



Edition 7 – December 2022



'by the LGPS, for the LGPS'



Welcome to the 2022 Christmas Edition of our Newsletter.

As the year draws to a close we wanted to bring you up to date with all the latest news regarding the National LGPS Frameworks. We should start with the most recent development and we are delighted that the National LGPS Frameworks were awarded the Outstanding Contribution of the Year Award at the LAF Investment Award in London on 15 December. This is a fantastic recognition of all the Founding Authorities hard work in providing such an important service to the whole of the LGPS.

Contained within this bulletin is information on the new Frameworks launched this year and our plans for 2023. We hope you find it informative but please do get in contact with the team if you would like any further information.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at the National LGPS Frameworks Team. We look forward to working with you in 2023.

Jo Quarterman,
Director, National LGPS Frameworks

Leon Thorpe,
Head of Operational Services and Support

Highlights in this Edition

Latest New Framework—Investment Management Consultancy (see page 2)

The third iteration of this Framework has been extended to incorporate the Investment Management Cost Monitoring and Reporting Services provision previously available via the Investment Performance Monitoring Framework.

Framework in progress - Legal Services (see page 2)

Working with ten Founding Authorities, the Legal Services Framework is currently on track to be launched in January 2023.

Future plans— new Frameworks and Projects (see page 3)

Update on our plans for Member Data Services, ISP's and Pension Administration Software etc.

Frameworks Governance (see page 4)

The latest National LGPS Frameworks Annual Meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 24 November 2022.

Useful updates and user information (see page 5)

Latest updates on the Global Custody Services Framework, opening hours over the festive break etc.

Services Available via the National LGPS Frameworks (see page 6)

A reminder of all the services available via the National LGPS Frameworks.

Winners! LAPF Investment Awards 2022

Outstanding Contribution of the Year

We were delighted to collect this award **on behalf of all the Founders** who have contributed so much to the National LGPS Frameworks over the last 10 years. Thank you so much for all you have done!

New Framework Launched - Investment Management Consultancy Services Framework 2022

This year saw the release of the third iteration of the Investment Management Consultancy Services framework. Previous versions of this framework have generated great procurement time savings alongside providing a robust and compliant contracting vehicle, forming a strong foundation for the creation of call-off contracts to meet a crucial service required by funds.

On the 1st of November 2022 the latest version of this framework became live for use until the 31st October 2026. A total of 9 providers, across 4 Lots, have been appointed to the framework. The specifications of each Lot have been tailored to cover a range of Investment Management Services. A further competition can be run across each of the lots with the option to direct award on Lots 3 & 4 only. Services available are a full consultancy service, manager/fund search, specialist pieces of project-based work and also the new addition of management cost monitoring and reporting services.

- **Lot 1 Investment Consultancy Services**
- **Lot 2 Manager/Fund Search, Selection, and Monitoring Services**
- **Lot 3 Investment Managements Consultancy Related Specialist Services**
- **Lot 4 Investment Management Cost Monitoring and Reporting Services**



Please visit our website for further details [Investment Management Consultancy Services 2022 | National LGPS Frameworks](#)

Framework in progress - Legal Services 2023

Again, this is the third iteration of this Framework. We are currently on track for this new Framework to be launched in January 2023, ensuring no break in service for Users.

Once launched the Framework will have seven Lots covering the following:

- **Lot 1 – Full Service (England and Wales)**
- **Lot 2 – Full Services (Scotland)**
- **Lot 3 – Full Service (Northern Ireland)**
- **Lot 4 – Investment (UK Wide)**
- **Lot 5 – Benefit Administration, Employer Bodies and Governance (England and Wales)**
- **Lot 6 – Benefit Administration, Employer Bodies and Governance (Scotland)-**
- **Lot 7 – Benefit Administration, Employer Bodies and Governance (Northern Ireland)**

If you would like to find out more please contact one of the team or keep an eye on our website.

Future Frameworks and Projects

Pension Dashboard Support / Pensions Administration Software

We are aware that many Funds are going to need to start preparing for connection to the Pensions Dashboard and will have a requirement to procure an Integrated Service Provider (ISP) and also need support ensuring their member data is accurate. Alongside this, the existing Pensions Administration Software (PAS) Framework is due to expire in April 2024.



In the short term we hope to confirm soon that Funds who have used the PAS Framework will be able to extend their contracts to include ISP services.

Longer term we are exploring options to find the best way to shape a combined or separate Frameworks for these services to most effectively support Funds across all these important service areas, i.e. ISP's, Member Data Services and Pensions Administration Software. We are talking to Funds, Founders, providers and the LGA about the options and hope to be able to confirm the approach shortly.

We would be delighted if any Funds would like to come forward to work with us on these Frameworks during 2023. If you haven't been a Founder before there is more information below on what is involved, or do please contact us to find out more. We will support you through the process, as you shape the Frameworks to support the needs of the LGPS.

We do appreciate the pressure on resource and time at the moment so understand if you are unable to act as a Founder on this occasion, but we'd still be grateful to hear any feedback or ideas you have. We will provide an update on how we plan to deliver these services early in the New Year.

What is involved in being a Founder?

It really helps to have a diverse group of Founders (including where appropriate Pools) to act as Founders to help ensure that new Frameworks meet the needs of the whole LGPS. **New Founders are always very welcome!**



Each National LGPS Framework is the result of a need identified within the LGPS and then a small number of Funds and Pools voluntarily working together as Founders to establish a Framework that meets the need identified across the LGPS. Without the support of Funds and Pools as Founders, the Frameworks wouldn't exist. The Founders are at the heart of every Framework; from shaping the specification of services through to evaluating the Provider responses.

