

60-second summary

LGPS - 2024 General Election pledges



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As we head towards polling day on 4 July, the main political parties have revealed their respective manifestos. We've summarised below the commitments that are most relevant to the LGPS and local authorities, in their own words (save for some minor editing to help the reader!).

You can click on the manifesto links if you'd like more detail.

Conservative Party

Under a new Pensions Tax Guarantee, no new taxes on pensions will be introduced. The 25% tax-free lump sum will be maintained, as will tax relief on pension contributions at their marginal rate. National Insurance will not be extended to employer pension contributions.

Family homes will be protected from higher tax. Under the Family Home Tax Guarantee, the number of council tax bands will not increase. There will be no council tax revaluation or cut to council tax discounts.

Strong academy trusts will be expanded, building on the record to date, where half of all state-funded schools are now academies and over 700 free schools have been delivered, with more in the pipeline.

Labour Party

Reforms to workplace pensions will be adopted to deliver better outcomes for UK savers and pensioners and a pensions review will consider what further steps are needed to improve security in retirement, as well as to increase productive investment in the UK economy.

Public investment, where it supports and de-risks additional private investment, is one important tool being used successfully across the world. It can create good jobs across the country and would mean British taxpayers can reap the benefits of economic growth. To realise these opportunities, a National Wealth Fund will be established.

Act to increase investment from pension funds in UK markets. Reforms will be adopted to ensure that workplace pension schemes take advantage of consolidation and scale, to deliver better returns for UK savers and greater productive investment for UK PLC. A review of the pensions landscape will be undertaken to consider what further steps are needed to improve pension outcomes and increase investment in UK markets.

Make the UK the green finance capital of the world, mandating UK-regulated financial institutions – including banks, asset managers, pension funds, and insurers – and FTSE 100 companies to develop and implement credible transition plans that align with the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.

To provide greater stability, give councils multi-year funding settlements and end wasteful competitive bidding. Provide capacity and support to councils and overhaul the local audit system, so taxpayers get better value for money.

Liberal Democrats

Give everyone the chance to enjoy a decent retirement by developing measures to end the gender pension gap in private pensions and ensure working-age carers can save properly for retirement.

Regulate financial services to encourage climate-friendly investments, including requiring pension funds and managers to show that their portfolio investments are consistent with the Paris Agreement, and create new powers for regulators to act if banks and other investors are not managing climate risks properly.

Tackle the funding crisis facing local authorities, including by providing multi-year settlements. End the top-down reorganisation of councils and the imposition of elected mayors on communities that don't want them.

Scottish National Party

Oppose any further increases in the state pension age and oppose any acceleration of planned changes or further increases in the state pension age.

Green Party

Equate the rate of pension tax relief with the basic rate of income tax to help fund the social care that will allow elderly and disabled people on low incomes to live in dignity.

Non-bank financial institutions, such as UK pension funds, investment funds, mutual funds, brokers and insurance companies that sell policies in the UK, will need to remove fossil fuel assets from their investment portfolios, securities transactions and balance sheets by 2030. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) will develop targets to eliminate all equities relating to fossil fuel exploitation from the UK stock market and will immediately prohibit the issuing of any new shares for those purposes.

Academies and free schools will be moved into local authority control.

Reform Party

Tighter regulation and a New Ownership Model for Critical National Infrastructure. Launch a new model that brings 50% of each utility into public ownership. The other 50% would be owned by UK pension funds, benefiting from new expertise and better management.

Review the current pensions system, which is riddled with complexity, huge cost and poor returns leading to less uptake.

Plaid Cymru / Party of Wales

Review the provision of non-universal or automatic benefits to understand which can be made easier to access through auto-enrolment or through informational campaigns, as well as assisting advice organisations and local authorities to better promote these benefits to people who may be eligible.

Count Binface

Pensions to be double-locked, but with a little extra chain on the side.

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