

Councillor Pensions  
Department of Communities and Local  
Government  
Zone 5/F5  
Eland House  
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Our ref.: Pens/AGS  
Your ref.: Councillor Pens Z5/F5  
Date: 5 July 2013

Dear Sir /Madam,

**Taxpayer-funded pensions for Councillors and  
other elected local office holders**

This is the response from Avon Pension Fund to the consultation on the proposals for elected members being members of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

As the decision whether to retain in the scheme or not should be considered by individual councils, this response puts forward comments relating to administration should membership be continued under options 2 or 3.

The new scheme commencing in April 2014 is adopting a career average scheme going forward. The existing arrangement for Councillors is has also been career average but with a different method of calculation. If it is decided to continue then it should be based on the same benefit calculations as the main scheme thus simplifying the process.

If membership is only to be allowed under Option 2 and as there would only be a limited number of elected members involved whose allowances mirror pay for main scheme members, then it would be preferable for such elected members to become included as part of the main scheme regulations.

Both of these suggestions would simplify the pension administration process whilst at the same time harmonising the benefits for both main scheme and elected members.

Yours faithfully

Alan South  
Technical Manager  
Avon Pension Fund