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pay, pensions and
employment solutions

The Local Government Pensions Committee
Secretary: Terry Edwards

CIRCULAR

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No. 229 - APRIL 2009

(1) LONGEVITY SEMINAR – JUNE 2009

**(2) ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF “TRUSTEE” EVENTS
LATER IN 2009**

Purpose of this circular:

1. This Circular has been issued to bring to your attention:
 - a) a seminar for elected members and others supporting pension committees, looking specifically at longevity, the issues for the LGPS and possible solutions;
 - b) the date of the seventh LGPS Trustees’ annual conference being organised by the Local Government Pensions Committee (LGPC); and
 - c) the eighth running of a series of “Fundamentals” regional training events for elected members and others who sit on Pension Committees and/or Panels, together with a refresher event for those who attended the certificated course in previous years.

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2. Although primarily aimed at relevant elected members, the seminar, conference and training events announced in this Circular will be of interest to other persons who attend Pension Committees, Panels or sub-Committees etc. (e.g. Trade Union and pensioner representatives).

(1) "TRUSTEE" TRAINING – LONGEVITY SEMINAR

Background

3. When the LGPC launched its training programme for elected members and other "trustees", announced via Circular 121 in September 2002, we stated our intention to provide more "advanced" training for 2003 and beyond.
4. Back in 2004 this advanced training started with an in-depth Funding Strategy Statement Workshop (which followed on the heels of a conference on the same topic). In late 2005 a Currency Management workshop was held as it was a particular hot topic in pension fund management at the time. Since then, no further events exclusively aimed at "trustees" have been held.
5. Pensioner longevity is an issue facing all pension providers globally and, in the case of the LGPS, was relatively recently highlighted by the 2007 and 2008 valuation results. All trustees are looking for innovative ways of dealing with the issue and, as a result, relatively new financial instruments such as longevity bonds are now in the marketplace.

Seminar details

6. The seminar entitled "Time for Innovation?" will discuss why longevity is such a major issue, help elected members and officers understand the risks involved and outline a number of modern instruments designed to deal with the inherent longevity risk in operating a pension scheme.
7. The seminar will be held on Monday 29th June 2009 at Layden House in Farringdon, London. The seminar will commence with registration at 10:30 a.m. and end at 2:40 p.m. (with a break for lunch at 12:30 p.m.)
8. Full details are available in pdf format on the flyer that accompanies this circular but the programme includes:
 - Longevity/ Mortality trends - the past, present and predicted future trends of longevity, including the basics of actuarial modelling.
 - Longevity risk for financial institutions - the effect that the longevity trends have on Financial Institutions and the costs incurred.
 - Data Indices/Samples and basis risk- the Indices that Financial Instruments are based on. The risk that they might not match the pensioners of a particular pension fund.

- Transactions types- different financial instruments that can be used to hedge longevity risk.
- Transaction Examples- examples of past transactions.
- Question and Answer Session

Intended Audience

9. The seminar will be of interest to both elected members and officers who are responsible for the investment of the LGPS Pension Fund in their area. It may be of particular interest to those elected members and other delegates who have attended a Fundamentals course and who wish to further develop their knowledge.

Cost and booking

10. The cost of attending the seminar, inclusive of lunch, refreshments and all delegate materials is only £59 plus VAT at the standard rate.
11. Early booking is highly recommended as places are limited. Bookings are made via the on-line events booking facility which is part of the Local Government Employers' website at www.lge.gov.uk. Please be sure to note our cancellation policy contained in our Terms and Conditions which you will be asked to confirm you have read when completing your booking details on the booking events page. You will also need full delegate details to hand including the address to which the invoice for payment is to be sent.
12. If the seminar is full when you attempt to book you are advised to enter your name on the reserves' list. It is important to do so as, not only will you have a priority warning should any cancellations occur, but it also enables the LGPC to judge demand for future events or expand the number of delegate places at an existing event where possible.
13. If you experience any difficulties in using the on-line website booking facility, please contact Elaine English, LGPC Executive Officer, by email elaine.english@lge.gov.uk

(2) ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF "TRUSTEE" EVENTS LATER IN 2009

2009 Annual Conference:

14. Responding to numerous requests from elected members, the LGPC staged an inaugural trustees' conference at York back in September 2003. The conference was specifically aimed at elected members with responsibility for the Local Government Pension Scheme in their area, and a number of speakers addressed issues from a "trustee" perspective. Following the success of the inaugural event, the conference has become an annual event.