Supported by the National LGPS Frameworks Team, Norfolk County Council Procurement and Legal Teams, Founder meetings are held to develop the Specification and Tender documents, Quality Questions, and Pricing. Founders evaluate and moderate the Tender responses before Contracts are awarded.

If you feel able to volunteer to help shape the Frameworks as a Founder, or if you would like to find out more about this and the commitment involved, please do not hesitate to contact either **Jo Quarterman** at jo.quarterman@norfolk.gov.uk or **Leon Thorpe** at leon.thorpe@norfolk.gov.uk.

Frameworks Governance & Operational Improvements

Annual Founders Meeting

The latest Annual meeting of the Founding Authorities was held virtually on Thursday 24 November. The Founders are very keen to ensure that the programme continues to be focussed on delivering what all stakeholders really need, now and into the future, and to maintain the 'By the LGPS, for the LGPS' principle.



Since 2012, the programme has become a 'go-to' procurement route for the LGPS and (as at September 2022) there were:

- Eight Live Frameworks in place
- 45 Funds and Pools as Founders of one or more Frameworks
- 66 Service Providers across the Frameworks (25 are on more than one Framework)
- 100 Funds and 8 Pools have joined the Frameworks (plus ten non-LGPS Users)
- 480+ service contracts let by Fund and Pools
- 195 years of estimated effort saved by procuring through the Frameworks
- £163m+ projected savings for the lifetime of the current contracts

Due Diligence

From January this year we have been undertaking annual due diligence processes for all Frameworks, both live and expired. Each year we contact the Providers on each Framework on the anniversary of the commencement of the Framework. We ask Providers to confirm insurance information to ensure level of cover is still in place as per the requirements of the Framework Agreement. They are also asked to confirm any changes in company status and a chance to refresh their catalogues is also offered.



You will be able to see on our website when the due diligence process has been completed as a statement will be posted on each live Framework page to confirm this. Changes to catalogues are actioned on receipt from the Provider and the updated catalogue uploaded onto the online document portal for users to access. This is a rolling programme which we will undertake each year.

Useful updates and User Information

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Our office hours will be slightly different over the Christmas and New Year period.

The office will be closed from midday Friday 23rd December 2022 and will reopen again at 08:30am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.



You can leave a message on our helpline or email us at NationalLGPSframeworks@norfolk.gov.uk and we will get back to you on our return to the office.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at the National LGPS Frameworks Team.

Global Custody Services Framework-Form X Update

At further competition there is the option for users to include pre-evaluated technical capability scores as part of their further competition, in order to save time and resource when evaluating their procurement.

Every year the National LGPS Frameworks team work with Mercer Sentinel, the technical advisors to the Framework, to undertake a refresh of these capability scores. We are currently in the process of performing this refresh and the new scores will go live in **March 2022**.

If you have already awarded through the Framework or are out for further competition before the new scores are applied, you do not need to take any action as the existing scores will still apply.

However, if you are yet to go to further competition the new scores will apply from **March 2022**.

We will write out to users of the Framework when the refreshed scores go live. If you have any queries or if you are interested in the Global Custody Services Framework, please do contact us.

'On the Road'

It has been great this year for the team to be able to get out and about a bit more to promote the Frameworks and attend relevant events and networking. In 2022 we have attended:



- April: The team attended the Local Government Procurement Expo 2022 in London
- May: The Go Awards in Birmingham as a Finalist
- June: PLSA Cotswold Conference
- July: LAPF Investment Conference
- September: LGC Investment Summit in Leeds
- November: Pensions Managers Conference – Torquay
- December: LAPF Investment Awards 2022 as a Finalist

Services Available via the National LGPS Frameworks

There are currently seven live National LGPS Frameworks available to all LGPS Funds, Pools and Employers and the wider public sector nationally for the procurement of pensions related services from a range of specialist qualified providers:

- Actuarial, Benefits and Governance Consultancy Services (**expires June 2025**)
- Global Custody Services (**expires February 2025**)
- Investment Management Consultancy Services (new) (**expires October 2026**)
- **Legal Services (expires January 2023)**
- **Legal Services (NEW from early 2023)**
- Pensions Administration Operational Support Services (**expires April 2026**)
- Pensions Administration Software (**expires April 2024**)
- Stewardship Services Framework (**expires March 2026**)

IMPORTANT: Please make sure you note the end dates of Frameworks when you plan and prepare for your call-off, especially if you are planning on using the Legal Services Framework in the coming weeks. If you are planning to use a Framework which expires soon, your Contract Award must be completed by the expiry date of the Framework (although contracts let under the Framework can be for longer periods).

For further information and details of services in each Framework and joining information please refer to our website <https://www.nationallgpsframeworks.org/>. You can also contact our team via nationalLGPSframeworks@norfolk.gov.uk or by calling our helpline on 01603 306846 and we will be happy to help you.

The Team

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Want to know more?

If you would like to find out more about the Frameworks mentioned above, or any other National LGPS Frameworks please visit <https://www.nationallgpsframeworks.org/> or contact us on the details below.

We also have a news section on our website where you can keep up to date with news articles we publish, along with the entire back catalogue of National LGPS Frameworks news bulletins!



www.nationallgpsframeworks.org



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