

# PENSIONERS NEWSLETTER

Issue number 46

April 2016

## PENSIONS INCREASE

This year's annual rate of pension increase (PI) is 0%. There will therefore not be a change to your annual pension amount in April 2016.

## PENSIONS INCREASE 2016 – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### How is the up-rating for my pension decided?

Public service pensions are increased under the provisions of the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 and Section 59 of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975 and the increase is set by HM Treasury.

The Social Security Pensions Act 1975 provides for public service pensions to be up-rated based on the September-to-September increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Therefore, the September 2015 CPI has been used for up-rating pension for April 2016.

The September 2015 CPI was -0.1%, which is why there is no increase. Fortunately your pension will not be reduced by the negative increase either.

## STATE PENSION CHANGES

### Who gets the new State Pension

The new State Pension scheme has been introduced for people who reach State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016.

You'll be able to claim the new State Pension if you're:

- a man born on or after 6 April 1951
- a woman born on or after 6 April 1953

If you were born before these dates, you'll get your State Pension under the old rules instead.

Further information can be found from the Government's website.

State pension under the old rules:

[www.gov.uk/state-pension](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension)

State pension under the new rules:

[www.gov.uk/yourstatepension](http://www.gov.uk/yourstatepension)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION BOARD

The next Local Government Pension Board meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The board will be considering the communications strategy at this meeting. Your pensioner representative will provide a report for you in the next newsletter.

## SUFFOLK FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION BOARD

The Firefighters' Pension Board meets twice a year. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7 July 2016.

The minutes and agendas for these meetings are available on the following website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/the-council-and-its-committees/committees/firefighters-pension-board/>

## TAX CODE CHANGE?

You may have received a letter from the tax office notifying you of your new tax code for the tax year 2016/17 and telling you that you need to inform us.

The tax office sends us the details electronically so there is no need to inform us. If you have any queries about tax, please refer to the tax office in the first instance on 0300 200 3300.

## PENSION PAY DAYS

If you are in receipt of a local government pension or a teachers compensatory pension you are paid monthly in arrears.

If you are a fire pensioner from the 1992 Fire Scheme you are paid in advance.

If you are a fire pensioner from the 2006 Fire Pension Scheme you are paid monthly in arrears.

Your payment dates for the next 6 months will be as follows:

<b>Local Government or Teachers Compensatory or 2006 Fire Scheme Pension</b>	<b>1992 Fire Scheme</b>
29/04/2016	29/04/2016
31/05/2016	01/06/2016
30/06/2016	01/07/2016
29/07/2016	01/08/2016
31/08/2016	01/09/2016
30/09/2016	30/09/2016
31/10/2016	01/11/2016

## NEXT TIME

The next newsletter is scheduled for October 2016.

If you have any comments or suggestions for anything you'd like to see covered in the newsletter, please let us know.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** - If you have any questions or concerns about the pension you receive from Suffolk County Council, please write to:-  
The Pensions Team, Constantine House, 5 Constantine Road, IPSWICH, IP1 2DH.  
Telephone 03456 053000.  
Email: [pensions@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pensions@suffolk.gov.uk)  
Or visit our website: [www.suffolkpensionfund.org](http://www.suffolkpensionfund.org)