15. Delegate places are not restricted to elected members only; indeed the conference has been attended by many officers who either support pension committees or hold pension fund investment/administration responsibilities.

Cost and booking

16. This year's conference will be held on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October at the Cardiff Marriott Hotel as last year, just 200 metres from Cardiff Central railway station. It also has a multi-storey car park attached to the Hotel. Please note we cannot guarantee reserved spaces. **The conference fee is all-inclusive.** All meals from arrival to departure, overnight accommodation at the Marriott, and all delegate materials are included in the conference fee of £459 plus VAT.
17. Early booking is highly recommended as places are limited. Although final details of the conference will not be made available until the June 2009 Circular is issued, in order to avoid any disappointment, the event has already been uploaded on the on-line events booking facility which is part of the Local Government Employers' website at www.lge.gov.uk. Delegates who book their places early will receive an email with a link to the Circular immediately it is issued so it is important that correct delegate email information is supplied when booking. Please be sure to note our cancellation policy contained in our Terms and Conditions which you will be asked to confirm you have read when completing your booking details on the booking events page. You will also need full delegate details to hand including the address to which the invoice for payment is to be sent.
18. If you experience any difficulties in using the on-line website booking facility, please contact Elaine English, LGPC Executive Officer, by email elaine.english@lge.gov.uk

Trustee Training – Fundamentals VIII:

19. Fundamentals is an A-Z bespoke Local Government Pension Scheme training course for elected members, and has been attended by over 600 delegates since 2002. The 2009 event incorporates all the recent changes to the LGPS and all sections are refreshed each year to keep them up-to-date, relevant and interesting.

20. Fundamentals VIII will be delivered at three locations around the United Kingdom in 2009 as follows:

Cardiff	Day 1	20 October
	Day 2	18 November
	Day 3	08 December

Leeds	Day 1	29 October
	Day 2	26 November
	Day 3	15 December

London	Day 1	27 October
	Day 2	30 November
	Day 3	16 December

Cost and booking

21. The delegate rate for each session, inclusive of lunch, refreshments and all delegate materials is £199 plus VAT at the standard rate, making the cost of the three-day course £597 plus VAT.
22. Full details will be published in a future Circular as referred to in paragraph 17 above. As with the annual conference, early booking is highly recommended as places are limited. Again, in order to avoid any disappointment, the event has already been uploaded on the on-line events booking facility which is part of the Local Government Employers' website at www.lge.gov.uk. Delegates who book their places early will receive an email with a link to the Circular immediately it is issued so it is important that correct delegate email information is supplied when booking. Please be sure to note our cancellation policy contained in our Terms and Conditions which you will be asked to confirm you have read when completing your booking details on the booking events page. You will also need full delegate details to hand including the address to which the invoice for payment is to be sent

Trustee Training – Fundamentals Refresher:

23. With the certificated Fundamentals programme, the aim of the LGPC has been to deliver a single training course covering all aspects of the Scheme, including both "Benefits" and "Fund" administration, as well as investments, so that elected members can:
- demonstrate compliance with the first of the ten CIPFA principles;
 - meet the objectives espoused in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's report on the stock-take of the Local Government Pension Scheme (NB: Communities and Local Government are now the relevant Government Department); and
 - adhere to those principles set out in the Pensions Act 2004 that relate to the knowledge and understanding requirements that appertain to trustees of occupational pension schemes.

24. As the pensions world has moved on since Fundamentals was first run in 2002 and especially as the LGPS itself has seen the advent of new look schemes in 2008 and 2009, it is believed that some past delegates of the programme might wish to attend a refresher/update one-day event. Around the time of Fundamentals VIII, or possibly shortly thereafter, the LGPC are intending to run this one-day event purely aimed at past Fundamentals course attendees. The event would be attendance certificated and, in effect, be a form of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for those who wished it.

Further Training Opportunities

25. If you wish to comment on any elements of this Circular or make suggestions for future training events please contact Tim Hazlewood, LGPC Training & Development Manager by email to tim.hazlewood@lge.gov.uk

Tim Hazlewood
LGPC Training and Development Manager
29 April 2009

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