



West Yorkshire Pension Fund

Lincolnshire
Pension Fund



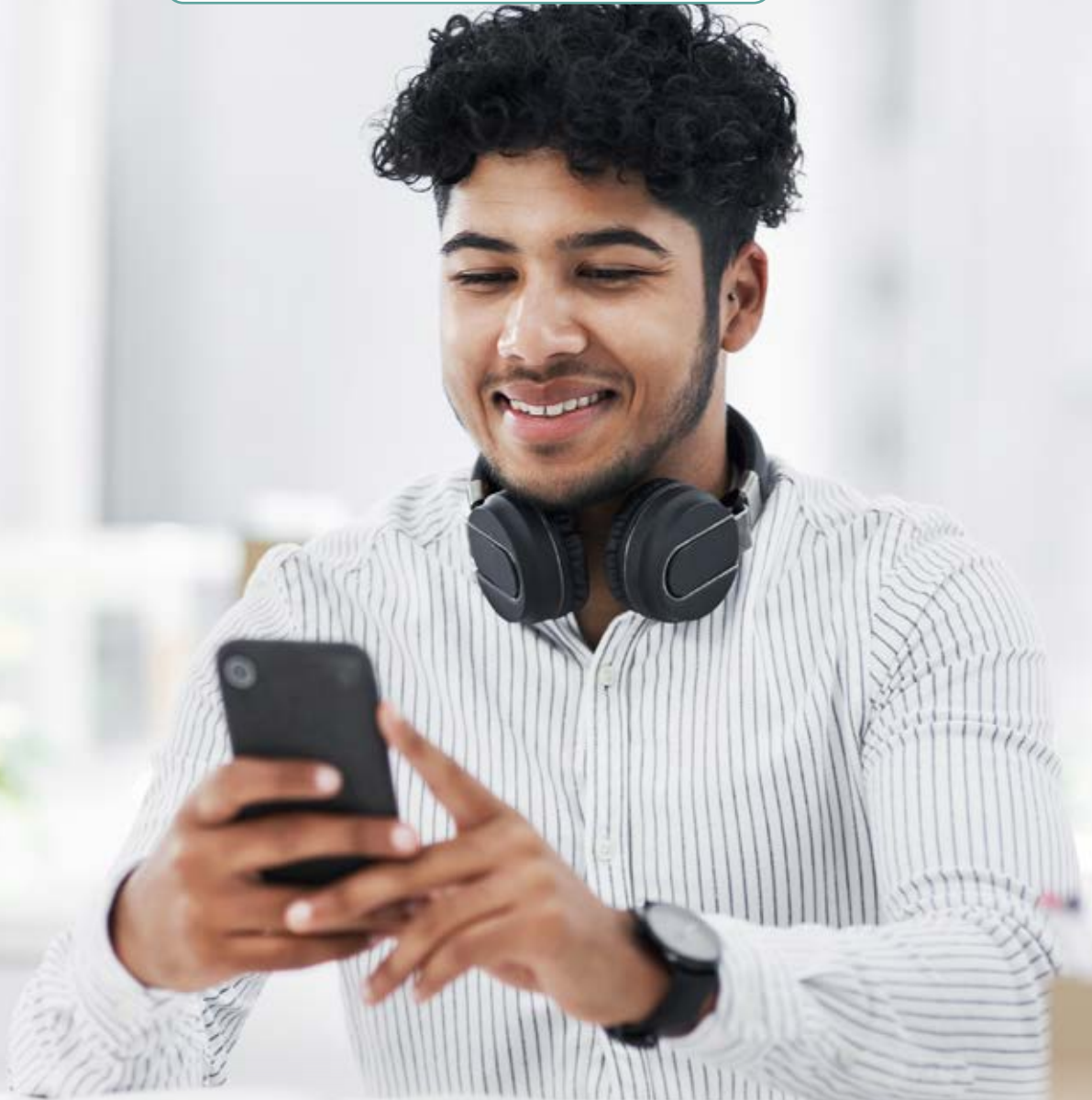
London Borough
of Hounslow

BARNET
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Pension

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN/WINTER 2021 • ACTIVE MEMBERS



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Welcome from Cllr Mark Shooter

Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee for the Barnet Pension Fund

Welcome to the autumn/winter edition of the pension newsletter for active members of the Barnet Pension Fund.

