



**The Greater Gwent
(Torfaen) Pension Fund**
administered by Torfaen County Borough Council



Date: **April 2019**

Dear Member

Changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations

I am writing to tell you about recent changes to the LGPS Regulations which came into effect on 10th January 2019.

Changes to when you can take your deferred benefit

Early payment of deferred benefits for leavers before 1 April 1998

Last year we wrote to you to inform you of a change to scheme rules if you left with a deferred benefit before 1 April 1998. We informed you that the scheme rules had been changed to allow you to choose to take early payment of your deferred benefits from age 55 (rather than 60). The change to the scheme rules means that you no longer need the consent of your former employer to take your benefits between age 55 and your Normal Pension Age (NPA). Your NPA will be between age 60 and 65 depending on when you joined the scheme – you can find this information on your deferred benefit statement.

We are writing to you again to let you know that a further change to the scheme rules has been made which means that you no longer have to leave all local government employment to take payment of your deferred benefit. This means that if you are working in another local government employment (i.e. a different employment to the one you were in when you built up your deferred benefit) you can now choose to take payment of your deferred benefit and continue in your local government employment.

This change is backdated to 17 April 2018.

If you want to take payment of a deferred pension you will need to fill in a **Deferred Pension Payment Request** Form. You can download the form from our website found under the **Forms and Publications** section at www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk.

Reductions to your benefits for early payment

If you choose to take your deferred benefits earlier than your Normal Pension Age (NPA) they will normally be reduced to take account of the fact that your pension will be paid for longer.

How much your deferred benefits are reduced by will depend on how early you take them. The reduction is based on the length of time (in years and days) between the date you take them and the date your deferred benefit is payable without a reduction for early payment. If you are unsure when your NPA is you should check your deferred benefit statement.

The early retirement reduction factors are set by the government and can vary from time to time. The current factors can be found on the national LGPS member website - www.lgpsmember.org/more/reductions.php

More information about taking your deferred is available on the national LGPS website - www.lgpsmember.org/arl/already-left-when.php

Changes to survivor benefits for same sex spouses and civil partners

A change to the scheme rules has been made to provide that survivor benefits payable to a same sex spouse or a civil partner are equal those paid to the widow of a male member.

Why has the change been made?

The change has been made as a result of a Supreme Court judgment (Walker v Innopsec) which found that Mr Walker's male spouse was entitled to the same benefits that would have been paid if Mr Walker had left a widow in an opposite sex marriage.

Why does this apply to the LGPS?

The government believes that the implication of this judgment for all public service pensions schemes, including the LGPS, is that surviving civil partners or surviving same sex spouses should be provided with benefits equal to those that would be left to the widow of a male member.

When does the change take effect from?

The change is backdated to the date the civil partnerships and same sex marriages were introduced – this is 5 December 2005 for civil partnerships and 13 March 2014 for same sex marriages.

This means that where a member of the LGPS has died leaving a surviving civil partner or a same sex spouse, the survivor's pension in payment will need to be reviewed and any additional amounts paid, where applicable. We are in the process of reviewing the impact of this change and will be contacting affected civil partners and same sex spouses in due course.

The change will automatically be taken into account in survivor benefits paid to civil partners and same sex spouses in the future.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir



Pensions Manager



Cronfa Bensiwn Gwent Fwyaf (Torfaen)

gweinyddir gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen



Address

Date: **Ebrill 2019**

Dear Member

Newidiadau i Reoliadau Cynllun Pensiwn Llywodraeth Leol (LGPS)

Rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch i ddweud wrthyfych am y newidiadau diweddar i Reoliadau LGPS a ddaeth i rym ar 10 Ionawr 2019.

Newidiadau o ran pryd y gallwch dderbyn eich buddion gohiriedig

Derbyn buddion gohiriedig yn gynnar i'r rhai a adawodd cyn 1 Ebrill 1998

Ysgrifenasom atoch y llynedd i roi gwybod ichi am newid i reolau'r cynllun os gwnaethoch adael gyda buddion gohiriedig cyn 1 Ebrill 1998. Rhoesom wybod ichi fod rheolau'r cynllun wedi newid i ganiatáu ichi ddewis derbyn eich buddion gohiriedig yn gynnar o 55 oed ymlaen (yn hytrach na 60 oed). Mae'r newid i reolau'r cynllun yn golygu nad oes angen cydsyniad eich cyn-gyflogwr arnoch mwyach er mwyn derbyn eich buddion rhwng 55 oed a'ch Oedran Pensiwn Arferol. Bydd eich Oedran Pensiwn Arferol rhwng 60 a 65 oed, gan ddibynnu ar pryd y gwnaethoch ymuno â'r cynllun – gallwch ddod o hyd i'r wybodaeth hon ar eich datganiad buddion gohiriedig.

