

# Pensioner Matters

April 2015



## Local Government Pension Scheme

Newsletter from LGSS Pensions for the Northamptonshire Pension Fund

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You can find all our forms and guidance on the pensioner area of our website <http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk>

# Pensions Increase 2015

Based on the increase in the Consumer Prices Index over the year to September 2014, pensions in payment will increase by 1.20% with effect from 6 April 2015. Any pension which began after 21 April 2014 will be increased by a proportionate amount depending upon the number of months since it began.

If you are a retired member aged under 55 you will have to wait until you are 55 for your pension to be increased, unless you retired due to ill health and are receiving an ill health pension. Survivors' and dependents' pensions are both increased regardless of age.

If your pension includes Pre 88 GMP, and you have reached your State Pension Age, this part of your LGPS pension will not normally receive any increase as the State will pay the increase through your State Pension. If your pension includes Post 88 GMP this part of your pension will increase by 1.20% on 6 April 2015.



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# Pension Payment Information

## Payment Dates

The dates that your pension will be paid into your bank account during 2015 are detailed below:

Month	Pay Date
April 2015	24/04/2015
May 2015	22/05/2015
June 2015	25/06/2015
July 2015	24/07/2015
August 2015	25/08/2015
September 2015	25/09/2015
October 2015	23/10/2015
November 2015	25/11/2015
December 2015	18/12/2015

At the time of going to print payment dates for January, February and March 2016 were not available. However, when known, this information will be available on the pay dates page on the Pensioners' area of the Northamptonshire Pension Fund website <http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk> Alternatively, please call Payroll and Pension enquiries (option 5) on **01604 367666**

## Pay Advices

Pay advices are currently issued every March for the end of the financial year, every April for when Pensions Increase is applied to your pension and every May to reflect a full month on your new rate of pension. After that you receive a pay advice only when there is a change in the net payment of £5.00 or more from the previous month, or when there is a change in the tax code that HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) instruct us to apply to your pension.

## Income Tax

Following the annual increase in State Pensions, also in April, it is usual for HMRC to adjust the personal tax coding 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 payable by you on your increased pension.

Enquires concerning the validity of any new tax code should be referred to the address shown over. When corresponding with the tax authorities please quote reference NCC Pensioners 083/N193 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 2014/15 will be dispatched by 31 May 2015 which is the statutory deadline set by HMRC.

## Re-employment following Retirement

On 23 June 2014 a new policy came into place for our pensioners, regarding reductions to pensions in payment, following re-employment where you may join the LGPS.

Re-employments that started, or material changes that took effect, on or after that date will only lead to reductions for those who were awarded:

- additional LGPS pension
- additional LGPS membership, or
- a credited period (sometimes referred to as Compensatory Added Years or CAY), and you therefore 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 LGSS Pensions in writing of your re-employment regardless of whether your earnings may affect your pension and/or any annual compensation payments you may have been awarded. In addition, you must notify us of any subsequent material change in your employment, such as if you change your working hours or your post is regraded.

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 have been awarded Compensatory Added Years and also receive a pension from the Teachers' Pensions Agency, and you take up employment within the Education sphere this may affect your pension and/or annual compensation.

Therefore, you must notify the Teachers' Pensions Agency of any such employment.

# New Pensions Leadership

Following the retirement of the former Head of Pensions, Steve Dainty, in October 2014, Mark Whitby is now leading LGSS Pensions.

Mark has over 20 years experience in the public sector pensions industry. Beginning his career with the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund, Mark helped establish the joint LGSS Pensions service in 2010 and has managed all aspects of local government pensions, most recently being responsible for the Employer Services and Systems teams.



**lgps**

Mark Whitby  
is now  
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# New Governance Arrangements for the Northamptonshire Pension Fund

In 2011, the Government accepted the recommendation made by Lord Hutton and the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission that all public service pension schemes should have a board that is properly constituted and is responsible for meeting good standards of governance including effective and efficient administration.

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 captured this recommendation and as a result every public service pension scheme must establish a local pension board. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a public service pension scheme and as such each LGPS Fund will be required to establish a local pension board with the responsibility to assist the administering authority (Northamptonshire County Council):

- To secure compliance with the LGPS regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS and also the

requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the LGPS; and

- To ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS.

The local pension board will be effective from 1 April 2015 and will be in addition to the Pension Fund Board (or Pension Fund Committee as it will be renamed) and the Investment Sub-Committee.

The local pension board must meet a minimum of twice per year and have a minimum of two member representatives and two employer representatives.

All representatives on the board must be able to demonstrate capacity to attend meetings, understand and contribute to discussions and represent the views of the members or employers that they represent.

Further information on the local pension board is available on the governance pages of the LGSS Pensions website.

## 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 Audit Commission to clamp down on pension fund fraud nationally. We have a statutory duty to submit data to the Audit Commission's '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 [www.audit-commission.gov.uk/fraud/nfi/pages/default.aspx](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/fraud/nfi/pages/default.aspx)

## Information for 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 dependants' benefits are paid promptly and also keep overpayments to a minimum. Our contact details can be found over.

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 Us

If you have any queries regarding your pension or want to inform us of re-employment, a change in bank or building society details or home address, please contact LGSS Pensions.

Remember to quote your National Insurance number with any enquiries.

## Post

**LGSS Pensions  
Northamptonshire County Council  
PO Box 202  
John Dryden House  
8–10 The Lakes  
Northampton  
NN4 7YD**

## Telephone

**01604 366537**

## Email

**[pensions@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:pensions@northamptonshire.gov.uk)**

## Website

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