

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. 214 – JULY 2008

1. PENSIONS FOR COUNCILLORS 2. CHANGE TO METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING CIRCULARS

Purpose of this circular

1. This Circular
 - seeks information from local authorities on pensions for councillors. Authorities are asked to complete and return the attached councillors' pensions questionnaire by 31 August 2008
 - notifies a change in the method of distributing future LGPC Circulars. Current recipients of the Circulars are asked, by no later than 31 August 2008, to confirm to elaine.english@lge.gov.uk the e-mail address (or maximum of 3 addresses) to which they wish future Circulars to be sent.

Pensions for Councillors

2. Authorities may recall that back in 2004 the LGPC, via Circular 149, sought various information on pensions for councillors (in England) i.e. the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the decision taken by the authority, and the take up rate of members

offered access to the LGPS. The results of the survey were reported in Circular 155 – see

<http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageld=119538>.

Email info@lge.gov.uk

www.lge.gov.uk



Managing Director Jan Parkinson

3. *Representing the future: The report of the Councillors Commission*
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was published on 10 December 2007 - see

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/583990.pdf>

Recommendation 58 in the report was that "All councillors should be entitled to access to the local government pension scheme, and any allowances for serving on joint authorities should also be taken into account". In reaching its conclusions the Commission made reference to the survey conducted by the LGPC in 2004. In order to have up to date statistics on pensions for councillors in England, Wales and Scotland, the LGPC would be grateful if authorities could complete and return the attached questionnaire by 31 August 2008. The information provided will be analysed and a statistical breakdown of the responses will be issued to authorities under cover of a subsequent LGPC Circular. This will be a generic report; individual authorities will not be identified in the report.

Change in the method of distributing future LGPC Circulars

4. For many years the LGPC has issued hard copies of LGPC Circulars to authorities and other bodies on our mailing list. However, to improve the speed at which we can deliver Circulars to you and to reduce printing and postage costs, we have decided that future Circulars will be issued electronically via e-mail. In order to ensure you continue to receive LGPC Circulars please, by no later than 31 August 2008, confirm to elaine.english@lge.gov.uk the e-mail address to which you wish future Circulars to be sent. The LGPC Secretariat believes it is probably better to provide a single e-mail address who will have responsibility for forwarding on the e-mailed Circulars to appropriate persons within your organisation but the Secretariat will accept up to a maximum of 3 designated e-mail addresses per organisation.

Terry Edwards
Head of Pensions
July 2008

COUNCILLORS' PENSIONS

Please complete and return the following questionnaire by 31 August 2008. The questionnaire relates to the current financial year - 2008/2009.

Type of authority	Please tick
London Borough Council	
English County Council	
English District Council	
English Metropolitan Authority	
English Unitary Authority	
Welsh County Council	
Welsh County Borough Council	
Scottish Council	
English authorities only: Recommendation of Independent Remuneration Panel	
Councillors should not be offered membership of the LGPS	
Some eligible councillors should be offered membership of the LGPS	
All eligible councillors should be offered membership of the LGPS	
Basic allowance only should be pensionable	
Special responsibility allowance only should be pensionable	
Basic and special responsibility allowance should be pensionable	
English authorities only: Decision of the Council	
Councillors should not be offered membership of the LGPS	

Some eligible councillors should be offered membership of the LGPS	
All eligible councillors should be offered membership of the LGPS	
If only some eligible councillors are offered membership, what percentage of all councillors does this represent?%	
Basic allowance only should be pensionable	
Special responsibility allowance only should be pensionable	
Basic and special responsibility allowance should be pensionable	
Welsh authorities only: Decision of the Council	
Councillors should not be offered membership of the LGPS	
Some eligible councillors should be offered membership of the LGPS	
All eligible councillors should be offered membership of the LGPS	
If only some eligible councillors are offered membership, what percentage of all councillors does this represent?%	
English authorities: Decisions by councillors offered membership of the LGPS	Please show numbers
How many current councillors under age 75 have been offered membership?	
How many of the councillors who were offered membership have opted to join the LGPS?	
Welsh authorities: Decisions by councillors offered membership of the LGPS	Please show numbers
How many current councillors under age 75 have been offered membership?	
How many of the councillors who were offered membership have opted to join the LGPS?	
Scottish authorities: Decisions by councillors who are eligible for membership of	Please show

the LGPS	numbers
How many current councillors are under age 75 and thus eligible for membership?	
How many of the councillors who are eligible for membership have opted to join the LGPS?	

Signed Date

Designation

Contact telephone number

Name of Authority

The completed questionnaire should be returned to:
 Local Government Pensions Committee, Local Government Employers,
 Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Distribution sheet

Chief executives of local authorities
Pension managers (internal) of administering authorities
Pension managers (outsourced) and administering authority client managers
Officer advisory group
Local Government Pensions Committee
Trade unions
CLG
COSLA
SPPA
Regional Directors
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Website

Visit the LGE's website at: www.lge.gov.uk

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