

## **New National LGPS Framework for Cost Transparency and Benchmarking Services goes live**

The National LGPS Frameworks team and the LGPS Advisory Board for England and Wales (SAB, the Board) are delighted to confirm that the new National LGPS Procurement Framework for Cost Transparency and Benchmarking Services is now live.

This is the first iteration of the Framework and the first partnership of its kind between the National LGPS Frameworks and the SAB.

It continues the Board's pivotal work on [the LGPS Code of Transparency](#), by establishing a Framework which will help the LGPS swiftly and easily access services enabling the collation, validation, reporting, analysis and benchmarking of investment cost data templates (primarily Cost Transparency Initiative (CTI) templates) from qualified providers.

Users of the Framework benefit from all the usual advantages of using a National LGPS Framework including access to high-quality, value-for-money services, pre-agreed Terms and Conditions and supporting documentation. With the agreement of the Board, this Framework will be free to join for all users.

Framework users will be able to procure services from two specialised Lots:

### **Lot 1. Investment Cost Data Collation and Reporting Services**

### **Lot 2. Investment Cost Data Analysis and Benchmarking Services**

Commenting on the launch, Councillor Roger Phillips OBE, Chair of the Scheme Advisory Board said:

*The Board is very pleased to have partnered with the National LGPS Frameworks team to establish this much needed framework. The LGPS Code of Transparency has instituted better clarity around investment costs since its inception in 2017 and contributes to the high standard of governance that is characteristic of the scheme. With the contract for the Board's centralised cost data system coming to an end in August 2026, the Board has decided that now is the right time to adopt a different approach. This new framework will enable LGPS clients to procure the services they need to collate, validate and/or analyse and benchmark their cost data via a simplified procurement process. Users will also have the assurance that their preferred provider(s) have been appropriately screened to meet the necessary requirements. The Board has agreed to make this framework free to join to reduce overall procurement costs and hopes that the framework will be of great benefit to LGPS clients across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.*

*The Board thanks all members of the Founders' group and the National LGPS Frameworks team for their time and contributions to this project.*

Jill Murray, Pensions, Investments and Accounting Manager at Scottish Borders Pension Fund added:

*Being part of the Founder's group has been a thoroughly positive experience, and I have really valued the opportunity to contribute to the development of the new framework for Cost Transparency and Benchmarking. Scottish Borders Pension Fund is strongly committed to collaboration across UK-wide LGPS funds to ensure we all benefit from the highest-quality service providers.*

Andrew Dobbie, National Officer for Capital Stewardship at UNISON said:

*UNISON pressed for comprehensive and consistent cost reporting in the LGPS for many years. We strongly support the Cost Transparency Initiative, including the LGPS Code of Transparency, and the reporting underpinning it. Funds and Pools have argued for less prescription in the format of reporting; we support trying this new approach to see whether it is effective in understanding and controlling costs. UNISON reps will continue to press for minimisation of management costs, all of which are paid from members' money in LGPS Funds. The hope for the new approach is that it reduces management costs and makes them more transparent, for those involved in Fund governance, for ordinary scheme members, and more broadly.*

The following organisations have worked together to establish this Framework, supported by the National LGPS Frameworks team, procurement and legal specialists from Norfolk County Council:

- Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board (SAB)
- Essex Pension Fund
- Lincolnshire Pension Fund
- Scottish Border Pension Fund
- South Yorkshire Pensions Authority
- Great Manchester Pension Fund
- Greater Gwent Pension Fund

Please note: the Board's [centralised data system](#) will be ending in August 2026. The SAB will continue to communicate with funds and pools with data on the system with reminders to extract data before the system closes down.

The National LGPS Frameworks are a collaboration of LGPS Funds and Pools who have been working together since 2012. By using the National LGPS Frameworks, LGPS Funds and Pools can save considerable time and money. Frameworks offer efficient, best practice, regulatory compliant access to a range of qualified specialist providers. By using a Framework individual LGPS stakeholders can still define local service requirements but at the same time leverage better prices. The LGPS is already collectively benefiting from more than £200m in savings by using the National LGPS Frameworks.

**If you are interested in using one of the National LGPS Frameworks or would just like to find out more, please email [nationalLGPSFrameworks@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nationalLGPSFrameworks@norfolk.gov.uk) call 01603 306846 or visit our website [www.nationallgpsframeworks.org](http://www.nationallgpsframeworks.org)**

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### Notes for Editors

The following Service Providers have been appointed to the National LGPS Framework for Cost Transparency and Benchmarking Services:

| Provider                 | Lot 1 – Investment Cost Data Collation and Reporting Services | Lot 2 – Investment Cost Data Analysis and Benchmarking Services |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Byhiras                  | X                                                             |                                                                 |
| Caceis Investor Services | X                                                             | X                                                               |
| CEM Benchmarking UK Ltd  | X                                                             | X                                                               |
| ClearGlass               | X                                                             | X                                                               |

### ‘By the LGPS, for the LGPS’

The National LGPS Frameworks are open to all LGPS Funds, LGPS Pools and Administering Authorities and the wider public sector nationally for the procurement of pensions related services from a wide range of specialist qualified providers.

### Frameworks available include:

- Actuarial, Benefits and Governance Consultancy Services
- Additional Voluntary Contribution Services and Consultancy Services associated with AVCs
- Global Custody Services
- Investment Management Consultancy Services
- Integrated Service Providers (ISP) and Member Data Services
- Legal Services
- Pensions Administration Software
- Stewardship Services
- Transition Management Services

**For more information about the National LGPS Frameworks please contact:**

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