

# **Employer Focus**

This bulletin from the Staffordshire Pension Fund, focuses on the current issues that you should be aware of relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**Issue October 2025** 

## **Reminder Scheme employer training session**

Our next Scheme employer training event will take place on **Monday 20th October 2025.** 

The session will cover the topic of the Pensions Administration Strategy and the roles and responsibilities, including performance standards, of both the Scheme employer and the Fund. This will be delivered via Microsoft Teams on Monday 20 October 2025, 10:00am to 12:00pm

If you wish to attend the training, please complete the booking form below:

• Employer training booking form (20 October 2025)

## **Action for Scheme employers**

If you have a colleague who you think would like to attend the training session, please feel free to forward this invitation.

## **Academies Valuation update 12 November 2025**

As announced in the <u>September</u> edition of the newsletter, Staffordshire Pension Fund will be holding a valuation update session specifically for our Academy employers on Wednesday 12 November 2025, commencing at 10:00am and concluding at 11:30am. The meeting to be held on Microsoft Teams.

The Fund's Actuary Hymans Robertson will be in attendance to deliver a presentation which will include the following:

- the valuation results themes for academies including contribution rates,
- changes made to the funding strategy at this valuation including the new academies stabilisation approach,
- the Funding Strategy Statement consultation and how you can have your say, and
- the difference between the valuation results and the results for your accounting disclosures.

This is a great opportunity for Academies to engage with the Fund, understand your contribution rates and ask the Actuary any questions you may have.

A formal invitation was issued to designated academy contacts on 9 October 2025. If you have not received the invite but would like to attend, please email Adam Bunn, Senior Pensions Team Leader – Employer Team, who will arrange for the Microsoft Teams link to be sent to you:

• Email: adam.bunn@staffordshire.gov.uk

## **Action for Academies**

If you have a colleague who you think would like to attend, please feel free to forward this invitation.

#### 2024/25 LGPS accounting disclosures: understanding your results

Date: Tuesday, October 21 2025

**Time:** 2:30pm to 3:15pm (45 minutes)

Venue: Online

You are invited by our Fund Actuary Hymans Robertson to join their <u>webinar</u> on 21 October 2025, designed specifically for LGPS Scheme employers to navigate and interpret their accounting results for 2024/25 year end accounting.

This webinar will provide important context to the results and the audit background for this year.

Accounting experts will cover a range of topics to help support Scheme employers understand the results, explain them to other stakeholders and aid with audits. This includes:

- Understanding and interpreting your accounting results.
- Key trends and implications for Scheme employers.
- Guidance on audit queries and next steps.
- Asset ceiling rules and their impact on reported accounting surpluses.

You can register your place by clicking below:

Register for Webinar

## **Action for Scheme employers**

Please share details of the webinar with your colleagues.

Don't worry if you're unable to join live. Register anyway and you'll be able to watch on-demand at a time more convenient to you.

# Reminder for the Pension Fund's Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Tuesday 11 November 2025

Along with all the other Fund's participating Scheme employers, you are invited to attend our Fund's AGM on Tuesday 11 November 2025. This event will be held on Microsoft Teams, commencing at 2.00pm and concluding around 4.00pm.

As well as presenting the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts, an update on the administration and investment of the Fund will form part of the agenda together with time for the Fund Actuary to speak to you about the challenges facing the LGPS and the wider pensions industry which may impact you or your organisation.

We would be delighted for as many representatives as possible from the Fund's participating Scheme employers to join the meeting, so please forward this information to anyone else that you think might be interested.

If you would like to attend, please register your interest via the link below:

• Annual General Meeting Registration Link (Microsoft Forms)

#### **Action for Scheme employers**

Please share details of the Pension Fund's AGM with your colleagues, especially those in Finance.

#### **Scheme member webinar presentation (Pensions Awareness)**

On Monday 15 September 2025, Staffordshire Pension Fund delivered a webinar for its Scheme members to help boost engagement and understanding as part of the national pensions awareness week.

Copies of the <u>presentation slides</u> and the <u>Q&A transcript</u> are available to view on our website:

https://www.staffspf.org.uk/Members/Active-Members/Latest-News/Latest-News.aspx

A link to the recording can be found below. Please note this will expire on 14 December 2025:

Scheme Member Webinar Recording 15.09.2025

## **Action for Scheme employers**

Consider whether you wish to share information with your employees.

## Reminder - My Pension Portal (MPP) Upgrade

As publicised in the <u>September</u> edition of the newsletter, our online My Pension Portal (MPP) will change to a new and improved platform on Monday 3 November 2025

The updated portal will offer a more modern, user-friendly experience, enhanced security, and easier access to information on their pension for Scheme members.

Communications will be issued to existing registered users ahead of the migration to make them aware of the changes. We will then follow up with further communication once the new portal goes live.

Whilst the new portal will still be accessed via the Staffordshire Pension Fund website, when first logging into the new platform, Scheme members will be required to follow a quick registration process to reset their password. A registration tutorial video will be available on the login page for assistance accessing the new portal.

We will be in contact with Scheme employers again shortly with resources/materials to help us promote the changes to Scheme members.

#### **Action for Scheme employers**

Please share information on the new portal with staff through your various internal communications channels.

## **Updated Staffordshire Pension Fund Policies**

At the meeting of 26 September 2025, the Pensions Committee approved updates to a number of the Fund's policy documents. These include:

- Cyber Security Strategy
- Conflicts of interest policy
- Investment Strategy Statement

Copies of the updated documents can be found on the Staffordshire Pension Fund website.

#### **Action for Scheme employers**

Please share this information with your colleagues. If you have any questions regarding the documents, please contact the Fund.

## Scheme employer designated pensions contacts

To ensure that the Fund and Scheme employers are able to work together closely and in partnership, it is important to keep us updated with any changes to staff responsible for sending and signing off pensions data and who we can contact with any queries (authorised contacts). Key employer contacts include:

- Director of Finance
- Head of Human Resources
- Head of Payroll

We would also appreciate it if you could provide a generic payroll contact email address that can be used by the Fund for forwarding any queries regarding a Scheme member's pensionable pay.

If you believe your organisation's contact details are incomplete or out of date, please complete the employer contact details template form. The form can be downloaded from the Employers' area of our website.

Please note, you will need a username and password in order to access the forms and documents. If you have not previously registered, you should contact pensions.employers@staffordshire.gov.uk to request access.

## **Action for Scheme Employers**

Keep under review and update the contacts for your organisation.

If you have not done so already, please provide a generic email contact for your organisation's payroll provider.

# **Circulating the newsletter within your organisation**

We would be grateful if you could continue to circulate this newsletter to appropriate colleagues in your organisation for example, Human Resources, Payroll and Finance Department or alternatively provide us with their email address, so we can add them to our distribution list.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to email the Fund at <a href="mailto:pensions.comms@staffordshire.gov.uk">pensions.comms@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>