



Leading pensions industry figures to debate future of the Local Government Pension Scheme

London, 22 January 2010 – Senior pensions industry figures are to join employer and union representatives to debate the future of the Local Government Pension Scheme in a symposium to be hosted by the London Pensions Fund Authority next month.

The half-day symposium, entitled "An affordable and sustainable LGPS", brings together a range of stakeholders to discuss ways to ensure the sustainability of the scheme, and seeks to develop a consensus on options for change. Speakers from the Local Government Association and the GMB union will be joined by pensions industry experts from the National Association of Pension Funds, Hymans Robertson, Barnett Waddingham, Record Currency Management and Eversheds, under the chairmanship of LPFA Chairman, Anthony Mayer.

Mike Taylor, Chief Executive of the LPFA, said:

"Stakeholders from all sides want to see changes to ensure the LGPS is sustainable and affordable for the future, but any action is in the hands of politicians. With a General Election looming we have been in no-change country for the last eight months and almost certainly the next four as well.

"This political vacuum presents an opportunity for those of us involved in running the LGPS to make a robust case for its sustainability. This event will enable all stakeholders to debate the real issues, and our hope is that this will mark the beginnings of a consensus on the best way forward. If this debate achieves such a consensus, it will be much harder for politicians – regardless of the result of the next election – to ignore."

The event will take place on the morning of Wednesday 24th February at the Greater London Authority building. LPFA Chairman Anthony Mayer will chair two panel sessions at the half day event, and also introduce the proceedings with a keynote speech.

The first panel aims to set out the issues facing the LGPS, looking at what it is for and what should it be for. Speakers on this panel include:

- Joanne Segars National Association of Pension Funds
- Neil Record The Public Sector Pensions Commission
- Douglas Anderson Hymans Robertson
- Ian Greenwood West Yorkshire Pension Fund

Joanne Segars will speak on the context of the LGPS in the wider pensions world, Neil Record on the place of public sector pensions in the UK economy, Douglas Anderson on how the LGPS' current position came to be and Ian Greenwood on the benefits of an affordable LGPS.

The second session will discuss alternative views on reform of the LGPS from the perspective of members, actuaries, lawyers and practitioners. Speakers on this panel include:

- Brian Strutton GMB - Britain's General Union
- Graham Muir Barnett Waddingham
- Gary Delderfield Eversheds
- Terry Edwards Local Government Association

Ends

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About the LPFA

The London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) administers a £3.5bn pension fund providing Local Government Pension Scheme benefits to almost 20,000 employees of 200 not-for-profit organisations and around 40,000 pensioners, many of whom used to work for the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority.

As well as administering its own fund, LPFA provides a comprehensive range of third party pension services from full administration and pensions payroll to staff placement, data cleanse projects, pension websites and benefit statements.

For more information see www.lpfa.org.uk or email communications@lpfa.org.uk