

Bexley Pensioners

2007

Welcome to "Pensioners", your annual newsletter containing details of your pension increase, pension pay dates and other interesting information.



Pension Increase – 3.6%

The Government has approved the rate of increase for all public service pensions and state scheme benefits. The increase is effective from 9th April 2007 and is 3.6%.

The increase is set by reference to the Retail Price Index for the twelve-month period to September 2006. It does not reflect the performance of the Bexley Pension Fund and we do not have the power to pay any additional increase.

Your pension will be increased by the relevant amount with effect from Monday 9th April 2007 if you:

- Are aged 55 years or over, or
- Are receiving a spouse's, widower's, beneficiary's or child's pension, or
- Retired on ill health grounds.

If you do not fall into one of these groups, your pension will attract the increase, but it will be accumulated with any previous increases and the new rate will be paid with effect from your 55th birthday.

If payment of your pension commenced on or after the 25th April 2006 it will be increased in line with the percentages shown in the table opposite. However, if the pension is based on the calculation of benefits from an earlier period, your pension will receive the full percentage increase.

If your pension is currently suspended due to re-employment, any increase will not be paid until it is reinstated.

Amount of pension increase

If your pension began on or before 24th April 2006 your pension increase is 3.6%. If your pension began after this date a smaller, pro-rata, increase will apply as shown:

Pensions Increases Starting...	Payable
25th April 2006 to 24th May 2006	3.30%
25th May 2006 to 24th June 2006	3.00%
25th June 2006 to 24th July 2006	2.70%
25th July 2006 to 24th August 2006	2.40%
25th August 2006 to 24th September 2006	2.10%
25th September 2006 to 24th October 2006	1.80%
25th October 2006 to 24th November 2006	1.50%
25th November 2006 to 24th December 2006	1.20%
25th December 2006 to 24th January 2007	0.90%
25th January 2007 to 24th February 2007	0.60%
25th February 2007 to 24th March 2007	0.30%

Pension Pay Dates 2007/08

Monthly pension payments will be made on the following dates:

Pay Days	
26th April 2007	25th October 2007
31st May 2007	29th November 2007
28th June 2007	20th December 2007
26th July 2007	24th January 2008
30th August 2007	28th February 2008
27th September 2007	27th March 2008

Payday is the last Thursday of each month except December and January when it is a week earlier.





Remember:

- The increase will be paid with your April pension payment.
- We will send you a letter in April normally with your April pay slip, setting out the amount of the increase to your Local Government Pension and the new annual value.
- Pension Increase is calculated on the annual pension in payment at the end of March 2007, less any Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP). The Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) will pay any increase due on your GMP as an addition to your state retirement pension. A leaflet explaining GMP is available from the DWP, telephone 0845 30 30335 (GMP usually applies to those pensions which arose as a result of employment between 6th April 1978 and 5th April 1997).
- Your P60 (certificate of earnings and income tax) will be sent to you by the end of April, normally together with your pay slip and pension increase letter. Retain your P60, as you will need it should you be asked to complete a self-assessment return.
- When you receive a new tax code from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), please check your next monthly pension pay slip to verify that we have applied the same code.

Re-employment

If you are considering, or have taken up new employment, you should contact the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) and they will be able to advise you as to whether this will affect the pension that we pay you. These 'rules' only apply if the employment is with an organization that is subject to the rules of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Pension Service

This is a dedicated service for current and future pensioners and is part of the Department for Works and Pensions. Their website contains a wealth of information for individuals about pensions and other pensioner benefits in the UK, whether you are planning for the future, are about to retire, or have already retired. They also provide detailed information about the State Pension. Visit www.thepensionsservice.gov.uk or call 0845 606 0265.

Winter Fuel Payments

This annual Government payment is to help older people with their winter heating bills. Many people will get the payment automatically and do not have to claim. If you got a Winter Fuel Payment last winter, you should automatically get one this winter as long as your circumstances have not changed. For more information call the Winter Fuel Payment helpline on 08459 15 15 15 (0845 601 5613 for textphone users). Lines are open from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday. Charges are the same as for local calls.

The Pension Service website mentioned above gives detailed information about the Winter Fuel Payment, explaining who can apply, how much it is, and how to apply for it.

What is Pension Credit?

Pension Credit is an entitlement for people aged 60 or over living in Great Britain. This could mean extra money for you every week. If you do not currently receive Pension Credit and want to find out if you qualify, or just wish to apply call 0800 99 1234. Lines are open Monday to Friday between 8.00am - 8.00pm and Saturdays 9.00am - 1.00pm, or visit the Pensions Service website mentioned above.

You may also be entitled to additional benefits such as Council Tax or Housing Benefit depending on your income and circumstances.

To make sure you are not missing out on any benefits to which you may be entitled call the Pension Credit Application Line on 0800 99 1234, or contact your Local Council.

Did you know ...

There is a Bexley Council Retired Employee's Association. To find out more, contact Mr. or Mrs. Nicholson, telephone 020 8302 1017. New members are always welcome!

Charity Giving Through Payroll

The Council has established a Payroll Giving Scheme to allow employees and pensioners to make donations to charity through deductions from their pay or pension. If you are interested call the TOPS Section.

Change of Details

If you move address, change your bank /building society account or have any other change affecting your pension, please notify the TOPS Section immediately in writing.

Contact points:

Calculation and Administration of Pensions

London Pensions Fund Authority
Dexter House
2 Royal Mint Court
London EC3N 4LP
Telephone: 020 7369 6247
Or e-mail: bexley@lpfa.org.uk

(Please have your national insurance number to hand.)

Payment of Pension

Bexley Council
TOPS Section
Hill View
Hill View Drive
Welling
Kent DA16 3RY
Telephone: 020 8836 8042
Or e-mail: glenys.arney@bexley.gov.uk

(Please have your national insurance number and/or your employee number to hand.)

If you include your telephone number and/or email address in any correspondence this would help us to answer your enquiries swiftly.

Your Tax Office

HM Revenue & Customs
Northeast Metropolitan Area
Fountain Court
119 Grange Road
Middlesbrough TS1 2XA
Telephone: 0845 302 1414

Please quote Bexley Tax Reference number 120/LB18 and your National Insurance number.

To receive a copy of this Newsletter in large print format, or to provide feedback on the Newsletter, please write to:

Carole O'Shaughnessy
TOPS Section
Hill View
Hill View Drive
Welling
Kent DA16 3RY
Telephone: 020 8836 8041

Or e-mail:
carole.oshaughnessy@bexley.gov.uk

If you would like to know more about the services the Council provides, or would like either a translation of this document or the information in a different format, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 020 8303 7777 and press 0, quoting reference: 508970/03.2007

