

The Local Government Pensions Committee
Secretary: Lorraine Bennett

CIRCULAR

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No. 313 – APRIL 2019

LGPS FUNDAMENTALS TRAINING 16th ANNUAL LGPS GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

Purpose of this circular:

This circular advertises the forthcoming LGPS training programme “Fundamentals”, organised by the Local Government Pensions Committee (LGPC) and the Annual LGPS Governance Conference formerly known as the “Trustees” Conference.

FUNDAMENTALS TRAINING

Background

- 1 Fundamentals is a bespoke three day training course aimed at elected members and others who attend pension committees/panels and local pension boards. Past delegates include elected members, trade union representatives, member and employer representatives, as well as a variety of officers who attend/support committees and some private sector organisations who provide services to administering authorities.
2. The course provides a scheme overview and covers current issues in relation to administration, investments and governance of the LGPS. Attending all three days will assist delegates in meeting the relevant requirement for knowledge, skills and understanding either required in statute or encouraged by relevant guidance.
3. Each day has a different theme and will include sessions delivered by experts in their field. The event also provides delegates with valuable networking opportunities.
4. Each day’s programme will start at 10am, with registration and coffee from 9:30am, and close by 4pm with refreshments and lunch provided.

5. 2019 dates and venues are confirmed as:

Day 1	London	LGA offices, Westminster	3 October 2019
	Leeds	Marriott Hotel	17 October 2019
	Cardiff	Marriott Hotel	31 October 2019

Day 2	London	LGA offices, Westminster	6 November 2019
	Leeds	Marriott Hotel	14 November 2019
	Cardiff	Marriott Hotel	21 November 2019

Day 3	Leeds	Marriott Hotel	5 December 2019
	Cardiff	Marriott Hotel	12 December 2019
	London	LGA offices, Westminster	18 December 2019

6. Identical material will be delivered at each location. Delegates are therefore able to attend the course by visiting different locations should their diaries not allow attendance on all three days at the same location. Although we recommend that delegates attend all three days, it is possible to attend just one or two days if preferred.
7. A draft programme for the course is attached at **Appendix A**. The content will be adapted to include any major developments in the world of local government pensions should they occur between now and the training taking place. The final programme may differ.

Cost and booking

8. The delegate rate for each session, inclusive of lunch, refreshments and all delegate materials is £260 plus VAT. The cost of the three day course is £780 plus VAT.
9. Early booking is recommended as places are limited. Bookings are made via the online events booking facility which is part of the Local Government Association website. Each event in the table above has a link to the online booking facility for that event. The main events booking page for all LGA events is: www.local.gov.uk/events

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

Background

10. The conference programme will have its popular lunchtime-to-lunchtime format commencing on Thursday 23rd and concluding on Friday 24th January 2020. Having previously been held at numerous locations across Great Britain (e.g. Cardiff in 2015, Manchester in 2016, Bournemouth 2017 and Bristol 2019), the conference heads this year to the Principal Hotel in York.

11. The conference is not bookable at this stage as the programme is currently being finalised; a further circular will be issued in May 2019 with information on how to book.
12. If you wish to discuss speaking or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Karl White Pensions Adviser (Training) in the first instance by email - karl.white@local.gov.uk
13. If you want to register your interest in attending this year's conference, please send a short-email with "Annual" in the subject line to elaine.english@local.gov.uk who will make sure you receive the circular as soon as it is issued (as places are always on a strictly first-come, first-served basis).

ACTIONS FOR ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES

14. Administering Authorities are asked to bring this circular to the attention of all pension committee and local pension board members as well as those who attend/advise the meetings, sub-committees etc.

Karl White
Pensions Adviser (Training)
April 2019

Distribution sheet

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LGPC
18 Smith Square
Westminster
London, SW1P 3HZ

or email: karl.white@local.gov.uk

Appendix A.

PROGRAMME Fundamentals 2019 - Day 1 – Legal Framework of the LGPS

- 9.30 **Registration and coffee**
- 9.55 **Chair’s introduction to the day**
- 10.00 **The Legal Landscape**
- The LGPS in its legal context
 - General local authority legal issues
 - LGPS specific duties and responsibilities
 - Wider duties and responsibilities
 - What happens when things go wrong?
- 11.15 **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 **Governance Framework**
- The Hutton report
 - The Public Service Pensions Act 2013
 - The law governing –
 - The responsible authority (MHCLG)
 - Scheme advisory board
 - Local pension boards
 - Asset pools
- 12.45 **Lunch**
- 1.30 **Benefit Structure**
- The basis of the LGPS
 - Final salary v CARE schemes
 - A tour of the 2014 Scheme.
 - Administering authority and scheme employer roles
- 2:45 **Break**
- 3:00 **Investment Framework**
- The Management and Investment of Funds Regulations – a history
 - Statement of investment principles
 - Investment Strategy Statement (ISS)
 - ISS statutory guidance
 - Funding strategy statement
 - Annual reports and auditing
- 4.00 **Close**

PROGRAMME
Fundamentals 2019 - Day 2 – LGPS Investments

- 9:30 **Registration and coffee**
- 9.55 **Chair’s introduction to the day**
- 10:00 **Investing strategically**
- What is asset allocation and why it really drives return?
- 11:15 **Break**
- 11:30 **Managing the Risk**
- From exchange rates to politics to climate change
- 12.45 **Lunch**
- 1.30 **Acting Responsibly**
- Why it’s not just about the short-term financial return
- 2.45 **Break**
- 3:00 **Realising Value**
- The journey from gross to net return and why costs matter
- 3:45 **Taking a wider view**
- Why diversity matters in the who and the how of investing
- 4:15 **Close**

PROGRAMME
Fundamentals 2019 - Day 3 – Duties and Responsibilities

- 9:30 **Registration and coffee**
- 9.55 **Chair’s introduction to the day**
- 10:00 **Duties and responsibilities of Pension Committee and Board members**
- The evolving requirements
 - Committee vs Board - delegation and representation
 - The governance budget
 - The Pension Regulator’s involvement
 - Standing agenda items, breaches of law, knowledge and training
 - Bodies with oversight over the LGPS
- 11:00 **Break**
- 11:15 **Preparing and maintaining Scheme strategies and policies**
- Mandatory and desirable policies in the LGPS
 - How strategies and policies assist the scheme manager
- 12:00 **MHCLG – a view from the bridge**
- The role of the ministry
 - Issues on the radar
- 12:45 **Lunch**
- 1:30 **The Local Pension Board - a case study**
- How the local pension board can improve service delivery
 - Good practice, scrutiny and supporting the board
- 2:15 to 4:00 (break at 2.45)
- Valuations, Exit Payments and Funding**
- Valuations**
- The purpose of an actuarial valuation
 - Assets and liabilities
 - How do liability calculations work?
 - What assumptions are used?
- Funding**
- What is the importance of funding strategy?
 - Different employers – different characteristics and objectives
 - Employer covenants
- 3:55 **Course review and further information**
- 4:00 **Close**