

Dorset County Pension Fund Pension Liaison Officer Group meeting Minutes

Friday 27 February 2026
Microsoft Teams online
10:30am start

1. Welcome
 - 1.1. Steph Ball, Systems and Operations Manager, welcomed all employers to the meeting.
 - 1.2. Employers new to the Pension Liaison Officer Group meeting introduced themselves.
2. [Minutes of last meeting](#)
 - 2.1. Minutes agreed.
3. Matters arising from the minutes
 - 3.1. Valuation reports have been sent to all employers, listing employer contribution rate with effect from April 2026.
 - 3.2. The vacancy on Pension Board discussed in the previous PLOG has now been filled,
 - 3.3. There are further delays with Prudential AVCs, a paragraph has been added to our retirement letter to notify members. Any employers who know of a member experiencing delays, please notify us so we can help.
4. End of Year 2026
 - 4.1. Stephanie Clifton shared a [presentation](#) about the end of year process for 2026. This can be found on slides 4 – 11.
 - 4.2. The End of Year spreadsheet now validates to only 800 rows, so if an employer has more than 800 member employments, the formatting will need to be dragged down to accommodate.
 - 4.3. DCPF are running training sessions in preparation for the End of Year 2026 process. If employers would like to attend please email lgpsemployers@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and further details will be sent.
 - 4.4. Stephanie highlighted the timescales and subsequent financial penalties should the deadline not be met by employers, or if any non-submitted joiners or leavers are identified.
 - 4.5. A reminder was provided to ensure that the end of year spreadsheet is copied and pasted into a new spreadsheet, and saved as CSV (Comma Delimited).
5. LGPS Access and Fairness Regulation Changes
 - 5.1. Stephanie Clifton shared a [presentation](#) on the LGPS Access and Fairness Regulation Changes, taking effect from 1 April 2026. This can be found on slides 13 – 19.
 - 5.2. DCPF will be writing to all affected members to notify them of any changes which may affect them.
 - 5.3. Slides 17-18 contain the most important changes that will affect employers.
 - 5.4. Steph Ball asked all employers who use external payroll providers to please notify them of the upcoming changes.
 - 5.5. Employers expressed concerns about the technicalities and timescales of these changes. Unfortunately, the information received by DCPF has been limited, with a further update due in March. This will then be communicated to all employers.

6. Member communications

- 6.1. Stephanie Clifton shared a presentation on member communications, highlighting DCPF's methods of engaging with members. This can be found on slides 20 – 25.
- 6.2. DCPF provide presentations for new joiners, and also general LGPS member presentations.

New joiner presentation links:

[22 April 2026](#)

[9 September 2026](#)

[26 November 2026](#)

General Member Presentation link:

[12 May 2026](#)

7. [Bulletins](#)

7.1. [Bulletin 272](#)

- 7.1.1. Employee contribution bands for 2026-27 can be found in this bulletin. Please ensure that your payroll providers are given this information.
- 7.1.2. The 2026 LGA training programme has been announced. LGA provide an employer role training session, which may be useful for large employers. DCPF provide free training which is advertised in the employer bulletins.

7.2. [Bulletin 271](#)

- 7.2.1. Access and Protections Consultation Response – LGPC response is contained in bulletin. Since the bulletin was issued it has now been confirmed that councillors and mayors will have the right to opt into the LGPS from 11 May, first Monday after nationwide local elections. This will affect BCP and Dorset Council, but not the town or parish councils.
- 7.2.2. On 13 November 2025, the Government announced that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be abolished at the end of the next electoral cycle in 2028.
- 7.2.3. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has confirmed that the automatic enrolment thresholds will remain unchanged for the 2026/27 tax year.
- 7.2.4. The National Insurance Contributions (Employer Pensions Contributions) Bill was introduced to the House of Commons and had its first reading on 4 December 2025. It had its second reading on 17 December 2025. This relates to a limit on the National Insurance savings for employers and members if pension contributions are paid through a salary sacrifice arrangement. The change will only affect members who pay more than £2,000 a year into an AVC through a salary sacrifice arrangement after 5 April 2029.

7.3. [Bulletin 270](#)

- 7.3.1. On 26 November 2025, Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer, delivered the Budget 2025. Salary sacrifice changes: From 6 April 2029, the Government will limit the value of pension contributions made through salary sacrifice that can receive employee and employer national insurance contributions relief to £2,000 per year.
- 7.3.2. On 31 October 2025, the Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) marked one year until the legal deadline for all pension schemes to connect to the dashboard.

7.4. [Bulletin 269](#)

- 7.4.1. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) statistics for England and Wales for the 2024/25 financial year on 22 October 2025. The data highlights continued growth in both scheme activity and overall fund value.
- 7.4.2. LGPS 'Access and protections' consultation launched. On 13 October 2025, MHCLG launched a consultation on changes to the LGPS in England and Wales.

The proposals relate to access to the Scheme and its benefits and cover four main areas:

- normal minimum pension age (NMPA)
- pension access for mayors and councillors
- academies in the LGPS
- new Fair Deal.

7.4.3. On 22 October 2025, the Office for National Statistics announced the annual rate of increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for September 2025 as 3.8 per cent. We await confirmation from Government that the revaluation and pensions increase that will apply to LGPS active pension accounts, deferred pensions and pensions in payment in April 2026 will be 3.8 per cent.

8. Any other business

8.1. None

9. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

9.1. Wednesday 17 June 10:30 -12:00

Thursday 15 October 10:30 – 12:00

Via Microsoft Teams