

Spring 2020



# Pension News

*An update for Members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)*

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to publish the latest edition of our Members Newsletter, which is produced to keep you updated on changes in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and other useful information.

One of our main goals is to increase our use of technology to improve efficiency, enhance the customer experience and to give you direct access to your pension records. We would draw your particular attention to the article regarding the My Pension portal for the latest information about online access.

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## Contact Us

### View your pension online:

[mypension.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://mypension.eastsussex.gov.uk)

### Problem accessing our portal?

 0300 200 1034

 0300 200 1031

 [escs.pensions@sesharedservices.org.uk](mailto:escs.pensions@sesharedservices.org.uk)

 Orbis Pension Services

Business Operations, County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent, Lewes,  
East Sussex BN7 1UE



# Contribution Bands for 2020/2021 & Pension Videos

## Pension made simple videos

The LGPS member website has recently uploaded seven videos to explain various pension topics.

These videos are short, simple and packed with valuable information which can help to answer queries that you might have about your pension. Please visit the link below to view the videos:  
[www.lgpsmember.org/more/Videos.php](http://www.lgpsmember.org/more/Videos.php)



## CARE Revaluation

On the 1 April each year, the CARE portion of your pension (pension built up since 1 April 2014) is revalued with a cost of living adjustment.

This year, your CARE pension was increased by 1.7% on the 1 April 2020. Your Annual Benefit Statement, which will be available later in the year, will show you the total value of your pension.

## Contribution Bands for 2020/2021

As a member of the LGPS, the contribution rate that you pay depends upon your annual pensionable salary. Every year, the contribution bands are increased by Consumer Price Index. This year, the increase is 1.7%. The following table shows the contribution bands for the 2020/21 financial year.

Contribution table 2020/21			
If your actual pensionable pay is:		You pay a contribution rate of:	
		main scheme	50/50 section
Up to	£ 14,600.00	5.50%	2.75%
£ 14,601.00	£ 22,800.00	5.80%	2.90%
£ 22,801.00	£ 37,100.00	6.50%	3.25%
£ 37,101.00	£ 46,900.00	6.80%	3.40%
£ 46,901.00	£ 65,600.00	8.50%	4.25%
£ 65,601.00	£ 93,000.00	9.90%	4.95%
£ 93,001.00	£ 109,500.00	10.50%	5.25%
£ 109,501.00	£ 164,200.00	11.40%	5.70%
£ 164,201.00	or more	12.50%	6.25%

# Member Self Service Portal & COVID-19 Update



The 'My Pension' Portal was introduced to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) members in 2016. Since then, over 66,000 LGPS members have registered to use the portal.

The portal allows you to view and update personal details, update nomination beneficiaries and view your membership details.

Most importantly, you are able to view your annual benefit statements and use the benefit projector tool to calculate your retirement benefits and options, which can help you to plan your retirement.

## How do I register?

- 1) Go to [mypension.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://mypension.eastsussex.gov.uk)
- 2) If you haven't got a username or password please click on 'Request One.'
- 3) You will receive an email within 24 hours to complete your registration.

If you are having any difficulty registering or have other questions about 'My Pension', please call our helpline on 0300 200 1034.

## Where can I get more information about planning for my retirement?

The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association have launched the Retirement Living Standards to help you plan your retirement.

Please visit the link below to view the guidance:

[www.retirementlivingstandards.org.uk/](http://www.retirementlivingstandards.org.uk/)

## Tell Us Once service

Tell Us Once is a service that lets you report a death to most government organisations all at once.

Orbis Pension Services have teamed up with the Tell Us Once service to avoid any pension payments being overpaid. If your representatives use the Tell Us Once service, we will be notified and will contact them for further information.

## McCloud Judgement

In 2014 and 2015, all main public service pensions changed to provide defined benefits on a career average basis (CARE).

For members within 10 years of their Normal Pension Age (as at April 2012), protections were put into place, so that they would receive the better of the old or new scheme.

A court case was brought against the Government and The Court of Appeal determined, amongst other things, that this protection gave rise to unlawful age discrimination. The resulting remedy (when it is known) will be applied to all affected members and you **do not need to apply for this**.

## COVID-19 Update

With the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak creating a fast moving and uncertain situation affecting us all, personally and professionally, we wanted to set out our arrangements for delivering our services to you.

At present, Orbis Pensions remains operational and our aim is to ensure we can maintain vital services as this crisis continues. For current information regarding our services, and for other queries you may have regarding how this outbreak may affect your pension, please visit:

[www.eastsussexpensionfund.org/east-sussex-pension-fund/client-area/news/](http://www.eastsussexpensionfund.org/east-sussex-pension-fund/client-area/news/)



## Buying Additional Pension (APC)

APCs are designed for members who are looking to increase the pension benefits that they will receive.

Most of us look forward to a happy and comfortable retirement and in order to enhance this, you may wish to consider paying extra contributions.

### How much pension can I purchase?

If you are in the main section of the LGPS, you can pay additional contributions to buy up to £7,194 of extra pension. You can choose to pay for the extra pension by spreading the payment of the APCs over a number of complete years or by paying a lump sum amount.

If you wish to spread the payment, the regular contributions would be deducted from your pay, just like your normal pension contributions. Your normal contributions plus the APCs are deducted from your pay before your tax is calculated, so if you pay tax, you receive tax relief automatically through the payroll.

If you wish to buy extra pension by paying a one-off lump sum, you can do so via your pay and will receive immediate tax relief. Alternatively, you can make a payment directly to East Sussex Pension Fund. If you choose to make the payment directly,

you will need to arrange tax relief yourself via HMRC.

You can do this via your self assessment tax return or by calling or writing to [HMRC](#).

Tax relief is available on all pension contributions up to 100% of your taxable earnings.

### How do I apply?

The minimum period of time that you can spread the payment of APCs over is 12 months, and the maximum is the number of years to your normal pension age.

Your normal pension age is linked to your [State Pension age](#) (but with a minimum of age 65). If you are a year or less from your normal pension age you can only pay by lump sum.

You cannot elect to buy extra pension if you are in the 50/50 section of the LGPS.

For more information, please go to [www.lgpsmember.org](http://www.lgpsmember.org) and select Already A Member > Increasing Your Pension Benefits. The link to the below calculator can be found on the right hand side of the page.

**\*Please note that you may need to complete an application and medical form, this can be found by contacting East Sussex Pension Fund.**

### Buy Extra Pension - Get a Quote

 Click where you see this image to display help

To get a quote enter the details for calculation below then choose your payment method - EITHER regular payments OR a one off lump sum. For your chosen method enter EITHER (a) the extra annual pension you wish to buy OR (b) the amount that you can afford to pay. DO NOT ENTER BOTH. If you choose regular payments please also enter the number of years over which you wish to pay APCs and your pay frequency.

Details for calculation 		Regular Payments	OR	Lump Sum Payment
1. Gender	<input type="text" value="-- select --"/>	5(a). Pension £ <input type="text"/>		8(a). Pension £ <input type="text"/>
2. Date of Birth	<input type="text" value="00"/> <input type="text" value="00"/> <input type="text" value="YYYY"/>	OR		OR
3. Section of scheme	<input type="text" value="--select--"/>	5(b). Amount £ <input type="text"/>		8(b). Lump Sum £ <input type="text"/>
4. Percentage your employer has agreed to pay	<input type="text" value="0"/> %	6. Pay frequency <input type="text" value="-- select -"/>		9. Payment method <input type="text" value="-- select -"/>
		7. Years (whole) <input type="text"/>		
		<input type="button" value="Get results"/>		<input type="button" value="Get results"/>