



Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund

Joint Administration Strategy and Service Level Agreement

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction**
 - 2.0 Background**
 - 3.0 Strategic Aims**
 - 4.0 Regulatory Framework**
 - 5.0 Nottinghamshire Local Pension Board**
 - 6.0 Key Objectives**
 - 7.0 Establishing levels of Performance**
 - 8.0 Quality**
 - 9.0 Administration Standards**
 - 10.0 Performance Standards**
 - 11.0 Procedures for Compliance**
 - 12.0 Liaison and Communication**
 - 12.1 Authorised contact for employers**
 - 12.2 Liaison and Communication**
 - 13.0 Improving employer performance**
 - 14.0 Circumstances where the Administering Authority may levy costs associated with the Employing Authorities poor performance.**
 - 15.0 Circumstances where costs might be recovered.**
 - 16.0 Calculation of costs incurred**
 - 17.0 Disputes**
 - 18.0 Consultation**
 - 19.0 Review Process**
- Service Level Agreement Document**
- Appendix A:**

1.0 Introduction

An administration strategy as allowed for by the Local Government Pension Scheme, is seen as one of the tools which can help in delivering a high quality administration service to the scheme member and other interested parties. Delivery of a high quality administration service is not the responsibility of one person or organisation but is the joint working of a number of different parties.

The following is the pension administration strategy of Nottinghamshire Local Government Fund, administered by Nottinghamshire County Council (the administering authority).

The aim of this strategy statement is to set out the quality and performance standards expected of Nottinghamshire County Council in its role of administering authority and scheme employer, as well as all other scheme employers within the Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund. It seeks to promote good working relationships, improve efficiency and enforce quality amongst the scheme employers and the administering authority.

The 1 April 2015 was a key milestone in the governance arrangements of the Local Government Pension scheme (LGPS) as from that date the Pensions Regulator (tPR) took responsibility for setting standards of administration and governance on all administrative aspects of the Pension Scheme. In addition a newly established Nottinghamshire Local Pension Board now has an independent scrutiny role in assisting Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund with its regulatory compliance, effective and efficient administration and governance of the pension fund.

2.0 Background

The LGPS represents a significant benefit to scheme members. Much of the success in promoting the scheme amongst scheme members and ensuring a high quality service delivery depends upon the relationship between the administering authority and scheme employers in the day to day administration of the scheme and remind or alert employers to the value of the LGPS, thereby helping with recruitment, retention and motivation of employees.

The fund comprises of over 283 scheme employers with active members, and approximately 125,553 (at October 2016) scheme members in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The efficient delivery of the benefits of the LGPS is dependent on sound administrative procedures being in place between the administering authority and scheme employers.

3.0 Strategic Aims

The aim of this Strategy is to continue progress towards a seamless, automated pension service, employing appropriate technologies and best practice which both significantly improve the quality of information overall and the speed with which it is processed to provide better information for scheme employers and stakeholders and

a more efficient service to members. It outlines, in conjunction with the Pension Administration Service Level Agreement as attached, the quality and required performance standards of all fund, scheme employers and admission bodies within the Fund.

This strategy is designed to move towards the highest standards of administration through the most efficient and cost effective practices thereby ensuring a consistent approach to pension administration across all scheme employers in partnership with the fund so that all scheme members ultimately receive the highest standard of service in the most efficient and effective way possible.

4.0 Regulatory Framework

The development and implementation of an Administration Strategy is part of the regulatory frame work of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. These provide the conditions and regulatory guidance surrounding the production and implementation of an administration strategy.

Regulation 59 (1) enables an LGPS administering authority to prepare a document (“the pension administration strategy”) which contains the following:

- Procedures for liaison and communication with their relevant employing authorities.
- The establishment of levels of performance which the administering authority and the relevant employing authorities are expected to achieve in carrying out their functions under the LGPS by:-
 - The setting of performance targets;
 - The making of agreements about levels of performance and associated matters;
 - Such other means as the administering authority considers appropriate.
- Procedures which aim to secure that the administering authority and the relevant employers comply with the statutory requirements in respect of those functions and with any agreement about levels of performance.
- Procedures for improving the communication by the administering authority and the relevant employing authorities to each other of information relating to those functions.
- The circumstances in which the administering authority may consider giving written notice to a relevant employing authority on account of that employers unsatisfactory performance in carrying out its functions under these regulations when measured against levels of performance.
- Such other matters as appear to the administering authority to be suitable for inclusion in that strategy.