This newsletter is intended to keep you updated on important information regarding the fund. It has been produced by the administrators to the fund, West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) in conjunction with the Pensions Team at Barnet.

It has been more than a year since WYPF took over the administration of the fund and I hope that you have been satisfied with the service received.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for many members of the scheme. The Pension Fund Committee, Local Pension Board and officers have been working with WYPF to ensure that service levels have been maintained for our members during the pandemic. Officers continue to monitor the situation to minimise any impact on the day-to-day operation of the scheme.

The Pension Fund Committee meets at least quarterly and reviews and challenges the pension fund investment managers' performance

against investment performance benchmarks and targets. I am pleased to report that in the last year the fund exceeded its return target and was one of the best performing local authority pension funds.

In addition, the Barnet Pension Fund's Local Pension Board, which has representatives from both scheme members and employers, is responsible for assisting the Pension Fund Committee in ensuring compliance with the scheme regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the scheme.

Sadly, one impact of the pandemic has been an increase in pension scams. Therefore, I encourage members to remain vigilant and recommend that you take a few moments to read our article about protecting your financial self.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy this newsletter. If you have any feedback please send it to the Barnet Pensions Team, whose details can be found on the next page.

Barnet Pensions Team



George Bruce Head of Pensions

George leads the Pensions Team and is responsible for ensuring all aspects of the scheme run smoothly. He works closely with the fund actuary and investment advisors to make sure that the investments and the funding of the scheme provide adequate provision for the payment of members benefits, whilst making sure that the fund provides value for money for both employers and local tax payers.

Mark Fox Pensions Manager

Mark has overall responsibility for the management of the scheme's administration service, provided by West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF). He works closely with employers to ensure any issues are dealt with promptly and working with new employers to ensure a smooth transition into the Fund, He is responsible for employer and member communications. He leads the quarterly update to the Local Pensions Board on administration issues and meets with Trade unions regular to discuss and pensions related issues raised by their members.

Adam McPhail Assistant Finance Manager

Adam is the accountant within the Barnet Pensions Team and makes sure that contributions are paid on time and are correct. He assists George with investment matters and drafting the Fund accounts.

Gavin Roberts Pensions Operations Manager

Gavin has worked in local government pensions for over 30 years and has extensive knowledge on administration processes and regulations. He works closely with WYPF on administrative issues and deals with member enquiries. He assists WYPF on ensuring that the data held by WYPF on member records is up-to-date and accurate.

The pensions team can be contacted at pensions@barnet.gov.uk



Barnet fund report 2021

The Council has delegated the management of the Fund to the Pension Fund Committee. It has also established the Local Pension Board, comprising of both employer and employee representatives, to ensure that good governance standards are maintained, particularly in relation to service to members.

The year to 31 March 2021 was a busy period for the pension fund most notably, the appointment of West Yorkshire Pension Fund as the new administrator, responsible for maintaining members records, paying pensions and responding to queries on benefit entitlement. We are confident that they will meet the high level of service that members deserve.

Although members pensions are unaffected by the performance of the fund's investment, with entitlements based on length of service and salary, investment performance is important in keeping the scheme affordable to your employer.

While 2020/21 was a challenging period for scheme members and the country as a whole, financial markets react quickly to new information and take a long term perspective. Thus the reaction to Covid-19 related lockdowns was felt in the quarter to March 2020, with negative investment returns in the prior year of 6%. However, with optimism returning to markets fuelled by government support for the economy, vaccine development, historically low interest rates and talk of easing of restrictions, markets recovered and more, with a fund return of 28% in the twelve months to March 2021, comfortably exceeding both the benchmark and the average return from local authority pension funds. In keeping the fund affordable long-term returns are critical and it is pleasing to note that 3, 5 and 10 year average returns are all at least 7% per annum.

Beyond, Covid-19, another important consideration was climate change and the need to switch the global economy away from fossil fuels towards renewables. In addition, there is a growing acceptance that funds such as

Barnet have a responsibility to ensure that the companies in which we invest recognise their responsibilities to the wider community. Reflecting the council's wish to be a responsible investor, 30% of the pension fund assets will in future be selected on a basis that takes into account environmental, social and governance criteria. In addition approximately 3% of the fund was allocated to renewable infrastructure to help support the transition away from fossil fuels. This is viewed by the Pension Fund Committee as a start, with further options to embed responsible investing into the fund currently being considered.

