

September 2025 - Employer Newsletter

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Pensions Awareness Week 2025, 15th – 18th September

We're celebrating Pensions Awareness Week – a national campaign, dedicated to making you aware of your pension and helping you understand how it all works so that you can take charge of your future.

Now is a great time for members of the Warwickshire Local Government Pension Scheme to register for the online pension portal, Engage. https://warwickshire.pensiondetails.co.uk/welcome

Engage offers more ways to stay in control of your pension and plan for your future, with personalised functionality and 24/7 access.

Engage allows you to review your pension details and estimate future benefits, whenever it suits you.

Whether you are an active, deferred, or retired pensioner member, Engage offers personalised tools and resources for your needs.

Register and create an account to be able to explore your pension details and stay updated on your pension benefits.

Because Engage offers more personalised access and functionality, you can update personal information, send documents to the pension fund and use the online self-service estimate calculators and retirement planners.

Key features:

- · Simple Retirement Planner to estimate your future retirement income
- · Benefits calculator including Deferred Benefits and Voluntary Retirement
- · Online Annual Benefit Statements (ABS) making it easy to view and compare current and previous years' ABS
- · Instantly update your beneficiaries and personal information, ensuring your records are always current
- · Enhanced Security with two-factor authentication
- · Secure document upload capabilities, keeping your information safe and protected
- · Online requests for divorces proceedings, transfers, and self-service estimates tool

To register for Engage you will need your:

- · National Insurance Number
- · Date of Birth
- · Email Address we hold in your pension record
- · Your mobile phone number

For more information including FAQ's please visit the Engage page on the Warwickshire Pension Fund website https://warwickshirepensionfund.org.uk/

Please contact: <u>pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk</u> for any assistance needed with accessing Engage.

September Employer training reminder

Our employer training event will take place on September 30th at 11 am via Teams.

The session will focus on the funds actions and response to the Pension Regulator new code of practice that covers governance of pension funds within the UK and the current actions the fund is taking to prepare for the National Pensions Dashboard (NPD).

The NPD is where individuals can see basic information about all of their pension savings, including their State Pension, in one place.

Come along to our event and hear more information about the above topics and ask us any questions.

Please feel free to send your questions in advance to pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you on the 30th.

Employer guides and information updates

Updates to guides and factsheets, as well as template letters were made available over the summer are area available on the 'administrator guides and documents' pages of the LGPS website www.lgpsregs.org.uk

Updated versions of the following are available:

- Annual Allowance Factsheet version 1.12
- Councillors guide to the LGPS version 2.6
- LGPS Payroll Guide version 4.6
- LGPS HR Guide version4.6

Content updated includes:

- 2025/26 contribution rates
- New APC limits
- Other minor changes

The new versions and versions showing tracked changes can be found on the LGPS regulations site.

Letter template updates include:

Automatic enrolment sample letters – version 2.1. This version has updated the formatting of the templates.

AGM 2025

11th December is our 2025 AGM and Hymans Robertson, will be available to speak with employers.

Further details of how to book onto the AGM and arrange a 1 to 1 slot with Hymans will be shared in October and November.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the valuation or contribution rates with a Fund officer, please contact us.

Annual Benefit Statements

Annual Benefit Statements for all active and deferred members have been uploaded onto the Engage portal. Active and deferred members will need to register for Engage service, even if they previously registered for MSS.

If you would like to create an Engage account, here is the link to the Engage log in site: https://warwickshire.pensiondetails.co.uk/welcome

You will need to select "Register or Create a new Engage account" which is the third option down on the list.

The process will include an email being issued to an email address should we hold one on file. If we do not have an email address on file, then an activation key will be sent to the postal address we hold.

Further information on Engage can be found on the following pages of our website https://warwickshirepensionfund.org.uk/scheme/members-self-service-portal

If members cannot access the Engage portal, we can arrange for a copy of their statement to be sent in the post.

Affinity Connect - Pre-Retirement Staff Training

To help LGPS members make informed retirement decisions, Warwickshire Pension Fund are collaborating with Affinity Connect to offer an online session about pre-retirement financial planning which is open to all staff who are members of the LGPS.

<u>Affinity Connect</u> provide financial education, including courses about retirement in the public sector.

Please share the opportunity to your staff who are in the LGPS scheme, and let them know they can book directly with Affinity Connect using this online booking form (https://affinityconnect.event-registration.co.uk/events/warwickshire-pension-fund/retirement/2-hour-30-minute-course-online

The following dates have spaces:

Monday 15th September 2025 09:30 - 12:00 Thursday 9th October 2025 13:00 - 15:30 Tuesday 4th November 2025 09:30 - 12:00 Wednesday 10th December 2025 13:00 - 15:30

For some more information, please view the <u>course overview</u>.

LGPS Employer training

The employer role workshop is aimed at employers offering the LGPS in England and Wales. You do not need a working knowledge of the LGPS to attend the course; however, some LGPS experience is preferable.

It is a one-day workshop delivered by an experienced tutor with a maximum of 18 attendees. The cost is £255 (plus VAT) per person for online training and £295 (plus VAT) per person for in person training.

Attendees will be provided with a detailed set of electronic notes that can be downloaded and saved for future reference.

The course includes:

- Joining the LGPS enrolment and employee contribution rates
- Career average versus final pay
- Staff absences

- Additional contributions
- Legal requirements
- Retirement types and options
- Early leavers
- Other considerations eg complaints and a brief overview of employer discretions.

Available dates:

 30^{th} September 2025 – Online

28th October 2025 – Online

To book your place, visit https://www.local.gov.uk/events and select Pensions in the topic box.

WPF Contact details

Telephone number - 01926 412005.

For email enquiries, please use the below addresses:

General enquiries – pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk

I-Connect queries - iconnect@warwickshire.gov.uk

Website - https://warwickshirepensionfund.org.uk