

Memorandum of Understanding regarding compliance with Data Protection Law between Shropshire County Pension Fund and its participating Scheme Employers

1 Introduction

1.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in England and Wales is an occupational pension scheme registered under section 153 of the Finance Act 2004 and its rules are currently set out in The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/2356) as amended (LGPS Regulations).

1.2 The LGPS is administered locally by administering authorities which are defined in Regulation 2 of the LGPS Regulations and listed in Part 1 of Schedule 3 of the LGPS Regulations.

1.3 Shropshire Council (Administering Authority) is an administering authority under the LGPS Regulations. The Administering Authority manages and administers the Shropshire County Pension Fund within the LGPS (the Fund) in accordance with its statutory duty under Regulation 53 of the LGPS Regulations. Employers employing employees who are eligible to be members of the LGPS will participate in the Fund as a Scheme Employer (as defined in schedule 1 of the LGPS Regulations). The Administering Authority and the Scheme Employer (together the Parties) are required to share personal data relating to the Scheme Employer's current and former employees who participate in the Fund (the Members) and their dependants, beneficiaries and/or potential beneficiaries, in order for the Administering Authority to fulfil its statutory duties to manage and administer the Fund under Regulation 53 of the LGPS Regulations and provide the Members with benefits upon retirement, pay ill-health benefits, pay death grants, pay survivors' pensions to Members' spouses, civil partners and co-habiting partners, pay children's pensions upon the death of the Member, offer Members the option of paying additional voluntary contributions to one or more providers in accordance with Regulations 1 – 52 of the LGPS Regulations.

1.4 Scheme Employers are under a statutory obligation, as detailed in Regulation 80 of the LGPS Regulations, to provide certain personal data relating to its Members on an annual basis to the Administering Authority, including the Member's name, gender, date of birth, national insurance number, pensionable pay for both the 2008 and 2014 Schemes, employer and employee pension contributions, details of any additional pension contributions and additional voluntary contributions. Full details of the specific requirements of the format, timing and accuracy of the data to be provided by Scheme Employers to the Administering Authority can be found in the Administration Strategy Statement found on the Fund's website www.shropshirecountypensionfund.co.uk.

1.5 This Memorandum of Understanding sets out:

- (a) the basis on which personal data will be shared between the Parties; and
- (b) the Administering Authority's expectations of the Scheme Employer during its participation in the Fund;

in order to comply with Data Protection Law, including the General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) as amended and incorporated into a UK law under the UK

European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. For the avoidance of doubt, the commitments set out in this Memorandum of Understanding only apply in respect of personal data shared between the Parties

Administering Authorities should note that the Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding. There are alternatives to issuing the Memorandum of Understanding, for example the Administering Authority could request that all Scheme Employers in the Fund sign a data protection agreement, which would be legally binding. Administering Authorities may wish to seek legal advice to assist them in deciding what documentation to put in place to comply with GDPR. In particular, GDPR requires specific contractual terms to be put in place with processors and requires that particular arrangements be put in place between joint controllers. This template assumes the Parties are separate controllers.

References to “Data Protection Law” in this Memorandum of Understanding mean the UK Data Protection Act 2018, the Electronic Communications Data Protection Directive (2002/58/EC) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 (SI 2426/2003) (each as amended and incorporated into the law of England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), the GDPR and all applicable laws and regulations relating to personal data and privacy which are enacted from time to time, including (where applicable) the guidance and codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner’s Office and any other competent authority. References in this Memorandum of Understanding to the “GDPR” are to the General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) as amended and incorporated into the laws of England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland under the UK European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, but also include a reference to the underlying EU regulation itself if and to the extent that it is applicable.

2 Controllers

2.1 The Parties acknowledge that they will:

- (a) not hold a pool of joint data;
- (b) be separate and independent controllers in relation to the copies of the ‘Members’ personal data they respectively hold and/or otherwise process;
- (c) each act as independent controllers in relation to personal data transferred to them;
- (d) each be responsible for complying with the requirements in Data Protection Law that are applicable to them as independent controllers.