In addition, regulation 59(6) of the administration regulations also requires that where a pension administration strategy is produced, a copy is issued to each of the relevant employing authorities as well as to the Secretary of State. Similarly, when the strategy is revised at any future time the administering authority (after say a

material change to any policies contained within the strategy) must notify all of its relevant employing authorities and also the Secretary of State.

It is a requirement that, in preparing or revising any pension administration strategy, that the administering authority must consult its relevant employing authorities and such other persons as it considers appropriate.

In addition, regulation 70 of the Administration Regulations allows an administering authority to recover additional costs from the scheme employer where, in its opinion, they are directly related to the poor performance of that scheme employer. Where this situation arises the administering authority is required to give written notice to the scheme employer, setting out the reasons for believing that additional costs should be recovered, the amount of the additional costs, together with the basis on which the additional amount has been calculated.

The following strategy statement and the Service Level Agreement, sets out the information required in accordance with regulation 59(1) and forms the basis of the day to day relationship between Nottinghamshire Pension Fund. It also sets out the circumstances under regulation 70 where additional costs are incurred as a result of the poor performance of a scheme employer, together with the steps that would be taken before any such action were taken.

5.0 Nottinghamshire Local Pension Board

Pension governance rules introduced Pension Boards from April 2015.

The Nottinghamshire Local Pension Board has been appointed to assist the County Council, as administering authority, in securing compliance with legislation and any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator. It also assists in ensuring effective and efficient governance and administration of the scheme.

6.0 Key Objectives

The key objectives of this Strategy are to ensure that:

- The Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund and Scheme employers are aware of and understand their respective roles and responsibilities under the LGPS Regulations and in the delivery of administrative functions (largely defined in the Pensions Administration Service Level Agreement attached to this document);
- The Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund operates in accordance with LGPS Regulations and is aligned with the Pensions Regulator in demonstrating compliance and scheme governance;
- Communication processes are in place to enable both the Fund and Scheme employers to proactively and responsively engage with each other which includes the New Website and through the Employer Support and Compliance Team ;
- Accurate records are maintained for the purpose of calculating pensions entitlements and scheme employer liabilities, ensuring all information and

data is communicated accurately, on a timely basis and in a secure and compliant manner;

- The Fund and Scheme employers have appropriate skills and that training is in place to deliver a quality service and advise Scheme Employers on the changing pensions agenda;
- Standards are set and monitored for the delivery of specified activities in accordance with LGPS Regulations and minimum standards set out throughout the Pension Administration Service Level Agreement attached to this document.

7.0 Establishing Levels of performance.

Performance standards

The LGPS prescribes that certain decisions are taken by either the administering authority or the scheme employer, in relation to the rights and entitlements of individual scheme members. In order to meet these obligations in a timely and accurate manner, and also to comply with overriding disclosure requirements, the Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund should agree levels of performance between itself and the scheme employers which are set out in the service level agreement included in this strategy statement.

8.0 Quality

Legislation

In carrying out their roles and responsibilities in relation to the administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme the administering authority and scheme employers will, as a minimum, comply with overriding legislation, including:

- Pension Act 1995 and associated disclosure legislation;
- Freedom of information Act 2000;
- Age Discrimination Act 2006;
- Data Protection Act 1998;
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
- Finance Act 2004;and
- Health and Safety legislation.

Where agreed, the administering authority and scheme employers will comply with local standards which go beyond the minimum requirements set out in overriding legislation. Such best practice standards are outlined in the following sections.

9.0 Administration Standards

Both the administering authority and scheme employers will ensure that all tasks are carried out to agreed quality standards. In this respect the standards to be met are:

- Compliance with all requirements set out in the information provided on the LGPS Website;

- Work is to be completed in the required format, using the appropriate forms contained on the LGPS Website.
- Information to be legible and accurate in the require format;
- Communications to be easy to read and understand;
- Information provided to be checked for accuracy;
- Information to be authorised by an agreed signatory in line with the Scheme Employers Audit requirements;
- Actions carried out, or information provided, within the timescales set out in this strategy and Service Level Agreement document.

10.0 Performance Standards

Overriding legislation dictates minimum standards that pension schemes should meet in providing certain pieces of information to the various parties associated with the scheme. The scheme sets out a number of requirements for the administering authority and scheme employers to provide information to each other, on scheme members and prospective scheme members, dependents, or other regulatory bodies. Within the Service Level Agreement attached to this document performance standards have been proposed which cover all aspects of the administration of the scheme, and where appropriate going beyond the overriding legislative requirements.

