

Avon Pension Fund

Local Government Pension Scheme

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Bath & North East
Somerset Council

for you, for now, for the future
lgps
2014



About the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

Who runs the LGPS?

The LGPS is one of the largest public sector pension schemes in the UK. It is a nationwide pension scheme for people working in **local government** or working for other types of employer participating in the scheme. The LGPS in England and Wales is administered locally through 90 local pension funds.

Bath and North East Somerset Council is the Administering Authority for
Avon Pension Fund.

You can contact Avon Pension Fund at:

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Tel: 01225 395100

Postal Address:

**Avon Pension Fund
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Lewis House, Manvers Street,
Bath, BA1 1JG**

Location Address:

**Avon Pension Fund
Keynsham Civic Centre
Market Walk, Keynsham,
BS31 1FS**

LGPS rules

The scheme regulations were made under the Superannuation Act 1972 and in the future will be made under the Public Service Pension Schemes Act 2013. Changes to scheme rules are discussed at national level by employee and employer representatives but can only be amended with the approval of Parliament. Bath & North East Somerset Council must keep you informed of any changes that are made.

The LGPS is a registered **public service pension scheme** under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004. It achieved automatic registration by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 36 of that Act (because the scheme was, immediately before 6 April 2006, both a retirement benefits scheme approved under Chapter I of Part XIV of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and a relevant statutory scheme under section 611A of that Act). This means, for example, that you receive tax relief on your contributions. It complies with the relevant provisions of the Pension

Schemes Act 1993, the Pensions Act 1995 and the Pensions Act 2004.

The LGPS meets the government's standards under the automatic enrolment provisions of the Pensions Act 2008.

LGPS responsibilities

Information

Bath & North East Somerset Council is required to:

- issue annual benefit statements to scheme members (other than to pensioners).
- have a statement setting out their policy on communicating with scheme members, members' representatives, prospective members and employers.

You are entitled to obtain a copy of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (Statutory Instrument Number 2013/2356) and subsequent amendments and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) (Statutory Instrument Number 2014/525) and subsequent amendments.

The regulations are available from www.legislation.gov.uk A current version, including all amendments, is available on the website www.lgpsregs.org. A copy of the Regulations may be inspected at Avon Pension Fund's offices at Civic Centre, Keynsham. In addition, you are entitled to view, and take copies of, the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts. These documents are also available to view on our website at www.avonpensionfund.org.uk

To maintain the security of any information about you, Bath & North East Somerset Council is registered under the current Data Protection Acts. You can check that your computerised personal record is accurate, although in some limited circumstances a small fee may be charged.

Decisions

The Regulations give specific responsibilities to employers and pension administrators, each of whom must make decisions in relation to some matters and can exercise their **discretion** in relation to others.

Many administering authorities set up a Pension Committee to oversee their pension scheme responsibilities which then acts in a similar role to trustees of other pension schemes.

You can find more information from Avon Pension Fund, or from our website at www.avonpensionfund.org.uk

Governance

Your administering authority must operate a Local Pension Board. The Pension Board is responsible for assisting the administering authority in securing compliance with the LGPS regulations, overriding legislation and guidance from the Pensions Regulator. The Board is made up of equal representation from employer and member representatives.

Funding

As a scheme member, you will pay contributions to the LGPS. Your employer currently pays in the balance of the cost of providing your benefits after taking into account investment returns. Every three years, an independent actuary calculates how much your employer should contribute to the

scheme. The amount will vary, but generally the present underlying assumption is that employees contribute approximately one third of the scheme's costs and the employer contributes the rest.

Future cost management of the LGPS

To ensure the long term sustainability of the scheme a cost management process is now in place in the LGPS in England and Wales which will monitor the cost of the scheme to ensure it stays within agreed parameters as set by the Scheme Advisory Board and HM Treasury. Should costs increase or decrease outside those parameters future changes to the scheme design may be required.

Disclaimer

The information in this guide applies to individuals who were contributing members of the Local Government Pension Scheme on 1st April 2014 or who have since joined. The guide was up-to-date at the time of publication in June 2019. This guide is for general use and cannot cover every personal circumstance nor does it cover specific protected rights that apply to a very limited number of employees. In the event of any dispute over your pension benefits, the appropriate legislation will prevail as this guide does not confer any contractual or statutory rights and is provided for information purposes only.

June 2019