Pension Connection

Issue 4
Summer 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Kent Pension Fund (KPF) newsletter, for deferred members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Inside you will find useful information about your pension and other areas of interest. We hope you find the newsletter helpful, and we appreciate any feedback.

Please email your comments to pension.systems@kent.gov.uk

Life Changes, Keep Your Details Up to Date

Have you recently moved home, changed your name or updated your email address?

Keeping your details up to date helps ensure that we can contact you about your pension, including your Annual Benefit Statement and important scheme updates.

You can update your address quickly through MyPension Online, or by completing the relevant online form.

It's also important to review your beneficiary nominations regularly to make sure your death grant wishes remain current.

www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/formsfordeferredmembers

Fund Performance and Stability

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a secure, funded defined benefit pension scheme.

Your pension benefits are set out in legislation and do not depend directly on investment performance. However, investment returns play an important role in supporting the long-term funding of the scheme.

Kent Pension Fund continues to work with professional investment managers and pooling partners to help ensure the Fund remains sustainable for current and future members.

You may have heard about Border to Coast. As one of the partner funds within the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership, Kent Pension Fund benefits from collaborative investment management, access to wider investment opportunities and economies of scale that can help deliver value over the long term.

Kent Pension Fund

Summer 2026: In this Issue

Important: Be Cautious When Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Pension Information

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Copilot and other online chatbots, are becoming increasingly popular for answering questions and providing guidance.

However, Kent Pension Fund members should be aware that AI-generated responses may be inaccurate, incomplete or based on outdated information. Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) benefits are complex and can vary depending on your individual circumstances, employment history and scheme membership details.

AI tools do not have access to your pension record and cannot provide personalised pension calculations or definitive information about your benefits.

Before making any decisions about your pension, we strongly recommend that you:

- Refer to information provided directly by Kent Pension Fund and the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Use the pension calculators and tools available through your member self-service account (where applicable).
- Contact Kent Pension Fund if you need information about your specific pension benefits or options.

Relying solely on information generated by AI could lead to misunderstandings or incorrect financial decisions. Always seek information from official LGPS sources when considering matters relating to your pension.

Kent Pension Fund cannot accept responsibility for decisions made based on information obtained from third-party AI tools.

Changes in LGPS Pension regulations

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Member Benefits) Regulations 2026

The Government has introduced changes to the LGPS to make the Scheme fairer for all members. Most changes take effect from 1 April 2026, and some improvements apply retrospectively.

Fairer survivor benefits

The LGPS provides valuable benefits when you die. Your spouse, civil partner or eligible cohabiting partner will receive a part of your pension – this is paid as a survivor pension. It will be paid for the rest of their life.

From 1 April 2026, survivor pensions will be calculated more consistently to ensure equal treatment regardless of the sex of the member or their survivor.

Some survivor pensions will be increased as more of the member's service before April 2014 will now count. Some survivor pensions will become payable for the first time – this is most likely to affect male survivors of female members who left the LGPS before April 1988.

Changes to death grants

Removal of the age limit

The age limit for paying a lump sum death grant has been removed. A death grant can now be paid even if a member dies after age 75. This change is backdated to cover deaths from 1 April 2014.

More discretion over who receives the death grant

We no longer have to pay late death grants to personal representatives. Instead, the pension fund can use its discretion to choose the most appropriate beneficiaries. This means the death grant will be taxed at each beneficiary's marginal rate of tax, rather than the 45% charge that applies when it is paid to personal representatives. Some older AVC arrangements are excluded from this change.

A 'late' death grant is usually one that is not paid within two years of the date of death. Before 1 April 2026, a 'late' death grant could only be paid to personal representatives. More information about the Kent Pension Fund can be found on our website at www.kentpensionfund.co.uk

Free Webinars and Pre-Retirement Courses

Whether you're new to the LGPS or approaching retirement, Kent Pension Fund offers a range of free learning opportunities.

Our member webinars cover topics including:

- MyPension Online
- Understanding your LGPS pension
- Retirement processes
- Pension transfers
- Annual Benefit Statements
- Increasing your pension through AVCs and APCs

For members within 10 years of retirement, we also offer free pre-retirement courses delivered by Affinity Connect.

The sessions cover:

- Retirement planning
- Pension options
- State Pension information
- Tax considerations
- Managing finances in retirement

To book your place please visit www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/memberwebinars

Understanding Your Annual Deferred Benefit Statement

If you have left local government employment but kept your pension in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), you are known as a deferred member. Each year, Kent Pension Fund provides a Deferred Benefit Statement to keep you informed of the pension benefits you have built up.

When will I receive my statement?

Deferred Benefit Statements are made available online through MyPension Online every summer. You can access your statement and pension account information by logging into your online account and selecting Documents and uploads from your dashboard. Kent Pension Fund no longer sends statements automatically by post, although members can request paper communications if preferred.