For the avoidance of doubt “accuracy” in this strategy is defined as when we have received a completed form with no gaps in mandatory areas and with no information which is either contradictory within the document or which we need to query.

The timeliness relates to a date of event being either the date the member started or left the Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund or any other material change that affects a scheme member’s pension record.

11.0 Procedures for Compliance

Compliance is the responsibility of the administering authority and scheme employers. The Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund, Employer Support and Compliance Team will work closely with all scheme employers to ensure compliance with all statutory requirements, whether they are specifically referenced in the LGPS regulations, in overriding legislation, or in this Administration Strategy. The Pensions Administration Team will also work with employers to ensure that overall quality and timeliness is continually improved. Various methods will be employed, in order to ensure such compliance and service improvement, these will include:

- Audit
- Performance Monitoring

In addition where there is a failure of statutory compliance the Pensions Manager is required to update and inform the Pensions Regulator.

12.0 Liaison and Communication

12.1 Authorised contact for Employers

Each employer will nominate a contact to administer the five main areas of employer responsibilities within the LGPS

- A strategic contact for valuation, scheme consultation, discretionary statements
- Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure Stage 1.
- An administration contact for day to day administration of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund, undertaking the completing of forms and responding to day to day queries.
- Year End Activities.
- A Finance contact for completion and submission of the monthly postings and co-ordination of the exception reports.

All nominated officers will have access to the employer's area of the Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund website and as services change access to the employer's portal of the pension fund administration system once implemented (projected date April 2017).

It is the responsibility of the scheme employer that the nominated officers are trained appropriately in their responsibilities.

12.2 Liaison and Communication with employers

Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund will provide the following contact information for employers and their members:

- A contact point for regulatory advice, guidance and administration queries.
- Employer Support and Compliance Team for advice and guidance with monthly returns process.
- Helpline for members at certain points in the year e.g. helpline for ABS queries
- E mail address (generic).
- Pension fund access 8:00 to 5:00 Monday to Thursday 4:30 Friday face to face, telephone and e-mail – scheme members and scheme employers.
- Website availability with employers and members area.
- Employer and Member information and forms available on the website
- Annual year end briefing for year-end activities.
- Pension Fund Annual General Meeting.

13.0 Improving employer performance

The Employer Support and Compliance Team will seek, at the earliest opportunity, to work closely with employers in identifying any areas of poor performance, provide the opportunity for necessary training and appropriate advice.

Where persistent and ongoing failure has been identified and no improvement is demonstrated by an employer, to resolve the identified issue, the following sets out the steps that will be taken to address the situation in the first instance;

- The Pensions Team will contact and/ or meet with the employer to discuss the area(s) of concern and how they can be addressed.
- Where no improvement has been demonstrated by the employer, or where there has been a failure to take agreed action by the employer, the Pensions Team will issue a formal written notice to the employer setting out area(s) of poor performance that has been identified, the steps taken to resolve those area(s) and giving notice that the additional costs may now be reclaimed.
- Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund will clearly set out the calculations of any loss or additional costs, taking account of time and resources in resolving the specific area of poor performance; and
- Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund will make a claim against the scheme employer, setting out the reasons for doing so, in accordance with the regulations.

14.0 Circumstances where the Administering Authority may Levy Costs Associated with the Employing Authorities Poor Performance.

Regulation 70 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 provides that an administering authority may recover from an employing authority any additional costs associated with the administration of the scheme incurred as a result of the poor level of performance of that employing authority. Where an administering authority wishes to recover any such additional costs they must give written notice stating:-

- The reasons in their opinion that the scheme employer's poor performance contributed to the additional cost;
- The amount of the additional cost incurred;
- The basis on how the additional cost was calculated; and
- The provisions of the pension administration strategy relevant to the decision to give notice.

15.0 Circumstances Where Costs Might Be Recovered.

Any additional costs to the Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund in the administration of the LGPS that are incurred as a direct result of poor performance will be recovered from the scheme employer. The circumstances where such additional costs will be recovered from the Scheme Employer;

- Persistent failure to provide relevant information to the administering authority, scheme member or other interested party in accordance with specified performance targets (either as a result of timeliness of delivery or quality of information);
- Failure to pass relevant information to the scheme member or potential members, either due to poor quality or not meeting the agreed timescales outlined in the performance targets;

- Failure to deduct and pay over correct employee and employer contributions to the Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension fund within stated timescales;
- Instances where the performance of the scheme employer results in fines being levied against the administering authority by the Pension Regulator, Pensions Ombudsman or other regulatory body.

