

# Essex Pension Fund

## Key Facts about the LGPS



The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is one of the largest pension schemes in the UK with over 5 million members.

The Essex Pension Fund administers the LGPS for all local government bodies in Essex including councils, schools and academies. But what's in it for you?

### Secure Pension

The LGPS is a Defined Benefits (DB) scheme which means that your pension is calculated using a guaranteed formula and builds up in a safe and predictable way every year.

### A Pension For Life

Once you've retired your pension is paid to you monthly for the rest of your life.

### Tax Free Cash

When you retire you will have the option to swap part of your pension for tax free cash.

### Retire When You Want

You can voluntarily retire and take your pension benefits any time between ages 55 and 75. Your pension will usually be reduced if taken before your State Pension Age, and increased if taken later.

### Ill Health Retirement

Your pension can be paid to you at any age if you are too ill to work. Your pension won't be reduced for taking it early, and may even be enhanced.

### Life Cover

Your pension automatically comes with death benefits payable to your next of kin, including pensions for your eligible partner and any dependent children, plus a one off tax free lump sum.



## How is my Pension Calculated?

The LGPS is a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme.

You build up pension equal to 1/49th of your pensionable pay each year.

This amount is then added to your total from previous years and revalued in line with the cost of living, so it always keeps up with inflation.

You will receive an annual benefit statement every summer which will tell you how much pension you have built up so far.

Want to know more or have questions about final salary benefits? Please visit:

[www.lgpsmember.org](http://www.lgpsmember.org) and  
[www.essexpensionfund.co.uk](http://www.essexpensionfund.co.uk)

## Contribution Flexibility

You can boost your pension by paying extra contributions in two ways:

### Additional Pension Contributions (APC)

You can buy extra pension either by paying a one off lump sum, or by agreeing to pay extra from your pay every month over a set number of years.

### Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC)

You can pay extra to one of our AVC providers - Prudential or Standard Life - who invest the contributions for you. We then pay your AVC fund to you with your LGPS pension when you retire.

### 50/50 Section

If you need to reduce your contributions for a while you can switch into the 50/50 section. This is where you pay half the usual level of contributions and in turn build up half the usual level of pension, but your death in service and ill health retirement benefits remain at their full value.

Want to know more? Visit [www.essexpensionfund.co.uk](http://www.essexpensionfund.co.uk)



# 50/50



## What if I've already got a pension with the LGPS?

Whenever you start a new job you will start a new pension, but you have the option to combine your LGPS pensions into one. Just let the pension fund know about your other LGPS pensions by filling in an [Employment History Form](#) and we will send you details of your options for aggregating your LGPS pensions together.

## Can I transfer in other pensions?

You have 12 months from joining (or re-joining) the LGPS to look into transferring any other pensions into the scheme.

You just need to fill in a [Transfer Request Form](#) and we will contact your other pension provider to ask for transfer information, and will then send you details of what that pension would buy in our scheme so you can decide whether to complete the transfer.

Forms are available on the 'Resources' section of our website [www.essexpensionfund.co.uk](http://www.essexpensionfund.co.uk).

## Contact Us

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