2.2 References to ‘Members’ personal data includes personal data relating to the ‘Members’ dependants (including children) spouses/civil partners (where applicable), beneficiaries and/or potential beneficiaries.

3 Data sharing

3.1 The Parties confirm that they understand their respective obligations under Data Protection Law as controllers and agree to only process personal data relating to the Members:

- (a) transparently, fairly and lawfully and in accordance with the data protection principles set out in Data Protection Law;

- (b) where there are lawful grounds for doing so; and
- (c) in accordance with Data Protection Law and best practice guidance (including the Data Sharing Code of Practice issued by the Information Commissioner's Office and updated from time to time).

3.2 Each Party will separately inform the Members (as required under Data Protection Law) of the respective purposes for which they will each process their personal data and provide all required information to ensure that the Members understand how their personal data will be processed in each case by the Administering Authority or Scheme Employer (as applicable). The Scheme Employer's privacy notice to Members will inform them that their personal data will be provided to the Administering Authority and a copy of that notice will be provided to the Administering Authority on request.

3.3 When sharing personal data, including for any onward transfers of personal data, the Parties shall ensure that they have a lawful basis for doing so.

3.4 To the extent any Scheme Employer or Administering Authority makes any transfer or personal data outside of the UK or European Economic Area, it shall ensure compliance with Chapter 5 of the GDPR and the principles set out in the judgment issued by the Court of Justice of the European Union on July 16, 2020 (case C-311/18; "Schrems II").

3.5 In the event that a Scheme Employer or Administering Authority collects, uses or otherwise processes Special Category Personal Data, or Criminal Convictions Data, it shall comply with all of the requirements under Data Protection Law, as applicable. This includes ensuring that a condition for the processing of this data has been satisfied.

3.6 Each Party shall ensure that it:

- a) only collects, uses or otherwise processes personal data for a specific and limited purpose;
- b) has measures in place to ensure that personal data remains accurate and up-to-date; and
- c) ensures that all staff who have access to the personal data are properly trained in the handling of personal data.

3.7 Each Party confirms that it understands its respective obligations under Data Protection Law, to ensure that the 'Members' personal data of which it is a controller is kept and used securely at all times and to take such technical and organisational security measures against unauthorised and unlawful processing of, accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to the 'Members' personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed as may be required. Such measures will have due regard to the state of technological development and the cost of implementation of these measures, to ensure a level of security appropriate to the harm that might result from such processing and the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing the 'Members' personal data and the risk or likelihood and severity for the rights and freedoms of data subjects. Such measures will ensure:

- (a) the ongoing confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of processing the 'Members' personal data;

- (b) the ability to restore the availability and access to the 'Members' personal data in a timely manner in the event of a physical or technical incident;
- (c) carrying out of regular testing, assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organisational measures for ensuring the security of the processing.

3.8 Each Party undertakes to notify the other as soon as practicable if an error is discovered in the 'Members' personal data of which it is a controller and which was received from or a copy of which has been provided to the other Party, to ensure that such other Party is then able to correct its own records. This will happen whether the error is discovered through existing data quality initiatives or is flagged up through some other route (such as the existence of errors being directly notified to the Administering Authority or Scheme Employer (as appropriate) by the Member's (or the Member's dependants, spouse/civil partner) themselves).

4 Transfer of Members' personal data

4.1 The Parties agree that Members' personal data will only be transferred from one Party to the other via an acceptable method specified by the Administering Authority which may include any of the following:

- (a) i-Connect data transfer service (Internet based application)
- (b) secure email
- (c) paper forms signed by an authorising officer from the employer
- (d) password protected excel spreadsheet

4.2 Each Party will, when transferring the Members' personal data of which it is the controller to the other Party, ensure that that data is secure during transit (whether physical or electronic).