Rydym yn ysgrifennu atoch eto i roi gwybod ichi fod newid arall wedi'i wneud i reolau'r cynllun sy'n golygu nad oes rhaid ichi adael pob cyflogaeth llywodraeth leol mwyach er mwyn derbyn eich buddion gohiriedig. Mae hyn yn golygu, os ydych yn gweithio mewn cyflogaeth llywodraeth leol arall (h.y. cyflogaeth wahanol i'r gyflogaeth roeddech ynddi pan wnaethoch gronni eich buddion gohiriedig), bellach gallwch ddewis derbyn eich buddion gohiriedig a pharhau yn eich cyflogaeth llywodraeth leol.

Bydd y newid hwn yn cael ei ôl-ddyddio i 17 Ebrill 2018.

Os ydych am dalu pensiwn gohiriedig bydd angen i chi lenwi ffurflen gais am daliad pensiwn gohiriedig. Gallwch lawrlwytho'r ffurflen o'n gwefan a geir o dan yr adran ffurflenni a chyhoeddiadau www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk.

Gostwng eich buddion yn sgil eu derbyn yn gynnar

Os ydych yn dewis derbyn eich buddion gohiriedig yn gynharach na'ch Oedran Pensiwn Arferol, byddant fel rheol yn cael eu gostwng yng ngolwg y ffaith y bydd eich pensiwn yn cael ei dalu dros gyfnod hwy. Bydd maint y gostyngiad i'ch buddion gohiriedig yn dibynnu ar pa mor gynnar y byddwch yn eu derbyn. Mae'r gostyngiad yn seiliedig ar hyd y cyfnod (mewn blynyddoedd a diwrnodau) rhwng y dyddiad yr ydych yn eu derbyn a'r dyddiad y bydd eich

buddion gohiriedig yn daladwy heb ostyngiad am eu talu'n gynnar. Os ydych yn ansicr ynghylch eich Oedran Pensiwn Arferol, dylech wirio eich datganiad buddion gohiriedig.

Mae'r ffactorau gostyngiad yn sgil ymddeol yn gynnar yn cael eu pennu gan y llywodraeth a gallant amrywio o bryd i'w gilydd. Gallwch weld y ffactorau presennol ar y wefan genedlaethol i aelodau Cynllun Pensiwn Llywodraeth Leol - www.lgpsmember.org/more/reductions.php

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am dderbyn eich buddion gohiriedig ar gael ar wefan genedlaethol Cynllun Pensiwn Llywodraeth Leol - www.lgpsmember.org/arl/already-left-when.php

Newidiadau i fuddion goroeswyr ar gyfer gwŷr/gwraig a phartneriaid sifil o'r un rhyw

Mae newid wedi'i wneud i reolau'r cynllun fel bod buddion goroeswr sy'n daladwy i wŷr/gwraig neu bartner sifil o'r un rhyw yn gyfartal â'r rheiny a delir i wraig weddw aelod gwrywaidd.

Pam mae'r newid wedi'i wneud?

Mae'r newid wedi'i wneud o ganlyniad i ddyfarniad y Goruchaf Lys (Walker yn erbyn Innopsec) a gafodd fod gan wŷr Mr Walker hawl i'r un buddion a'r rheiny a fyddai wedi cael eu talu pe bai Mr Walker wedi gadael gwraig weddw mewn priodas o'r ddau ryw.

Pam mae hyn yn berthnasol i Gynllun Pensiwn Llywodraeth Leol?

Mae'r llywodraeth yn credu mai goblygiad y dyfarniad hwn i holl gynlluniau pensiwn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys Cynllun Pensiwn Llywodraeth Leol, yw y dylai partneriaid sifil sy'n goroesi neu wŷr/gwraig o'r un rhyw sy'n goroesi gael buddion sy'n gyfartal â'r rheiny a fyddai'n cael eu gadael i wraig weddw aelod gwrywaidd.

Pryd mae'r newid yn dod i rym?

Bydd y newid yn cael ei ôl-ddyddio i'r dyddiad pan gyflwynwyd partneriaethau sifil a phriodasau o'r un rhyw, sef 5 Rhagfyr 2005 yn achos partneriaethau sifil a 13 Mawrth 2014 yn achos priodasau o'r un rhyw.

Mae hyn yn golygu, os yw aelod o Gynllun Pensiwn Llywodraeth Leol wedi marw gan adael partner sifil neu wŷr/gwraig o'r un rhyw sy'n goroesi, y bydd angen adolygu'r pensiwn sy'n cael ei dalu i'r goroeswr a thalu unrhyw symiau ychwanegol, lle bo hynny'n berthnasol. Rydym wrthi'n adolygu effaith y newid hwn a byddwn yn cysylltu â phartneriaid sifil a gwŷr/gwraig o'r un rhyw yr effeithir arnynt maes o law.

Rhoddir ystyriaeth i'r newid yn awtomatig mewn perthynas â buddion goroeswyr a delir i bartneriaid sifil a gwŷr/gwraig o'r un rhyw yn y dyfodol.

Yours sincerely

Pensions Manager