In recent years the fund has sought to manage risk and enhance returns by diversifying into new asset classes such as UK and Global property, private equity and infrastructure, with a combined target allocation of 18% to these asset classes.

A summary of the Fund's investment as at 31 March 2021 and 2020 is given in the table below. A copy of the fund's annual report for 2020/21 provides more information on the Fund's activities, performance and investments and will be available soon from www.barnet.gov.uk

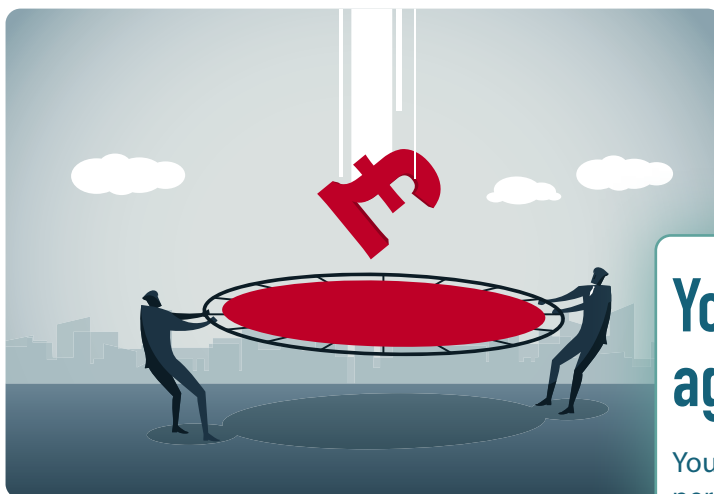
Fund account

at 31 March 2021

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000	£000
Dealing with members, employers and others directly involved in the fund		
Contributions	(78,983)	(63,418)
Transfers in from other pension funds	(4,066)	(1,839)
	(83,049)	(65,257)
Benefits	58,933	57,420
Payments to and on account of leavers	3,418	7,638
	62,351	65,058
Net (additions) from dealings with members	(20,698)	(199)
Management expenses	11,305	9,536
Net (additions)/withdrawals including fund management expenses	(9,393)	9,337
Returns on investments		
Investment income	(5,954)	(8,598)
Profit and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the value of investments	(299,820)	71,964
Net return on investments	(305,774)	63,366
Net (increase)/decrease in the net assets available for benefits during the year	(315,167)	72,703
Opening net assets of the scheme	1,079,433	1,152,136
Closing net assets of the scheme	1,394,600	1,079,433

Investments

Asset class		31 March 2021		31 March 2020	
		£'000	%	£'000	%
Equities	UK	48,885	4%	29,181	3%
	Overseas	650,581	48%	437,888	41%
	Global	35,793	3%	22,356	2%
		735,259	55%	489,425	46%
Bonds	UK	165,684	12%	150,408	14%
	Overseas	238,711	18%	194,063	18%
	Global	18,781	1%	37,942	4%
		423,176	31%	382,413	36%
Property	UK	37,710	3%	35,302	3%
	Overseas	24,446	2%	24,553	2%
		62,156	5%	59,855	5%
Infrastructure		69,521	5%	71,139	7%
Other assets		45,621	3%	35,075	3%
FX Forward derivative		1,370	0%	6,829	1%
Cash and current assets		57,497	1%	34,697	2%
Total investment assets		1,394,600	100%	1,079,433	100%



Your pension is protected against stock market falls

Your LGPS pension is not linked to stock market performance and your benefits are set out in law by the government. As a member, you can be sure that both your contributions and your future pension will be unaffected. Although short-term investment values may vary, the LGPS as a long-term investor is securely managed to address any longer-term impacts.

Want a bigger pension?

We have two ways you can increase your pension benefits through your pension with monthly payments or by paying a lump sum. **Paying extra can be an effective way to increase your income in retirement. Always consider taking independent financial advice.**

Read all about it at www.wypf.org.uk/payingextra including details of what our AVC provider, **Prudential**, can offer you.

