

Press release: Embargo - not for release before 12 January 2015.

National Procurement Framework for LGPS Legal Services Launches

A new national legal services procurement framework for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Funds launches on 12 January 2015.

Accessing legal advice can be difficult for LGPS Funds, particularly those that don't regularly need these services and may be unfamiliar with the marketplace.

The National LGPS Framework for Legal Services offers an easy procurement route to a range of specialist, qualified legal services providers, chosen for their specific pensions and investment expertise.

The framework is open not only for all LGPS Funds and employing authorities nationally but for wider public sector pension bodies too.

Funds can use the framework to procure legal services matched to their own specific requirements; from small, one-off pieces of work to longer-term, single supplier arrangements. There are separate Lots for 'Full Service', 'Investment' and 'Benefit Administration' split between England and Wales, and Scotland where required.

All participating Funds will benefit from pre-agreed Terms and Conditions and ceiling prices established under the framework, along with a collaborative rebate.

The National LGPS Frameworks are a result of collaboration between a number of LGPS Funds, which already has similar frameworks in place for Actuarial and Benefit Consultancy, Global Custody and Investment Services – open to all LGPS Funds.

The frameworks allow quicker and more efficient access to high-quality pension fund services by removing the need to independently undertake a full European Union (OJEU) equivalent procurement.

They are a response to the need within the LGPS to constantly seek ways of delivering statutory services better, faster and cheaper - enabling the LGPS to leverage its combined buying power while crucially still supporting local decision making and service requirements.

“Already a third of LGPS Funds have signed up to use the National LGPS Frameworks” said Nicola Mark, Chair of the National LGPS Frameworks group “Although they are still in their relative infancy, the frameworks are already proving their worth in terms of procurement efficiency and buying power, with estimated savings of £7.9m so far.”

The success of the initiative has been recognised at several industry award ceremonies – most recently at the 2014 LGC Investment Awards, picking up the prize for ‘Innovation and Cost Efficiency’.

The National LGPS Frameworks are directly in line with the Government’s agenda for delivering greater value for money.

As part of their ‘LGPS Opportunities for Collaboration, Cost Savings and Efficiencies’ consultation, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) recognised that “there are clear advantages and savings to making use of the National LGPS Frameworks” and stated that “Funds should give serious consideration to making greater use of these frameworks.”

- Ends -

Notes for Editors

NB: This release is embargoed until 00.01 on Monday 12 January 2015.

The following eleven providers have been awarded contracts to provide services under the National LGPS Framework for Legal Services:

- Burges Salmon LLP
- Burness Paull LLP
- DLA Piper UK LLP
- Eversheds LLP
- Maclay Murray & Spens LLP
- Osborne Clarke
- Pinsent Masons LLP
- Sacker & Partners LLP
- Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

- Trowers & Hamlin LLP
- Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co LLP

An initial group of LGPS Founding Authorities - Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Northamptonshire County Councils, along with the London Borough of Croydon - agreed to collaborate to explore and then establish the first National LGPS Framework.

They were subsequently joined by Dorset and Suffolk County Councils, the Environment Agency, the London Borough of Hackney and Lothian Pension Fund.

This legal services framework builds on the successful legal framework let by LGPS Funds in the South West, which expires in 2015. It is a result of collaboration between Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, Lothian Pension Fund, the Environment Agency and the London Boroughs of Croydon and Hackney.

Specialist advice is provided by Norfolk County Council's Procurement and Legal Teams, with the Norfolk Pension Fund providing project management and ongoing support.

The National LGPS Frameworks operate on a 'not for profit', self-funding model - 'by LGPS Funds, for LGPS Funds'. No Fund takes a profit from other Funds and all LGPS Funds and employing authorities using the frameworks benefit equally from the collaboration – all benefits are retained in the LGPS.

For more information about the National LGPS Framework please contact us:

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