16.0 Calculation of Costs Incurred

For a persistent failure to resolve an isolated case satisfactorily the fund will recharge costs from the point in time at which we write a formal letter to the scheme employer until the case is resolved, at a rate yet to be agreed for each hour an officer spends trying to resolve the matter.

For persistent and ongoing failure to meet targets, following the intervention to assist the employer concerned, the fund will recharge the additional costs due to the employer's poor performance at the rate yet to be agreed, based on a total amount per officer hour spent on the activity. This would be based from the point in time that the formal letter is sent, until performance improves.

Where the performance of the scheme employer results in fines or additional costs being levied against the fund. The fund will recharge the full costs it has incurred to the relevant employer.

17.0 Disputes

The Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund has a clear internal disputes resolution procedure (IDRP) set out for members of the LGPS which can be found on the pension fund's website. Scheme employers are, however, required to nominate an adjudicator to deal with disputes at stage 1 of the process. Scheme employers are asked to supply the details of their stage 1 adjudicator to deal with disputes at stage 1 of the process. Scheme employers are asked to supply the details of their stage 1 adjudicator as part of their discretionary policy statement and should advise the fund immediately of changes made in this regard.

18.0 Consultation

Currently consulting employers of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund on the pension administration strategy. Following consultation and a report to Pensions Committee a finale document will be issued.

19.0 Review Process

The Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund will review the administration strategy to ensure it remains up to date and meets the necessary regulatory requirements at least every two years.

Service Level Agreement

Administering Authority Duties and Responsibilities

Responsibilities

Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund Administration Team will ensure the following functions are carried out:

- Provide a helpdesk facility for enquiries, available during normal office hours providing a single point of access for information relating to the LGPS. Along with a helpline at certain times of the year e.g. Annual Benefit Statement time.
- Create a member record for all new starters admitted to the LGPS, based on the information provided by the scheme employer.
- Collect and reconcile employer and employee contributions.
- Maintain and update member's records for any changes received by the administration team.
- At each actuarial valuation the fund will provide the required data in respect of each member and provide statistical information over the valuation period to the fund actuary so that he can determine the assets and liabilities for each employer.
- Communicate the results of the actuarial valuation to the fund to each employer.
- Provide every active, deferred and pension credit member with a benefit statement each year.
- Provide estimate of retirement benefits on request by the employer.
- Calculate and pay retirement benefits, deferred benefits and death in service benefits in accordance with LGPS rules, member's options and statutory limits on request by the employer.
- Comply with HMRC legislation.

Discretionary powers

The Nottinghamshire Local Government Pension Fund will ensure the appropriate Administration Authority policies are formulated, reviewed and publicised in accordance with scheme regulations.

Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure (IDRP)

The fund will nominate an adjudicator to deal with appeals at stage one where the appeal is against a decision the Pension Fund has made or is responsible for making.

Fund Performance Levels

A description of the performance activity and performance action and level of performance is identified in the table below:

Action	Timescale
Publish and review the administration strategy	Within one month of any agreed changes with employers, Pensions Committee and the Pensions Board
Website	Continual process of updating the members and employers information.
Issue and keep up to date all current forms for completion by either scheme members, prospective scheme members or scheme employers.	30 working days of any changes.
Issue and update administering authorities discretions within the scheme	Within 30 working days of policy being agreed by the Pensions Committee and the Pensions Board.
Notify scheme employers and scheme members of changes to the scheme rules	Within 30 working days of the change(s) coming into effect. Subject to receipt of statutory guidance.
Notify scheme employer of issues relating to scheme employers poor performance	Within 30 working days of performance issue becoming apparent.
Notify scheme employer of the decision to recover additional costs associated with the scheme employer's poor performance	Within 10 working days of scheme employer failure to improve performance, as agreed.
Issue annual benefit statements to active members as at 31 March each year	By the following 31 August subject to information from employers.
Issue annual benefit statements to deferred benefit members as at 31 March each year.	By the following 31 August. Subject to information from employers
Issue pension saving statements to active members who breach the Annual Allowance threshold as at 5 April and to members who request such.	By the following 6 October
Provide a helpline and telephone service to support members enquiries and questions	Ongoing and additional specific helpline at certain times of the year.

