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Cronfa Bensiynau Clwyd
Clwyd Pension Fund

Activation Key:

Expiry date: 31/10/2018

Date: 10/08/2018

Email: pensions@flintshire.gov.uk

Dear

Your pension benefits may have changed following recent scheme amendments

I am required to contact all our members about the recent changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) following the release of the LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2018. The changes impact:

- the early retirement age for **deferred and pension credit members**;
- **active members** contribution limits for any additional voluntary contributions (AVC's);
- AVC retirement benefit options for **deferred members**;
- protections for **active/deferred/pensioner members** following previous scheme changes;
- **cohabiting partners** rights to survivors benefits

Although written notification is a compulsory requirement following a regulation change, all other correspondence will continue to be communicated via 'Member Self Service'. An activation key has now been provided above for you to register for your online account. To access your account, visit mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk and click 'Register/Login'. By selecting 'I have received my activation key' and entering your surname, national insurance number, date of birth and activation key you can set up your online account. All previous written requests for paper correspondence remain valid.

Deferred members who left the scheme before 31/03/2014

Early payment of deferred benefits

This group of members are now entitled to draw their deferred pension benefits at any date following their 55th birthday. The change to the regulations means that members will no longer require their previous employers consent to draw their pension benefits before their 60th birthday. **Members who left after 01/04/2014 are still able to draw their pension benefits from 55 years old.**

Pension credit member's

Early payment of deferred benefits

If a member was awarded a share of an ex-spouse's LGPS pension as part of a divorce settlement and is now a pension credit member, they can now receive these benefits any date after their 55th birthday regardless of when the pension sharing order took effect.

Reductions to pension benefits for early payment - If you draw your deferred benefits earlier than your Normal Pension Age (NPA) they may be reduced to take account for your pension being paid for longer. How much your deferred benefits are reduced by depends on how early you take them.

Details of the reduction factors can be found here: www.lgpsmember.org/more/reductions.php

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

I wish to find out my pension benefit entitlement?

You can log into your Member Self Service account and calculate your own projections. By accessing the 'Pension Benefits and Projectors' tab you will be able to alter your potential retirement date and click 'Calculate' to discover your pension entitlement and conversion options. After calculating your projections, if you wish to instigate the retirement process please email pensions@flintshire.gov.uk or write to us including your name, national insurance number and potential retirement date.

We are expecting high volumes of requests so please bear with us while we calculate your pension benefits

Active and deferred members changes to Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) contracts

If a member began paying AVCs before 1st April 2014, the way pension benefits are calculated, contribution restrictions and the options available at retirement have altered.

- Active members can now pay up to 100% (rather than 50%) of their pensionable pay into their AVC.
- AVCs will now be taken from any overtime (for members paying a percentage of their salary)
- If members leave and draw deferred benefits at a later date, they can now buy additional annual pension from the LGPS using their AVC.
- Members are no longer able to leave their AVC invested if they draw their LGPS pension benefits.
- The Clwyd Pension Fund now has absolute discretion over who to pay any death grant lump sum to (giving consideration to death grant expression of wishes) and this will not be subject to inheritance tax.

More information is available here >> www.lgpsmember.org/more/AVCOptions.php

Active, Deferred and Pensioner members

Underpin protection

On 1st April 2014 a protection was introduced to the scheme for members who were within 10 years of their Normal Pension Age on 1st April 2012 and were paying in on 31st March 2012. This is to ensure that they get a pension at least equal to that which would have been received if the scheme had not changed, this is known as the **Underpin**. This protection now applies if a member was paying into another public service pension scheme on 31st March 2012, joined the LGPS and transferred the public sector benefits into the LGPS to purchase final salary benefits.

More information is available here >> www.lgpsmember.org/more/underpin.php

Cohabiting partners (not detailed within the LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2018)

Following a High Court judgement on 18th January 2018, if a member paid into the LGPS after 1st April 2008, the need to nominate a cohabiting partner has been removed. For cohabiting partners who can prove that at the date of the member's death, they met the following conditions for a continuous period of at least 2 years, a survivor's pension would be paid.

- Both have been free to marry or enter a civil partnership with each other,
- Both have been living together as if they were married or civil partners, and neither partner have been living with someone else as if they were a married couple or civil partners,
- Either cohabiting partner is, and has been, financially dependent on their partner, and have been financially interdependent on each other.

I hope you find the above information useful.

Yours sincerely

Helen Burnham

Pensions Administration Manager

Clwyd Pension Fund

Please note that Flintshire County Council is the administration authority of the Clwyd Pension Fund and we use your personal data in accordance with Data Protection legislation to provide you with a pension administration service. For more information about how we use your data, who we share it with and what rights you have in relation to your data, please visit the Privacy Notice on our website.