

The Local Government Pensions Committee
Secretary: Terry Edwards

CIRCULAR

Please pass on sufficient copies of this Circular to your Treasurer/Director of Finance and to your Personnel and Pensions Officer(s) as quickly as possible

No. 205 – NOVEMBER 2007

“UNDERSTANDING THE NEW LOOK LGPS” WORKSHOPS

PURPOSE OF THIS CIRCULAR:

1. This Circular has been issued to advise authorities of a number of workshops being organised by the Local Government Pension Committee in the run-up to the introduction of a “New-Look” Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) from 1 April 2008 in England & Wales.

BACKGROUND:

2. LGPC Circulars 198 and 203 of May and July 2007 informed authorities that the LGPC was planning to run a series of seminars and training events on the new look LGPS, both at a detailed level during the Autumn of 2007 for administering authorities and again, at

a more over-arching level for employers, during January / February 2008.

3. The Autumn seminars have been run and the workshops for January/February have now been organised. Details for these are set out below.

WORKSHOP FORMAT:

4. The LGPC usually keeps the “class” size of topic-specific workshops to a maximum of 12 people to ensure that delegates get the most out of the learning experience. However, as these workshops are broader in nature and in anticipation of levels of demand for places, these workshops will have a maximum of 15 or 20 delegates according to the venue.
5. In order to continue the LGPC’s plan to deliver training as locally as practicable, the workshops are to be held in a number of locations across the country.
6. At the workshops, delegates will have the benefit of an experienced tutor, and also a detailed workbook they can take away for future reference. If the associated GAD Guidance has been issued by the time of the workshops there may also be some hands-on exercises. Each Understanding workshop will start at 10:00 a.m. and finish no later than 4:00 p.m., with lunch and refreshment breaks included. As the workshops are delivered “locally” this should avoid the time and expense of overnight stays for many delegates.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

7. These workshops will cover the basic structure of the New-Look LGPS for 2008 in England and Wales, incorporating the transitional arrangements for the reckoning of accrued LGPS rights. **The workshops are primarily aimed at staff of Employing Authorities** although they will be of interest to Administering Authority staff and others.
8. The workshops will not necessarily be suitable for delegates with little or no experience of the Local Government Pension Scheme for whom more foundational material such as “Insight” or “Fundamentals” training courses may be more appropriate*. This is because to fully understand the operation of the new look scheme in 2008, it is advantageous to already have a grasp of the existing 1997 scheme terms.

*These will run again during 2008 and will be advertised via LGPC
Circulars as normal

WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 9. | 24 January 2008 | - | Leeds – Marriott Hotel |
| | 29 January 2008 | - | Lincoln – Holiday Inn Hotel |
| | 31 January 2008 | - | London 1 - Local Government House, |
| | 5 February 2008 | - | Cardiff – Marriott Hotel |
| | 7 February 2008 | - | Birmingham – Jurys Hotel |
| | 12 February 2008 | - | Liverpool – Marriott Hotel |
| | 19 February 2008 | - | York – Marriott Hotel |
| | 21 February 2008 | - | Peterborough – Marriott Hotel |
| | 26 February 2008 | - | Exeter – Thistle Hotel |
| | 28 February 2008 | - | London 2 – Local Government House |
| | 4 March 2008 | - | Bristol – Thistle Hotel |
| | 6 March 2008 | - | Durham – Cricket Club |
| | 11 March 2008 | - | Maidstone – Ramada Hotel |

COST AND BOOKING

10. The delegate rate for each seminar, inclusive of lunch, refreshments and all delegate materials is £165 plus VAT at the standard rate.
11. Early booking is highly recommended as places are limited. Bookings are made via the on-line events booking facility which is part of the Local Government Employers' website at www.lge.gov.uk. Please be sure to note our cancellation policy contained in our Terms and Conditions which you will be asked to confirm you have read when completing your booking details on the booking events page. You

will also need full delegate details to hand including the address to which the invoice for payment is to be sent.

12. If the seminar at your preferred location is full and you do not wish to book on one at an alternative location, you are advised to enter your name on the reserves' list at your preferred location. It is important to do so as, not only will you have a priority warning should any cancellations occur, but it also enables the LGPC to judge demand for future events or, on occasion, to organise overflow events.
13. If you experience any difficulties in using the on-line website booking facility, please contact Elaine English, LGPC Executive Officer, by email elaine.english@lge.gov.uk

ACTIONS FOR ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES

14. All Administering Authorities are urged to copy this Circular to all employers in their Fund (other than to Local Authorities to whom this Circular has been sent direct) or bring the Circular to the attention of employers by directing them to the Circular page contained under the Pension Section of the LGE's website at: www.lge.gov.uk

Tim Hazlewood
LGPC Training and Development Manager
9 November 2007

UNDERSTANDING... THE NEW LOOK LGPS

Course content covers*:

- 1) Joining the Scheme**
 - Eligibility
 - Automatic entry
 - Casual employees

- 2) Pay for pension purposes**
 - Pensionable Pay
 - Final Pay

- 3) Contribution Bands**
 - Decisions of the employer
 - Existing members and new starters
 - Whole/Part/Term-Time employees

- 4) How Membership Counts**
 - Pre 2008
 - Post 2008

- 5) Retirement Benefits**
 - Accrual Rates
 - Ill-Health Retirement
 - Flexible Retirement
 - Earliest Retirement Age
 - Redundancy/Efficiency
 - The 85 Year Rule

- 6) Changes to Death and Survivors' Benefits**
 - Widows/Widowers/Civil Partners/Children
 - Nominated Cohabiting Partners

- 7) Ways to increase benefits**
 - Employee
 - Additional Regular Contributions & AVC's
 - Added Years
 - Employer
 - Grant up to £5000 extra pension
 - Augmentation
 - SCAVC's

8) Managing the transition

- Things to do for 1 April 2008
- Communicating the Changes

** The depth of coverage is, of course, dependent on both the issue of regulations and associated GAD guidance by the time of the workshops.*

Distribution sheet

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Pension managers (internal) of administering authorities
Pension managers (outsourced) and administering authority client managers
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Website

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