

Pension Fund News



Welcome

Welcome to our first pension news page.

Fund Facts

- Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
- The LGPS is the largest defined benefit (DB) pension scheme in the UK, and one of the biggest in the world.
- SBC Pension Fund is one of 11 LGPS funds in Scotland and around 100 in the UK.
- The LGPS is a statutory scheme established under primary legislation – The Superannuation Act 1972 and Public Service Pension Act 2013. That means your scheme benefits are set out and protected by law.
- The scheme rules take the form of a series of regulations, The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations. The regulations are Scottish Statutory Instruments (SSIs)
- There are separate sets of regulations to set out the scheme benefits, investment arrangements and governance requirements.
- LGPS benefits are based on final salary for all service to 31 March 2015 and career average earnings for benefits from 1 April 2015. The member and employer pay contributions and the money is invested so that pension benefits can be paid as they become payable.
- Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund Committee are the main decision-making body for the Fund.
- The Fund are required to undertake a valuation every three years, the latest valuation will be signed off on 31st March 2024 and reflects an improved funding position, with the fund now being 134% funded (previously 110%).

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Active and Deferred Members

Please find below information regarding the registration of LGPS Member Self-Serve (MSS) to enable you to view your LGPS Pension Record. This portal is the quickest and easiest way to view your pension.

The portal allows you to perform adhoc retirement quotations, this interactive element allows you to compare the impact on pension payments when taking an alternative lump sum from the standard benefits, based on the data we have received from your employer at yearend. Please note 31 March 2024 data will not be finalised until June 2024.

The portal allows you to amend your Death Grant Nomination Details – this form gives us an indication as to who you would like us to pay should a death grant payment become payable when you die. If you have not done one yet or haven't reviewed it in a while log on to the portal and update your nomination.

If you haven't already done so please register for Member Self Service using one of the links below:

- LGPS Website:
<https://www.scottishborderscouncilpensionfund.org/>
- LGPS Member Self Service:
<https://scotborders.hostingsf.aquilaheywood.com>

Once registered you will be able to view your Annual Benefit Statement which can be found under Documents, My Documents. Please note other relevant documents may also be in this folder and I encourage you to check this area of the portal.

If you have any queries, please e-mail pensions@scotborders.gov.uk



Pension Members

We have a facility that allows Pensioners to sign up for access to view payslips online. If you wish to sign up for this, please email pensions@scotborders.gov.uk from your personal e-mail address with the following details:

- Employee Number
- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- National Insurance Number
- Home Address

I would encourage you to use this facility as we no longer issue payslips. You can also view your P60 on this platform also.

You will then be issued with a link to view your payslips.

McCloud Remedy

The Government changed the pension scheme rules in October 2023 following a legal ruling known as the “McCloud Remedy”. These changes will only affect the pension benefits of a small number of our members. You do not need to do anything – we will send you information if these changes affect your benefits.



Pension Increase 2024

Your Annual Pension Increase ensures that your pension is protection against inflation and keeps its value.

Based on Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) at the end of September 2023, the pension increase in 2024 is 6.7%

The increase is payable once you are 55, with some exceptions, if the pension is an ill health or dependants’ pension.

If you became a pensioner after 23 April 2023, you will only receive a proportion of the annual percentage increase. You will receive your first full percentage increase next year.

The increase takes effect from Monday 8 April 2024. Your April 2024 payslip will reflect one week of the increase. Your May payment will reflect the full increase. If you have a tax enquiry please contact HMRC **0300 200 3300** or visit www.hmrc.gov.uk

Cyber Security

It’s more important than ever to watch out for cyber scams and to keep your pension information safe. Remember, we will never cold call you – if you receive a phone call that you’re not sure about, don’t give out your personal details. Call us on **01835 826577**.

We will email you from time to time and the email may start with Dear Pensioner, Dear Member – this is because we can issue bulk correspondence from our Pension System – the email would come from Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund, pensions@scotborders.gov.uk

If in doubt, take your time, think about what you’re being asked and remember you can email us at pensions@scotborders.gov.uk or call our helpdesk **01835 826577**.

Membership

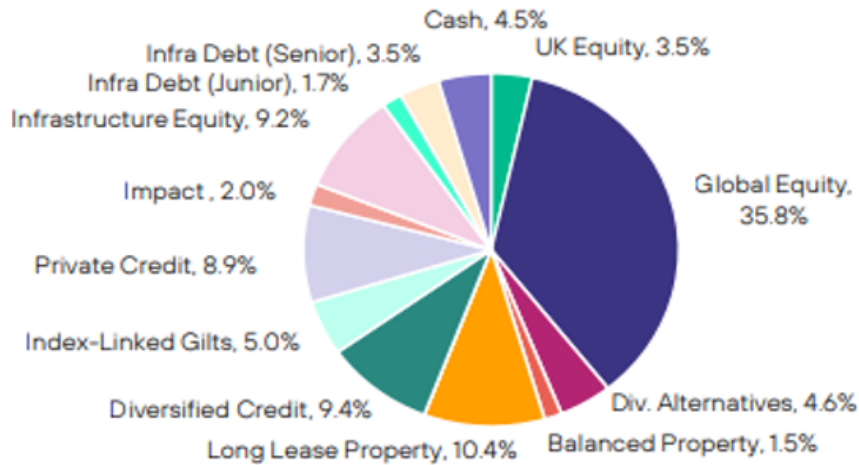
AS AT	ACTIVE	DEFERRED	PENSIONERS	TOTAL
31/03/2012	4,230	2,164	2,611	9,005
31/03/2023	4,842	3,187	4,532	12,561
Increase*	612	1,023	1,921	3,556

*Membership has increase in the last 11 years by 39.48%



Investments

Asset Allocation as at 31st December 2023



Monetary policy tightening and inflationary pressures dominated markets over 2023, with the “higher for longer” interest rate rhetoric driving a rise in gilt yields over the first three quarters of the year. Gilt yields reversed in Q4, as the prospect of a “soft landing” and an easing of monetary policy moving into 2024 increased.

Against this backdrop, the majority of the Fund’s mandates delivered positive absolute returns over both the quarter and 12-month period. Relative performance has been more mixed, with many of the mandates struggling against their cashbased objectives.

The Fund’s property mandates have delivered negative absolute returns over both the quarter and 12-month period, as capital valuations have declined due to the impact of higher interest rates.

Despite delivering positive absolute returns over the 12-month period, the UK Equity and Global Alpha mandates have struggled in relative terms as the manager’s growth style continues to be adversely impacted by rising interest rates. However, this trend reversed somewhat over Q4 as market optimism increased over the prospect of interest rate cuts in 2024.

The Fund received the preliminary results of the 2023 Actuarial Valuation in December 2023 – this showed a significant improvement in the Fund’s funding position (estimated to be 134% funded as at 31 March 2023). The finalised Actuarial valuation report will be received in March 2024. A review of the Fund’s investment strategy is due to take place in 2024 following receipt of the finalised results.

Contact us ...

Monday to Friday: **01835 826577**

email: pensions@scotborders.gov.uk

LGPS Website: <https://www.scottishborderscouncilpensionfund.org/>

LGPS Member Self Service: <https://scotborders.hostingsf.aquilaheywood.com>

Write to:

THE PENSIONS TEAM | Scottish Borders Council | Council HQ | Newtown St Boswells | TD6 0SA