What information does my statement include?

Your annual statement provides a useful snapshot of your deferred pension benefits and includes:

- The current value of your deferred LGPS pension.
- Details of any annual pension increases that have been applied to protect your pension against inflation.
- Information about any changes affecting your pension during the year.

It's important to remember that the figures shown are for illustration purposes and are based on the information held on your pension record at the statement date.

Why should I check my statement?

Your Deferred Benefit Statement is a valuable tool for understanding how your pension is growing over time. Taking a few minutes to review it each year can help you:

- Check that your personal details are up to date.
- Review your nominated beneficiaries.
- Understand the current value of your pension benefits.
- Plan ahead for retirement using the retirement projection calculators available on MyPension Online.

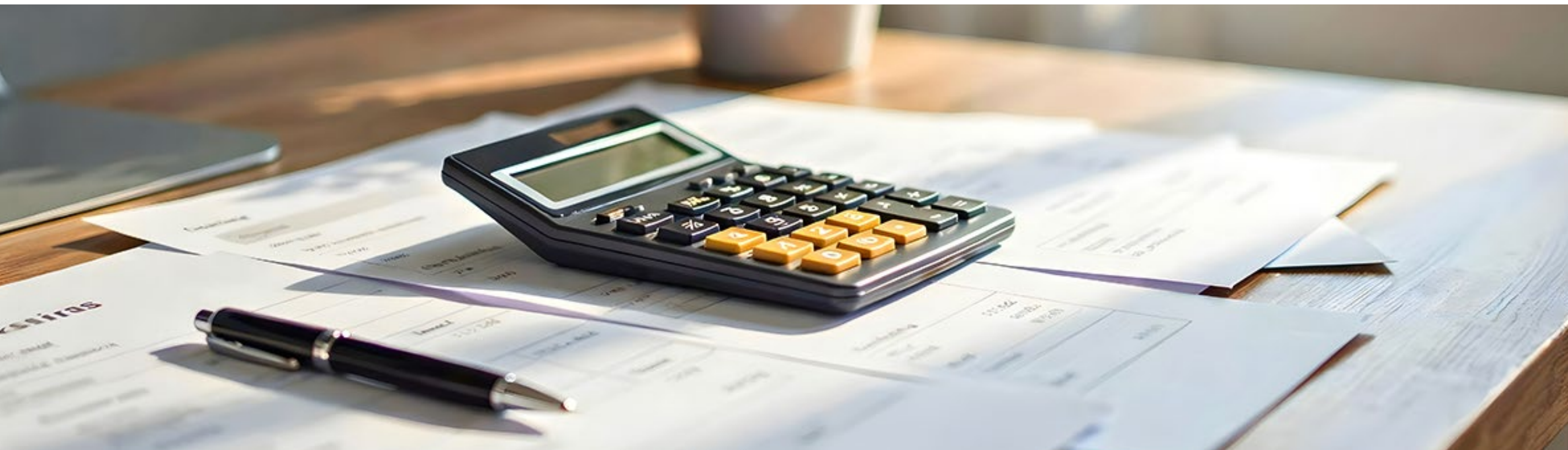
A few things to note

Your Deferred Benefit Statement does not include information about your State Pension, which can be viewed separately through GOV.UK. In addition, if you have paid Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs), the value of your AVC fund will usually be provided separately by your AVC provider rather than appearing on your statement.

Keep your details up to date

To ensure you continue to receive important pension communications, make sure your home address, email address and beneficiary nominations are current. These can be updated quickly and securely through MyPension Online.

Top Tip: When your Deferred Benefit Statement becomes available each summer, take a few moments to log into MyPension Online, review your pension details and make sure everything is accurate. It's one of the easiest ways to stay connected with your future retirement benefits.



MyPension Online corner

Calculate Your Own Estimates

Did you know? If you have a deferred benefit, you can calculate your retirement estimate yourself at any time.

1. Login in to your MyPension Online Dashboard and navigate to the Benefit calculators area.

Benefit calculators

Our online retirement calculators will help you work out what you're likely to receive when you retire.

Calculate my benefits

2. Click on 'Deferred pension payment'.
   This will then open up the page where you can calculate your deferred pension retirement estimate.

Deferred pension payment
The value of your pension if you were to begin receiving your deferred benefits. ›

3. In the section 'What pension are you calculating?' You will see your pension reference number for your deferred post.

What pension are you calculating?
07269910741

4. The retirement date for your estimate is automatically set to your State Pension Age. However, you can easily update this to any date you'd like (between age 55 and 75), allowing you to explore different retirement scenarios and plan ahead with confidence.

What date do you want to retire?