Fund Administration Task	Timescale
Make available formal Valuation results (including individual employer details)	10 working days from receipt of final certified results from fund actuary.
Carry out interim valuation exercise on cessation of admission agreements or scheme employer ceasing participation in the fund	Referral to the fund actuary within 1 month from receipt of all required data from the scheme employer.
Arrange for the setting up of separate admission agreement, where required (including the allocation of assets and notification to the secretary of state)	Within 3 months of agreement to set up such funds.
All new admitted bodies to be required to undertake a risk assessment and to put in place a bond or alternative security to protect other scheme employers participating in the pension fund	To be completed before the body can be admitted to the Fund.
All admitted bodies to undertake a review of the level of bond or indemnity required to protect the other scheme employers participating in the pension fund.	Annually, or such other period as may be agreed with the administering authority.

Scheme Administration Task	Timeline
New Starters – make all administration decisions in relation to a new scheme member	Within 2 month from receipt of all necessary information.
General Enquiries - Provide a response.	10 days from receipt of all necessary information.
Provide Transfer in quote to scheme member	2 month from receipt of all the necessary information
Confirm receipt of transfer in payment and update pension record.	1 month from receipt of all necessary information. Scheme member responsibility to chase the transfer.
Arrange for the transfer of scheme member additional voluntary contributions into in-house arrangement	2 month from receipt of all necessary information.
Provide requested estimates of benefits to employees/ employers including any additional fund costs in relation to early payment of benefits from ill health, flexible retirement, redundancy or business efficiency.	2 month from receipt of all necessary information. Subject to the demands of the service, prioritisation and statutory requirement to provide information'

Notify leavers of deferred benefit entitlements	Within 2 months of receipt of all necessary information.
Details of transfers out quotation	Within 2 month of receipt of all necessary information
Payment of Transfers out	1 Month from receipt of all necessary information
Notify retiring employees of options following request from member (as per retirement pack)	1 month of receipt of all necessary information.
Payment of retirement Lump Sum and Pension	Lump Sum paid within 30 days of retirement subject to receipt of necessary information. Pension to be paid in the next available pay run. Into the nominated bank account.
Death notifications – issue initial information, requesting certificates	Within 10 working days following notification of death.
Notification of survivor benefits	10 working days following receipt of all necessary information
Undertake Life Certificates checks with the DWP Operate the Tell us Once Service	Periodic.

Scheme Employer Duties and Responsibilities

Employers are responsible for ensuring that member and employer contributions are deducted at the correct rate, including additional contributions.

The Nottinghamshire Pension Fund is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of any information provided by the employer for the purpose of calculating benefits under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme. That responsibility rests with the employer.

Any over-payment as a result of inaccurate information being supplied by the employer shall be recovered from that employer at the discretion of the Administering Authority.

In the event of Nottinghamshire Pension Fund being fined by the Pensions Regulator, this fine will be passed onto the relevant employer where that employer's actions or inaction caused the fine.

Discretionary powers

The employer is responsible for exercising the discretionary powers given to employers by the regulations. The employer is also responsible for compiling, reviewing and publishing its policy in respect of the key discretions as required by the regulations to its employees and must provide a copy to the Admin Authority.

Member contribution bands

Employers are responsible for assessing and reassessing the contribution band that is allocated to a member. The employer must also inform the member of the band

that they have been allocated on joining the scheme and when they have been reallocated to a different band.

Payments & Charges

Payments by employing authorities

Employing authorities will make all payments required under the LGPS regulations, and any related legislation, promptly to Nottinghamshire Pension Fund and/or its Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) providers (Prudential/Scottish Widows) as appropriate.

Paying contributions

Member and employer contributions can be paid over at any time and should be accompanied by a monthly postings submission, the latest date contributions can be paid is the 17th day of the month following the month in which the deductions were made.

AVC deductions

Employers will pay AVCs to the relevant provider by the 17th of the following month of them being deducted.

Payment Method

Contributions (but not AVCs) should be paid to Nottinghamshire pension Fund by BACS payment to Nottinghamshire Pension Fund bank account.

Early retirement and augmentation costs

Employers are required to pay the full early retirement costs within 1 month of request.

