



Edition 8 – December 2023



'by the LGPS, for the LGPS'



Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading this latest update from the National LGPS Frameworks, summarising all the latest news including Frameworks due to launch early 2024; plans for new Frameworks next year; updates and reminders of current Frameworks and those drawing to a close; and the latest information about our new website, due to go live early in 2024.

Once again a big thank you from all of us to you for supporting the National LGPS Frameworks over the last year, particularly those colleagues from 'Founder' Funds and Pools who have helped develop the most recent Frameworks to support the LGPS. Without you, there would be no more Frameworks!

May we wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to working with you in 2024.

Coming Soon! New Frameworks for 2024

National LGPS Framework for Integrated Service Providers (ISP) and Member Data Services.

To support Funds with the upcoming requirements of Pensions Dashboards we have been working with Cheshire, Essex, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Norfolk, West Midlands and West Yorkshire Pension Funds along with NILGOSC to establish this new Framework.

This Framework will provide the LGPS with a compliant route to market for an ISP, as well as support with data quality and dashboard readiness. An ISP offers a scheme administrator connectivity to the Pensions Dashboard Ecosystem. The Framework will also offer services including address tracing and correction services, mortality screening, overseas address tracing and correction, overseas proof of life and mortality screening, bank account verification and data quality reporting.

The tender documents for this Framework have been issued and we plan to launch the Framework in early April 2024.

National LGPS Framework for Additional Voluntary Contribution Services (AVC)

The first National LGPS Framework for AVC Services is currently being worked on with support from Cheshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Leicestershire and Strathclyde Pension Funds. This Framework is being developed to support Funds in meeting their AVC responsibilities and will have 2 Lots: for Additional Voluntary Contribution Services; and for AVC Consultancy Services.

This Framework is scheduled to go-live at the end of April 2024.

For further information about either of these new Frameworks please contact
leon.thorpe@norfolk.gov.uk.

New Frameworks planned for 2024/25

We always try to ensure that we have available to the LGPS the Frameworks you need, when you need them. Below is our 2024 new Frameworks workplan - please contact us if you would like to know any more about any of these.

Pensions Administration Software (current Framework expires April 2025*)

Since its launch in 2020 this Framework has been hugely popular. It provides users with a quicker and easier route to procure complex LGPS administration software, and is supported by a comprehensive set of procurement documents. Due to the complexity of this Framework we are looking to start the procurement process early in 2024.

(* There is an important update about the current Pensions Admin Framework on the next page)

Actuarial, Benefits and Governance Consultancy Services (current Framework expires June 2025)

The original National LGPS Framework! This Framework continues to be as popular as ever and this will be its 4th iteration. We are looking to commence this procurement in Summer 2024 ahead of a launch in June 2025.

Could you be a Founder?

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 to meet the need. 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. To date 49 Funds and Pools have acted as Founders, often multiple times and on more than one Framework!

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.

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!**

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.

Transition Management Framework?

The previous Transition Framework closed at the end of 2022 . As there was no clear demand then for a replacement, the Founders decided not to re-procure at that stage. More recently we have had a number of enquiries from potential users and conversations with LGPS colleagues who are keen to support the establishment of a new Transition Framework.

We would really welcome your thoughts both on if a Transition Framework would be helpful and also if your Fund or Pool would be in a position to help support the set-up.

Please contact either **Jo** jo.quarterman@norfolk.gov.uk or **Leon** at leon.thorpe@norfolk.gov.uk

Pensions Administration Software Framework—now updated to include Integrated Service Provider (ISP) Provision

This current Framework has been varied to include specific terms to allow for the provision of ISP services to be included within contracts awarded via this Framework.

Users who have already appointed their software provider via this Framework can also extend their existing contract to incorporate ISP provision.

If you would like further details on the variation please do get in contact with us.

NOTE: If you are looking to procure an ISP provision independently from your Pensions Administration Software contract, the new National LGPS Framework for ISP and Member Data Services will be available in April 2024.

Current 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. These are:

- Global Custody Services (**expires February 2025***)
- Pensions Administration Software (**expires April 2025**)
- Actuarial, Benefits and Governance Consultancy Services (**expires June 2025**)
- Stewardship Services Framework (**expires March 2026**)
- Pensions Administration Operational Support Services (**expires April 2026**)
- Investment Management Consultancy Services (**expires October 2026**)
- Legal Services (**expires January 2027**)

IMPORTANT: Please make sure you note the end dates of Frameworks when you plan and prepare for your call-off. 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).

** we will be exploring the potential for a 1 year extension to the Global Custody Framework*

For further information and details of services in each Framework and joining information please refer to our website www.nationallgpsframeworks.org or contact the team using the details on the next page.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

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

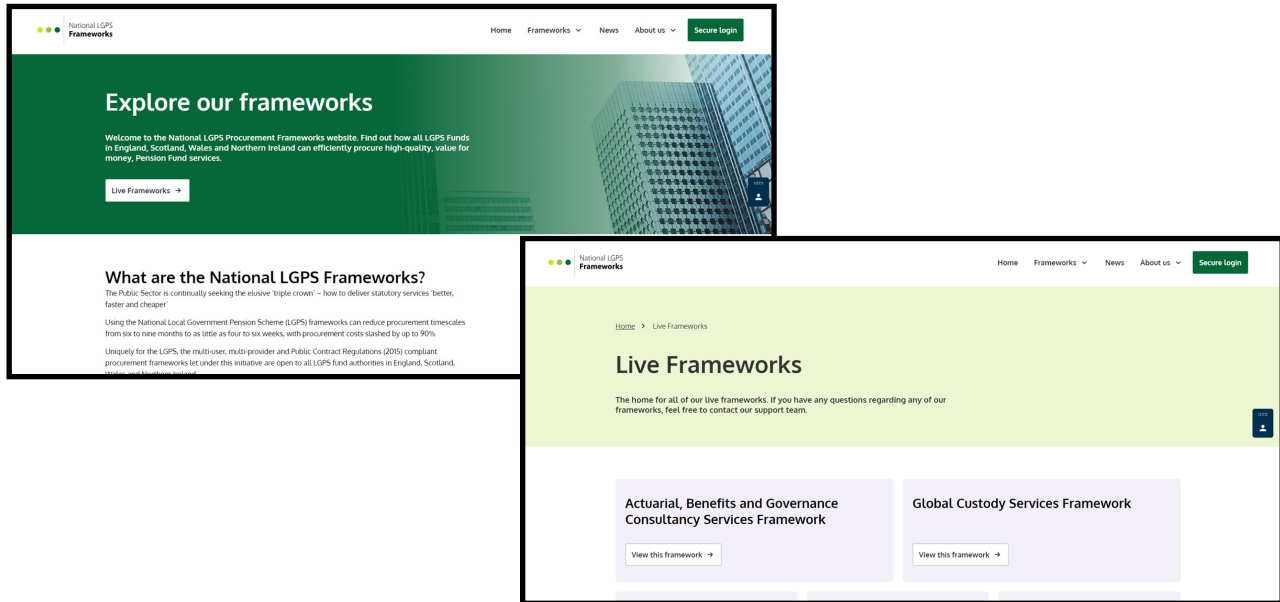
The office will be closed from midday Friday 22nd December 2023 and will reopen again at 08:30am on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

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.



New Website Coming Soon!

We are currently in the process of working with a website specialist to build a completely new National LGPS Frameworks website which is due to launch in the first quarter of 2024. The new website will be completely refreshed and will offer quicker and easier access to Frameworks documentation for users.



The National LGPS Frameworks Team

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Want to know more?

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

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