

Transferring Benefits into the Scheme

This leaflet provides information on transferring previous pension rights into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

If you have previous pension rights, you may be able to transfer these to your current LGPS benefits. These could include rights from:

- a previous period of LGPS membership, or
- a previous employer's pension scheme, or
- a self-employed pension plan, or
- a 'buy-out' policy, or
- a personal pension plan, or
- a stakeholder pension scheme, or
- an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) arrangement

If you have previous LGPS pension rights in England or Wales

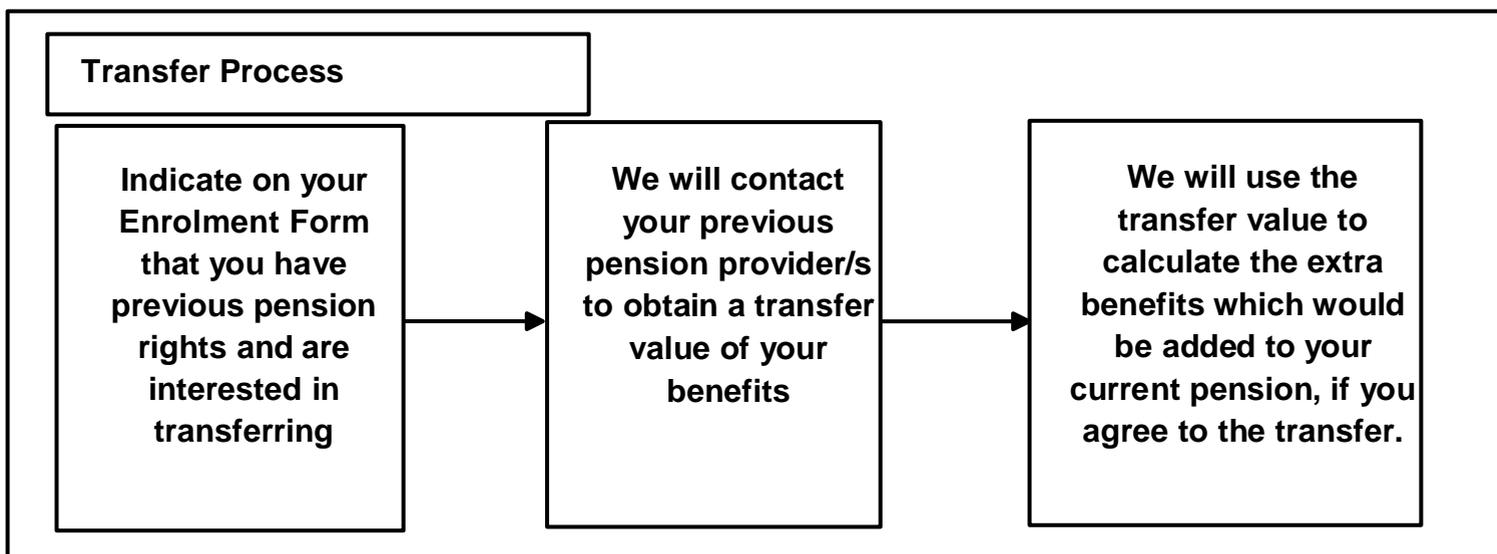
If you have re-joined the scheme in England and Wales, you may be able to combine your previous benefits with your current benefits. Please see the leaflet on 'Combining Benefits' for more information. Please note that the LGPS (England & Wales), LGPS (Scotland) and LGPS (Northern Ireland) are separate schemes. The process to follow when transferring benefits between those schemes (e.g. transferring benefits from LGPS (Scotland) to LGPS (England & Wales)) will be similar to the process for transferring benefits from non-LGPS schemes.

Pension Credits

You cannot transfer a pension credit into the LGPS. A pension credit is a share of an ex-spouse's or ex-civil partner's pension benefits, as awarded by a Court under a Pension Sharing Order, or by a qualifying agreement in Scotland, following a divorce or a dissolution of a civil partnership.

If your previous pension rights do not relate to the LGPS

You have only 12 months from first joining the scheme in your current employment to elect to transfer those pension rights, unless your employer and the administering authority allows longer at your request. This is a discretion and you can ask them what their policy is on this.



Transfer Process, continued

Any request you make to investigate a transfer is not binding until you have been supplied with full details of what the transfer payment will buy, and you have confirmed that you wish to proceed.

You will need to carefully consider whether to transfer or not, as a transfer may not always be to your advantage. You should consider what benefits you may be buying against what benefits you would be giving up.

Transferring your pension rights is not always an easy decision, and you may wish to seek the help of an independent financial adviser.

What happens if I elect to transfer?

Once you have made your decision and confirmed in writing that you wish to go ahead with the transfer, we will request payment from your previous provider. We will use the transfer value payment received to calculate the extra benefits in the LGPS. This could be in form of extra membership or extra annual pensions, depending on your situation. We will notify you once the transfer process is complete and confirm the extra benefits the transfer has purchased you.

You can find more information about transferring benefits into the LGPS in the Employee's Full Guide which you can find on our website.

This sheet is for general use and cannot cover every personal circumstance as its contents are based on our understanding of the legislation and events at the time. In the event of any dispute over your pension benefits, the appropriate legislation will prevail as this sheet does not confer any contractual or statutory rights and is provided for information purposes only.