

Current Member Newsletter

Summer 2023



Welcome to the first edition of the Kent Pension Fund newsletter, for members who are currently contributing to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Inside you will find useful information about your pension and other areas of interest.



Inside this issue.....

Annual Revaluation

Every year, your CARE pension benefits (those built up since 1 April 2014) are adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

This year CPI was 10.1%.

The date the revaluation is added has changed from 1 April to 6 April from 2023.

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Member Self Service

Did you know that you can:

- view the details we hold for you.
- get an estimate of your pension.
- nominate beneficiaries for any lump sum payable on your death.

See page 3 for details on how to register for member self service.

Member Webinars

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding several upcoming member webinars on various pension topics.

All of the events are free of charge and you will have the opportunity to ask questions during the webinar.

Turn to page 4 for further details of these events.



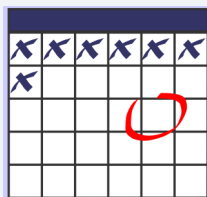
BUDGET NEWS

The Chancellor announced several changes to pension tax limits in the March budget.

To read how these changes might affect you, please refer to your Annual Benefit Illustration.

Annual Revaluation

Change of date



The CARE revaluation date has changed

From 2023, the date the adjustment is applied has changed from 1 April to 6 April

This year the increase to your CARE pension was 10.1%

What is a CARE pension?

Since April 2014, the LGPS is a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme.

This means that each year, $\frac{1}{49}$ th of your pensionable pay goes into your pension ($\frac{1}{98}$ th if you have opted to be in the 50:50 scheme).

Every year, your CARE pension benefits are adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

This year, the CPI was 10.1%, which means all the CARE pension that you have built up since April 2014 was increased by this amount.

What has changed?

Up until 2023, the adjustment was applied on 1 April. This year, the revaluation date changed to 6 April, and this will be the revaluation date going forwards.

Will this change of date affect the amount I will receive?

No. Although the date has changed to align with the tax year, the amount that is added to your pension each year will be the same.

Members retiring with their pension beginning between 1 April to 5 April will receive the same amount as they would have done had the increase remained on 1 April.

How is my pension calculated before April 2014?

Prior to April 2014, the LGPS was a final salary scheme, and your pension before this date is calculated on the membership you have built up x your final salary (usually in the last year of membership) x an accrual rate.

Interested in joining our feedback group?

We are currently looking for volunteers for our new member feedback group.

The group will be asked for feedback on how we communicate with you, so if you have any views, or any ideas that you feel would help, then let us know.

If you would like to express an interest in joining the group, please complete the online form at: www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/memberfeedbackgroup

Keep us Updated!

Tell us if your details change



In order to keep you updated about your pension, we must have your current address in our records. That's why it is vital that you tell us of any changes to your contact details.

Please ensure that you also tell your employer or payroll provider of your new details, as they may overwrite any changes with previous details, when they contact us.

It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any changes to your address.

How to update your details

You can inform us of any changes by using the [online member self service](#), using the [on-line form](#), or by phone. Our contact details are shown on the last page of this newsletter.

Member Self Service

Member Self Service is an online system that lets you view and amend the details that we hold about you. You can also get an estimate of your pension using the benefit projection tool.

Did you know?

That if you die whilst you are a contributing member of the scheme, a death grant of 3 x your annual pensionable pay is due.

Kent Pension Fund make the decision on who to pay this to, but you can nominate who you would like to receive the death grant, which helps the decision making process. You can create or amend your nomination by using member self service.

How do I register?

Please visit www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/memberselfservice and scroll down to the register section.

Thinking of Opting Out?

If you are thinking of opting out of the LGPS, you may want to consider moving to the 50/50 section of the scheme.

What is the 50/50 Scheme?

In the 50/50 section of the scheme, you pay half of the contributions to build up half of your pension, whilst keeping all of the other features of your LGPS pension.

You can switch back to the main scheme at any time and there is no limit on the amount of times you switch.

Use the [Contributions Calculator on the LGPS member website](#) to see how joining the 50/50 section would affect your take-home pay.

McCloud

Update

When the LGPS changed from a final salary to a career average pension scheme in 2014, members who were within ten years of their Normal Pension Age on 1 April 2012 were given protection from the changes.

This protection has been extended due to a Court of Appeal ruling, commonly known as the McCloud judgment.

You may qualify for protection if you were a member of the LGPS before 1 April 2012, and at any time between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2022, as long as you did not have a disqualifying break. A disqualifying break is a continuous period of more than five years when you were not a member of a public service pension scheme.



Once the Regulations are in place later in the year, when an eligible member leaves the LGPS, dies, or reaches age 65, the benefits payable under the career average and final salary schemes are compared. The higher amount (called the underpin) is paid automatically.

We will contact you if your pension may be affected by the underpin, so you do not need to contact us.

If you leave and have a deferred pension, we will do a further comparison of your pension benefits when they come into payment and pay the higher amount.

For further details, please go to the Kent Pension Fund website www.kentpensionfund.co.uk

Member Webinars

We are pleased to announce our new webinars being presented by our expert pensions staff and by a professional financial services trainer.

Each webinar will cover a different topic, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions related to that topic.

Details of the course dates and agendas, together with how to book, can be found on the Kent Pension Fund website: www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/memberwebinars

Our Contact Details

Tel: 03000 41 34 88

Online form:

www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/contact

Member Self Service:

www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/member-self-service

This newsletter is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.