

You are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Only employees of local authorities and other associated employers are able to join the LGPS and as one of the main public sector pension schemes it is considered to be one of the best available.

Why Join the LGPS?

Many employees in the UK will be entitled to benefits from two sources when they retire:-

- the State Pension Scheme, and
- their employer's pension scheme

Most people are aware that the State Pension Scheme alone is unlikely to provide sufficient retirement income and that benefits it provides are being reduced for people who retire after the year 2000. This means that it is important to have a pension from your employer.

By joining the LGPS you and your employer will be setting aside money now to provide benefits for when you retire. You will also be safeguarding yourself and your dependants in the meantime because the LGPS provides valuable disability and death-in-service benefits to all members.

If you are in any doubt about the value of joining the LGPS, you should bear the following important points in mind

- you make your contributions before you pay tax, so you save tax, making a very **cost-effective way of saving for your future.**
- joining the LGPS means that you pay reduce National Insurance Contributions because it is contracted-out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). The LGPS guarantees to provide pension benefits equivalent to SERPS.
- your lump sum at retirement is tax-free.

Most people do not want to worry about their retirement income. Many wait until it is either too late or too expensive to have the benefits they need when they retire. Joining the LGPS is an important step towards planning a long and happy retirement.

Contributions

Contributions are based on a percentage of your pay. All new employees from 1 April 1998 pay 6%. If you were a manual worker before this date and continue to be so then you have a protected right to pay the lower 5% rate. Remember that contributions qualify for income tax relief, reducing the amount of tax deducted from your pay.

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary. For more information and an Option In Form please contact your Personnel Officer or Department.