Interest on late payment

In accordance with the LGPS regulations Nottinghamshire Pension Fund reserves the right to charge interest on any amount overdue from an employer by more than one month depending on circumstances.

Employer contributions

Employer's contribution rates are not fixed and employers are required to pay whatever is necessary to ensure that the portion of the fund relating to their organisation is sufficient to meet its liabilities.

Actuarial Valuation

An actuarial valuation of the fund is undertaken every three years by the funds actuary. The actuary balances the fund's assets and liabilities in respect of each employer and assesses the appropriate contribution rate and deficit payment if appropriate for each employer for the subsequent three years.

Administration Charge

The cost of running the Nottinghamshire pension fund is charged directly to the fund, the actuary takes these costs into account in assessing employer's contribution rates.

Employer activities

Communication Requirements – task	Timescale
Provide and publish policies in relation to all areas where the employing authority may exercise discretion within the scheme. A copy of the policy to be provided to the administrating authority	Within 30 working days of policy being formally agreed by the employer. To be reviewed annually.
Provide details of employer and employee contributions	17 of the month following deduction
Respond to enquiries from administering authority	Within 10 working days
Provide year end information for the purposes of annual benefit statements, annual allowance, and lifetime allowance calculations	By 30 April following the year end in the required format. (following the implementation of the employer portal information may be provided through the portal by April 2017)
Provide year end information in a valuation year.	By 30 April following the year end
Distribute information provided by the Admin Authority to scheme members/potential scheme members which is provided either direct from Pensions Office or where notified through the website.	Within 20 days of receipt or notification
Provide new scheme members with scheme information and new joiner forms	At appointment of employee or change in contractual conditions.
Inform the Pension Fund of all cases where prospective new employer or admitted body may join the fund.	Notify the Pension Fund at least 3 months before the date of transfer.
Payment of additional fund payments in relation to early payment of benefits.	Within 30 working days of receipt of invoice from the pension fund/ within timescales specified in each case.

Employer Responsibilities-Task	Timescale
New starters must be notified to the Pensions Office.	10 working days of the scheme member joining.
Arrange for the correct deduction of employee contributions from scheme members pensionable pay on becoming a scheme member.	Immediately upon commencing scheme membership either through auto enrolment opting in or change in circumstances.
Reassessment of employee contribution rate in line with employer's policy	Immediately following change of circumstances.
Ensure correct deduction of pension contributions during any period of child related leave, trade union dispute or other forms of leave of absence from duty.	Immediately, following receipt of election from scheme member to make the necessary pension contributions.
Commence/amend/cease deductions of additional pension contributions	Commence/ amend in month following election to pay contributions or notification received from administering authority, cease immediately following receipt of election from scheme member.
Employers are responsible for assessing and reassessing the contribution band that is allocated to an employee	The employer must inform the employee of the band have been allocated on joining the scheme and when they have been reallocated to a different band
Arrange for the deduction of AVCs and payment over of contributions to AVC provider(s)	Commence deduction of AVCs upon receipt of notification of provider. Pay over contributions to the AVC provider(s) by the 17th of the month following the month of election.
Refund any employee contributions when employees opts out of the pension scheme before 3 months	Month following month of opt out.
Cease deduction of employee contributions where a scheme member opts to leave the scheme.	Month following month of election, or such later date specified by the scheme member.
Send a completed end of year contribution return to enable the production of annual benefit statements, annual allowance and lifetime allowance calculations	By 30 April each year. (this process will change pending the implementation of an electronic employers portal)
Provide the administering authority with all material (personal and contract) changes in employee's details.	Within 10 days of the change.
Provide scheme leavers/retiree details to administering authority	Within 10 days of leaving.
Provide member estimate details.	At the point of request from the member.
To have access to an independent medical practitioner qualified in	Within one month of commencing participation in the scheme, and having

Occupational health medicine, in order to consider all ill health retirement applications as an employer	arrangements in place on an ongoing basis.
Appoint a nominated person for stage 1 of the pension dispute process and provide full details to the administering authority	Within 10 working days following the resignation of the current/ new employer to the fund “appointed person”.

Measuring performance

Both employer and administering authority performance will be measured and reported to the Pensions Committee and the Pensions Board at regular intervals.

Unsatisfactory performance

Where an employer materially fails to operate in accordance with standards described in this service level agreement, which leads to extra costs being incurred by the administering authority, the administering authority may issue a written notice to the employer requiring that these extra cost be met by the employer.