APCs

APCs (additional pension contributions) buy you extra pension in the LGPS.

AVCs

AVCs (additional voluntary contributions) don't buy an amount of pension but build up a fund value which you can then use to buy benefits at retirement including tax-free cash.



Have you checked your 2021 statement?

Always check your statement carefully and if anything looks wrong – especially if it's your pay – tell your employer straightaway.

Watch our video on this at www.wypf.org.uk/pensionstatement

Your statement is online

You can see your latest statement and your previous statements online by signing in to your **MyPension** account.



The new name for Money Advice Service

Money Advice Service (including The Pensions Advisory Service and The Pension Wise Service) changed to MoneyHelper in June 2021. All in one place, get clear, free and impartial money and pension help. MoneyHelper is our direct to consumer brand of the Money and Pensions Service.

Their new URL from early June 2021 is moneyhelper.org.uk

Whatever your circumstances or plans, MoneyHelper is on your side. Online or over the phone, you'll get

clear money and pensions guidance, and pointers to trusted services, if you need more support.

Open to everyone, MoneyHelper is helping people to clear their debts, reduce spending and make the most of their income. To support loved ones, plan ahead for major purchases and find out about entitlements. To build up savings and pensions, and know their options.

For money help all in one place that's free to use, just go to moneyhelper.org.uk

Transfer time limits

If you're thinking about leaving the pension scheme and transferring your LGPS pension to another provider, don't leave it too late. You would have to leave this scheme and choose to transfer your pension **at least one year before your normal pension age (NPA)**. That's most likely your state retirement age, but some members have a protected NPA of age 60 or 65.

Always be aware of pension scams and don't make rash decisions during the pandemic. Fall foul of a scam and you could lose some or all of your money. See pension-scams.com or fca.org.uk/scamsmart

What to do if you become a scam victim

Being scammed can take a huge toll on people's mental health. **Mind** and **Victim Support** have confidential helplines that provide support to consumers who have been hit and you can get more information from their websites.

There are some immediate practical steps you can take if you think you've been scammed however. Call your bank directly, first checking its website for the correct number to ring. If the fraud involved any of your personal information, consider signing up for a Protective Registration with fraud prevention organisation **Cifas**, which costs £25 for two years. Cifas is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to reduce fraud and related financial crime in the UK. Check out their website at www.cifas.org.uk for information.

Change your passwords for any accounts that have been compromised due to fraud – and any that use the same password. Set up two-factor authentication wherever possible to provide another layer of protection.

Be ScamSmart – don't fall for scams in the first place

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and The Pensions Regulator (TPR)'s ScamSmart campaign warns you to be on your guard if you receive unexpected offers about your pension. If you are ever in doubt about a pension offer, visit the ScamSmart website at www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart

Moving house?

If you move house, we need to know your new address – not only to keep your records up to date but to make sure personal or sensitive information going to your old address doesn't put you at risk of identity fraud. So when you move, please let us know your new address as soon as you can. Tell your employer too, and if you're paying AVCs, your AVC provider.

Who gets your death grant?

If you die while you're paying into the scheme we pay a death grant of at least three times your pay (actual amount may be different if you have other LGPS pensions). You can choose who should get this money by making a nomination.

If you haven't done it yet, you can download a form from our website.

Privacy and your data

Read how we use the data we hold about you at www.wypf.org.uk/privacy

Online retirement workshops

Our free online workshops are designed to raise awareness of the key issues you need to consider as you approach retirement and look at some of the decisions you will need to make. They're especially useful if you're thinking of retiring in the next couple of years, but also if you're not yet sure when you want to retire.

There are still a couple of sessions to come in 2021. If you can't make them check our website for more dates in 2022.

What's covered?

Lifestyle changes • Managing change • Income in retirement • State pension and other benefits • Personal taxation and tax tips • Money management • Budgeting in retirement • Making your money last

Remaining 2021 workshop dates

30 November 4.00pm – 6.00pm

14 December 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Places are limited so be quick to grab yours.

• Click here for more information and to book

Please note, the workshops provide information only and will not include or constitute financial advice.

Contact us

Phone 01274 434999

Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.30pm

Email pensions@wypf.org.uk

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