Day	Month	Year
23	07	2026

5. Once you have input your chosen retirement date, click on 'Calculate my results'.

Calculate my results

6. This will then show you your deferred pension results and the options available to you regarding your annual pension and lump sum.

Maximum annual pension option: — Or

Your annual pension would be:
£3,388.51 a year

You would receive a lump sum of:
£0.00

As you have chosen to retire early, the above figures have been decreased by:

Your pension
£142.20

7. You can also use the slider at the bottom of the page to adjust potential options for more annual pension or larger lump sum.

An annual pension of
£ 3328.00

More annual pension

Annual CARE Revaluation Explained

Each year, the pension you build up in the Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme is increased in line with Treasury Orders linked to the cost of living. This process is known as CARE revaluation.

The pension earned during previous scheme years is revalued every April before new pension is added for the current year. This helps protect the value of your pension against inflation and ensures that benefits keep pace with increases in the cost of living.

Revaluation is one of the valuable features of the LGPS and helps maintain the long-term value of your retirement income. The revaluation percentage applicable from 6 April 2026 has been confirmed at 3.8%.

Pension Scam Alert, Protect Your Future

Pension scams continue to target pension savers across the UK, often promising high returns, free pension reviews or opportunities to access pensions early.

Remember:

- Legitimate pension providers will not pressure you into making quick decisions.
- Be cautious if someone contacts you unexpectedly about your pension.
- Check that financial advisers are authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
- Never provide personal or financial information unless you are certain who you are dealing with.

If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers may use sophisticated websites, emails and social media adverts to appear genuine. Taking a few extra minutes to verify information could protect your retirement savings. If you're unsure, seek guidance before making any decisions.

Returning to Local Government Employment? Rejoining the LGPS

If you've previously left the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and have returned to eligible employment, you may be able to rejoin the scheme and continue building valuable pension benefits.

Automatically enrolled in many cases

If you start a new role with an employer that offers LGPS membership, you will usually be automatically enrolled into the scheme, provided you meet the eligibility requirements. If your contract is for less than three months, you can still choose to join by completing an opt-in form. If you previously opted out of the LGPS but have remained in employment, you can rejoin the scheme at any time by submitting an opt-in form to your employer.

What happens to your previous LGPS pension?

If you have deferred LGPS benefits from an earlier period of membership, these will usually be automatically combined (known as "aggregated") with your new active pension account when you rejoin the scheme. Kent Pension Fund will write to you explaining your options and any decisions you may need to make. However, different rules may apply depending on when you left the scheme. For example, members who opted out after 11 April 2015 and became entitled to a deferred benefit are generally not able to combine those benefits with a new pension account and will instead hold separate pension records.

Bringing in other pension benefits

If you have pension benefits from other pension arrangements, you may be able to transfer them into the LGPS. In most cases, you must request a transfer within 12 months of joining or rejoining the scheme, although employers can choose to allow a longer period.

Need more information?

Rejoining the LGPS is an excellent opportunity to continue building a secure pension for your future. If you are unsure how rejoining affects your previous benefits, contact Kent Pension Fund for guidance tailored to your circumstances.

For further details, visit the Kent Pension Fund website www.kentpensionfund.co.uk

Thinking About Transferring Your LGPS Benefits?

If you've left the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and are considering moving your pension benefits to another pension arrangement, it's important to understand your options before making a decision.

You may be able to transfer your LGPS pension rights to another eligible pension scheme, such as a new employer's pension scheme, a personal pension, or, in some circumstances, an overseas pension arrangement. Before taking any action, Kent Pension Fund strongly recommends considering independent financial advice to ensure a transfer is right for your personal circumstances.

Things to consider before transferring

- Transfers can only take place if you have stopped paying into the LGPS in all your employments.
- You must normally elect to transfer your benefits at least one year before your Normal Pension Age.
- If you have less than three months' membership in the scheme, you will generally not be eligible for a transfer and may instead receive a refund of contributions.
- If you transfer all your LGPS benefits, you will no longer have any entitlement to those benefits within the LGPS, including associated death benefits provided by the scheme.

Beware of pension scams

Pension transfers are a common target for scammers. Fraudsters can be convincing, and once money has been transferred to a scam arrangement it can be very difficult, or impossible, to recover. Always take time to check any transfer opportunity carefully and seek guidance if you are unsure.

How to start the process

If you are interested in exploring a transfer, contact your new pension provider first to understand their transfer requirements and timescales. If you require a transfer value from Kent Pension Fund, you can complete the online transfer request process and review the information provided before making a final decision.

For more information, visit the Kent Pension Fund website www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/transferout

Our contact details

You can find more information about the LGPS on our website (including details of webinars and videos about the LGPS): www.kentpensionfund.co.uk

Online form: www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/contact
MyPension Online: www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/mypension-online

Tel: **03000 41 34 88**
Mon - Fri from 9am to 3pm

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