4.3 If either the Administering Authority or the Scheme Employer appoints professional advisers, third party administrators or another entity which provides other services involving the transfer of Members' personal data, those third parties will be processors or controllers in their own right. The Administering Authority or the Scheme Employer (as applicable) will comply with its own obligations in accordance with Data Protection Law (in particular, by requiring any such entity to which it transfers Members' personal data to also comply with Data Protection Law) and shall ensure that that nothing in the terms of engagement between the Administering Authority or the Scheme Employer (as applicable) and such third party would contradict this Memorandum of Understanding.

5 Rights of members (including the Member's dependants, spouses/civil partners (where applicable))

5.1 Each Party shall, in respect of the personal of which it is a controller, respond to any requests from Members to have access to or exercise any of their other rights under Data Protection Laws in relation to any of their personal data or a complaint or enquiry relating to that Party's processing of the Members' personal data received by that Party in line with its own obligations under the Data Protection Law. Such requests, complaints or enquiries should be directed to the individuals named in 9 below.

5.2 Each Party agrees to provide reasonable assistance to the other as is necessary to enable the other Party to comply with any such requests in respect of Members' personal data of which that Party is a controller and to respond to any other queries or complaints from Members.

6 Data security breaches and reporting procedures

6.1 Each Party confirms that it understands its respective obligations under Data Protection Law in the event of any personal data breach, unauthorised or unlawful processing of, loss or destruction of or damage to any of the Members' personal data, including (where necessary) an obligation to notify the Information Commissioner's Office and/or the Member(s).

7 Additional responsibilities of scheme employers

7.1 Notwithstanding the statutory obligations which apply to Scheme Employers under the LGPS Regulations and as a controller under Data Protection Law, the Administering Authority, as Administering Authority for the Fund, expects Scheme Employers participating in the Fund to comply with the responsibilities set out below in relation to Members' personal data.

7.2 On request, the Scheme Employer will inform the data protection officer ("DPO") at the Administering Authority of any appointed qualified person to fulfil the role of DPO together with their contact details. If the Scheme Employer has not appointed a DPO, the Scheme Employer, on request, will inform the ("DPO") at the Administering Authority of the details of a nominated person for GDPR compliance purposes. The Administering Authority's DPO is Roy Morris and can be contacted on 01743 252774.

7.3 The Scheme Employer acknowledges the financial penalties that can be imposed by the Information Commissioner's Office in relation to breaches of Data Protection Law and will inform the Administering Authority as soon as they become aware that the Scheme Employer may be liable to pay such a financial penalty. The Scheme Employer further acknowledges that any liability it may have to pay a financial penalty to the Information Commissioner's Office may result in a revision of the rates and adjustments certificate in accordance with Regulation 62(7) of the LGPS Regulations.

8 Compliance with the memorandum of understanding

8.1 Failure by the Scheme Employer to comply with the terms set out in this Memorandum of Understanding may result in the Administering Authority taking any or all of the following actions:

- (a) Reporting the Scheme Employer's non-compliance to the Information Commissioner's Office;
- (b) Reporting the Scheme Employer non-compliance of the Scheme Regulation to the Pensions Regulator if it is deemed that any breaches of the law has accorded.

9 Contacts In line with the Administration Strategy Statement each employer must identify a key person within their organisation who is responsible for assisting with

queries, correspondence and notification including requests made pursuant to 5.1.
The contact details of the Administering Authority are below:

Shropshire County Pension Fund
Email: pensions@shropshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01743 252130
Postal address: Pensions, PO Box 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ

10 Review and amendment of memorandum of understanding

10.1 The Administering Authority will review the Memorandum of Understanding annually. The Administering Authority also reserves the right to amend the Memorandum of Understanding at any time and with immediate effect and will provide a copy of such amendments and the updated memorandum to the Scheme Employer.

Version 2: valid from 20 September 2021

Review date: September 2022

11 Contact details

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this document, please contact the Fund at the following:

- 1 [Pensions, PO Box 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ](#)
Email: Pensions@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252130

Web: www.shropshirecountypensionfund.co.uk