

Pensioner Matters

April 2017



Local Government Pension Scheme

Newsletter from LGSS Pensions on behalf of Northamptonshire Pension Fund

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You can find all our forms and guidance in the pensioners section of our website <http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk>

Pensions Increase 2017

Each year, the Pension that you receive from us is usually increased in line with the cost of living. This is based on the Consumer Price Index as assessed over the preceding year, to 30 September. The next increase to your pension is due to take place on 10 April 2017 and will be applied to the payment due in April.

If your pension has been in payment for a year or more, your pension will be increased by 1% from 10 April 2017. Pensions which came into payment after 25 April 2016 and before 26 March 2017 will be increased based on the number of months they have been in payment.

Altair Payroll

On October 2016, the way we process your pension payments changed and we now process our Pensioner Payroll, using the same Pensions administration system that we already use to administer your benefits. This change will ensure that we can continue to improve the efficiency of the service we provide, and offer increased value for money as this solution now offers an end to end service.



Pension Payment Information

Payment Dates

The dates that your pension will be paid into your bank account during 2017 are detailed below:

Payment Date
28 April 2017
25 May 2017
23 June 2017
25 July 2017
25 August 2017
25 September 2017
25 October 2017
24 November 2017
19 December 2017

Payment dates can also be found via the LGSS Pensions Website <http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>

For more information regarding pay dates, please call Payroll and Pension enquiries (option 5) on 0300 126 6661.

Payslips

Payslips are currently issued every March, April and May. After that you will only receive a payslip when:

- there is a change in your net payment of £5.00 or more from the previous month,
- you have notified us of a change of address,
- your tax code has changed.

Income Tax

Following the annual increase in State Pensions, it is usual for HMRC to adjust the personal tax code of those pensioners in receipt of State retirement benefits. Usually, any new code issued for this will be applied in April or May and may result in a change in the amount of tax you pay from your pension.

Enquiries concerning the validity of any new tax code should be referred to the address shown below. When corresponding with the tax authorities please quote reference NCC Pensioners 475/KB50344 or 475/VB50347 and your National Insurance number.

HMRC
Sefton Area Office
Taxpayer Service Office
The Triad
Stanley Road
Bootle
Merseyside, L75 2YY

Telephone: **0300 200 3300**

P60s for the tax year 2016/17 will be dispatched by 31/05/2017 which is the statutory deadline set by HMRC.

Reforms to the State Pension Scheme

From 6 April 2016, the current two tier state pension scheme changed to a new single tier, flat rate scheme which is designed to enable members to have a clearer understanding of what they will be eligible to receive upon retirement.

The changes only affect those people who reach state pension age on or after 6 April 2016.

If you reached State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016 and you retired from the LGPS before your State Pension age it may be worth considering paying voluntary National Insurance Contributions after you retired.

For the majority of LGPS members' entitlement for the new State Pension will take into account that the LGPS was contracted out between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 2016. Because of this, you will have paid a lower rate of National Insurance and this means you may not receive the full amount of the new State Pension.

However, by paying voluntary Class 3 National Insurance Contributions for years from 2016/17 up to the financial

year before that in which you reach State Pension age, you may be able to increase your State Pension by 1/35 of the full new State Pension rate for each year (up until you reach the full rate). At current rates this is £155.65 divided by 35 or an extra £4.45 per week.

Before paying voluntary Class 3 contributions, you should first check if you qualify for any National Insurance credits (such as carer's credits) or you are able to make National Insurance contributions from employed or self-employed earnings.

To find out more information regarding the new state pension please visit the government's website <https://www.gov.uk/new-state-pension/overview>



Re-employment following Retirement

If you take up further employment, after payment of your pension has commenced, your pension may be reduced if you were awarded any of the following by your former employer:

- additional LGPS pension;
- additional LGPS membership; or
- a credited period (sometimes referred to as Compensatory Added Years or CAY), and you receive “Annual Compensation”.

If your LGPS pension is wholly or partly based on membership before 1 April 2014, and you take up employment that allows you to join the LGPS again, you must notify us, in writing, of your re-employment. This is regardless of whether your earnings may affect your pension and/or any annual compensation payments.

Following this, you must notify us of any subsequent material change in your employment, such as changing your working hours or your post being re-graded.

More details are available on our website here <http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk/index.php/pensioners/returning-to-work/>

Former Members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

If you are receiving a pension from the Teachers' Pension Scheme and were awarded Compensatory Added Years and you are re-employed within the Education sector then your payments may be affected and you should contact Teachers' Pensions without delay.



Northamptonshire Pension Fund – Local Pension Board

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 requires each LGPS administering authority to put in place a Local Pension Board. The purpose of the Local Pension Board is to assist the Scheme Manager in being compliant with:

- Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations;
- any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme;
- the requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to Scheme; and
- to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.

The Local Pension Board consists of three employer representatives and three scheme member representatives that meet at least four times a year to discuss matters relating to the appropriate management and application of the LGPS regulations and the effective and efficient governance of the Scheme.

The meetings are held in public and the agenda and minutes can be found on Northamptonshire County Council's "Council and Democracy" section of the website.

Members of the Local Pension Board can be contacted via Paul Hanson (Democratic Services Manager) on phanson@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

The current board members are:

Scheme Member Representatives	Paul Evans (Chairman)	Penny Smith (Vice Chairman)	Nina Thomas
Employer Representatives	Audra Statham	Councillor Mick Scrimshaw	Councillor Allan Matthews

National Fraud Initiative

Northamptonshire County Council is required by law to protect the public funds they are responsible for. We may share information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud. Along with other authorities we work with the Cabinet Office to clamp down on pension fund fraud nationally. We have a statutory duty

to submit data to the Cabinet Office for the 'National Fraud Initiative'. We make sure that the information provided complies fully with the Data Protection Act.

More information regarding the National Fraud Initiative can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-fraud-initiative>

Information for your next of kin – notifying us of a death

If you are dealing with the Estate of a relative who receives a pension from us you should notify us as soon as possible of their death. This ensures any dependents' benefits are paid promptly and also keep overpayments to a minimum. Our contact details can be found overleaf.

We will need the following details of the pensioner:

- Name, address and date of death
- National Insurance number
- Name and address of next of kin
- The name and address of the person dealing with the Estate, if not the next of kin
- Details of any dependent children



Contact Details

If you have any questions about your pension or want to inform us of your re-employment, a change in bank or building society details, or home address, please contact us using the details below.

Please remember to quote your National Insurance number with any enquiries.

Telephone

01604 366537

Email

pensions@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Website

<http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk>