information regarding the dates of the courses and how to book, please visit our website at www.avonpensionfund.org.uk/preparing-retirement

More information about what to do if you are nearing retirement can be found at www.avonpensionfund.org.uk/nearing-retirement

For further information about Affinity Connect visit their website at www.affinityconnect.org

We asked and you answered: Responsible Investment Survey



Last November, during COP26 (26th edition of the United Nations annual climate change conference), we invited all members we could contact by email to take part in a survey regarding Responsible Investment to gauge opinion and feeling on our response to the Climate Emergency and other areas of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance issues). We were overwhelmed by the response – with over 3,500 of you taking the time to fill out the survey and give us your thoughts – thank you!

We're pleased to share the key takeaways from your responses to the survey here:

1. We believe investing responsibly benefits our members...

We were encouraged to see that 80%* of you agree that it is important for us to take account of responsible investment issues when making investment decisions (*results of those who stated it was very important, important and quite important).

And that over half agreed that it is important to take account of the environmental, social and governance aspects of responsible investing.

2. We believe climate change presents a long-term financial risk...

The majority of those surveyed were in agreement. Over 60% said climate change presented either a high risk or very high risk.

Over 75% responded that investing in sustainable and low carbon assets is important.

3. We believe in the power of engagement and collaboration to bring about change...

Nearly 80% of you believe it is important for the Fund to influence the behaviour of the individual companies in which we invest to bring about better environmental and social outcomes.

If you'd like to see the full results from the survey, they are published in Issue 02 of our ESG Zine at: www.avonpensionfund.org.uk/climate-emergency

Increase in normal minimum pension age (NMPA)

In 2014 the Government announced that the minimum age at which most members could be permitted to draw their pension benefits without penal tax charges (for both member and scheme) would rise from age 55 to age 57 with effect from April 2028.

Section 10 of the Finance Act 2022 confirmed the increase of NMPA from 55 to 57 from 6 April 2028.

The NMPA was introduced in 2006 and was increased from 50 to 55 in 2010. In 2014, following the consultation on 'Freedom and Choice in Pensions', the government announced it would increase the NMPA to 57 in 2028 to coincide with the rise of state pension age to 67. The relevant government department (The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)) will still need to change the LGPS rules to align them with the NMPA increase at some point on or before 6 April 2028.



Your Annual Pension Statement will be available online

Usually, when the time comes to receive your Annual Pension Statement, we'll deliver it to your registered postal address in paper form.

This year, for the first time, we're trying something slightly different for members paying into the Fund.

As well as receiving a paper copy, you will also be able to access your statement in a digital format online – through our secure my pension online platform.

Why are we making Annual Pension Statement's digital?

We're trialling this with the intention to roll out electronic communications further, to include more members and incorporate more documents. Everything we do is for the benefit of our members, and we hope this switch helps to improve your pension experience.

As well as this, as you may be aware, Avon Pension Fund has pledged to align with the climate goals of the Paris Agreement. We must do all we can as an organisation to limit our carbon output – and that includes reducing our use of paper. Going forward, our goal will be to communicate with members digitally where possible, so if we have the means to contact you digitally, we will do so in the first instance.

This doesn't mean we won't contact you by post if that's what you'd prefer. You'll be able to update your communications preference to your preferred method through your my pension online account, or simply by getting in touch if you don't have an account.

What if I don't already have an account?

Signing up to my pension online will allow you to view all future statements online. You can also choose your communications preferences if you'd prefer to keep receiving them by post.

To get started, simply visit www.avonpensionfund.org.uk and click the 'LOG IN' button at the top of the page. Here, you'll be greeted with the 'New user registration' option. Existing users will also be prompted to login from this page.

If you require any assistance setting up a my pension online account, just contact our team who will be happy to help at: avonpensionfund@bathnes.gov.uk

If you have a my pension online account, we will notify you when your statement is available to view online and give instructions on how to access it.