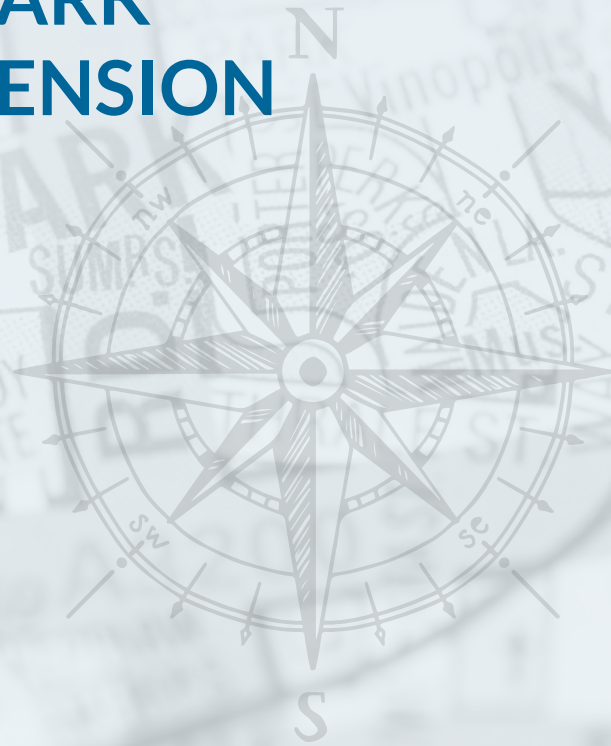


The London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund

TRANSFERRING PENSION BENEFITS INTO THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)

YOUR PENSION CONNECTION →



This short guide is for contributing members of The London Borough of Southwark LGPS (as appropriate) Pension Fund (the Fund) who are considering transferring benefits from another registered UK pension scheme to the relevant Fund.



The purpose of this guide is to provide you with some general information on transfers in, covering both the process and the things that you should consider when deciding whether to go ahead with a transfer.

Asking for a transfer illustration does not commit you to proceeding with a transfer.

How are transfer credits determined?

A transfer value is generally converted to additional years of membership/additional pension within the relevant scheme or pension. It's unlikely, unless you're moving from the same scheme with another employer, that the service credit offered by the Fund, will equate to exactly the same benefits you have under the scheme you are looking to transfer from for the reasons explained later on.

Actuarial assumptions are used to calculate the membership/pension credit that the transfer value would buy. They're determined by the scheme having taken advice from their Actuary. Please note that the assumptions are subject to review from time to time. They also take into account up to date financial market conditions to ensure that the service credit is consistent with the transfer value received.

The calculation of a service/pension credit considers your age and pensionable salary; usual practice is that a transfer credit quotation is guaranteed for a limited set period (however this isn't always the case and the transfer value could change on a daily basis dependant on market conditions especially in the cases of personal pensions) subject to the following conditions:

- The transfer value offered does not change;
- Your rate of pensionable salary remains unchanged; and
- The personal details on which the illustration is based doesn't change.

Please be aware that if you obtain a transfer credit quotation from the Fund but decide not to proceed, the service credit offered in the relevant Fund on any subsequent future request could differ from the original quotation. All transfer requests must be made within 12 months of joining Southwark Council.

What to do if you want to investigate a transfer

Before you start looking at transferring your benefits into the Fund, you need to know what your previous pension scheme benefits are so that you can make an informed decision.

- What pension, and if applicable, lump sum would that pension scheme provide on retirement?
- What date would you be able to claim those benefits from as an unreduced pension benefit?

When you are enrolled into the Fund, you should complete the relevant starter form which provides the Fund with your personal details and details of your previous pension provider.

What if you can't find details of your previous pension provider?

As your first portal of call, visit the Government website www.gov.uk/find-lost-pension as it has an online service to help you trace a pension. Alternatively you can contact the Pension Tracing Service by phone or by post.

 **The Pension Service 9
Mail Handling Site A
Wolverhampton
WV98 1LU**

(At the time of writing, you cannot currently request contact details by post because of the COVID-19 pandemic).

 **0800 731 0193**



What happens next?

Each scheme's process is different. Some send the transfer quotation direct to the member for review and then to send onto the new pension scheme. Other schemes send the transfer quotation to the new pension scheme who will then write to the member detailing what the transfer value would buy in their scheme.

It's unlikely that the service credit/pension offered under the Fund will equate to the same benefits you're looking to transfer from. This is because:

- The benefits offered by the Fund may be different to those in your previous scheme;
- The transfer value offered will be based on your benefits under your previous scheme, which may have been built up on a different pensionable salary to the pensionable salary under the Fund;
- The Normal Retirement Age may be different in each scheme; or
- The level of increase to pension may be different.

Things to consider

Once you have an illustration of the additional service credit/pension that will be provided under the Fund, you can compare the benefit to the additional service/pension against the benefits under your previous pension scheme. You should think about:

- How your salary increases between now and retirement, compared to any increases that may apply to your benefits under your previous scheme;
- The age at which the pension becomes payable; and
- Any reductions that would apply on early retirement.

What is the benefit of transferring?

Firstly, it's important to point out that for some members, this might not be the best option, but for others it might be advantageous.

You need to compare the benefits offered with Fund to those you would be giving up, and take the appropriate independent financial advice to see what is best for you.

Need help deciding?

Unfortunately neither the pension scheme's nor the Fund staff can advise you as we are not independent financial advisers.

We can provide information but you must decide for yourself. You may wish to take appropriate independent financial advice before making the decision to transfer or not. It's important that you make the right choice, taking into account your own circumstances. To find an independent financial adviser local to you, visit register.fca.org.uk and for more general information visit www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/articles/choosing-a-financial-adviser

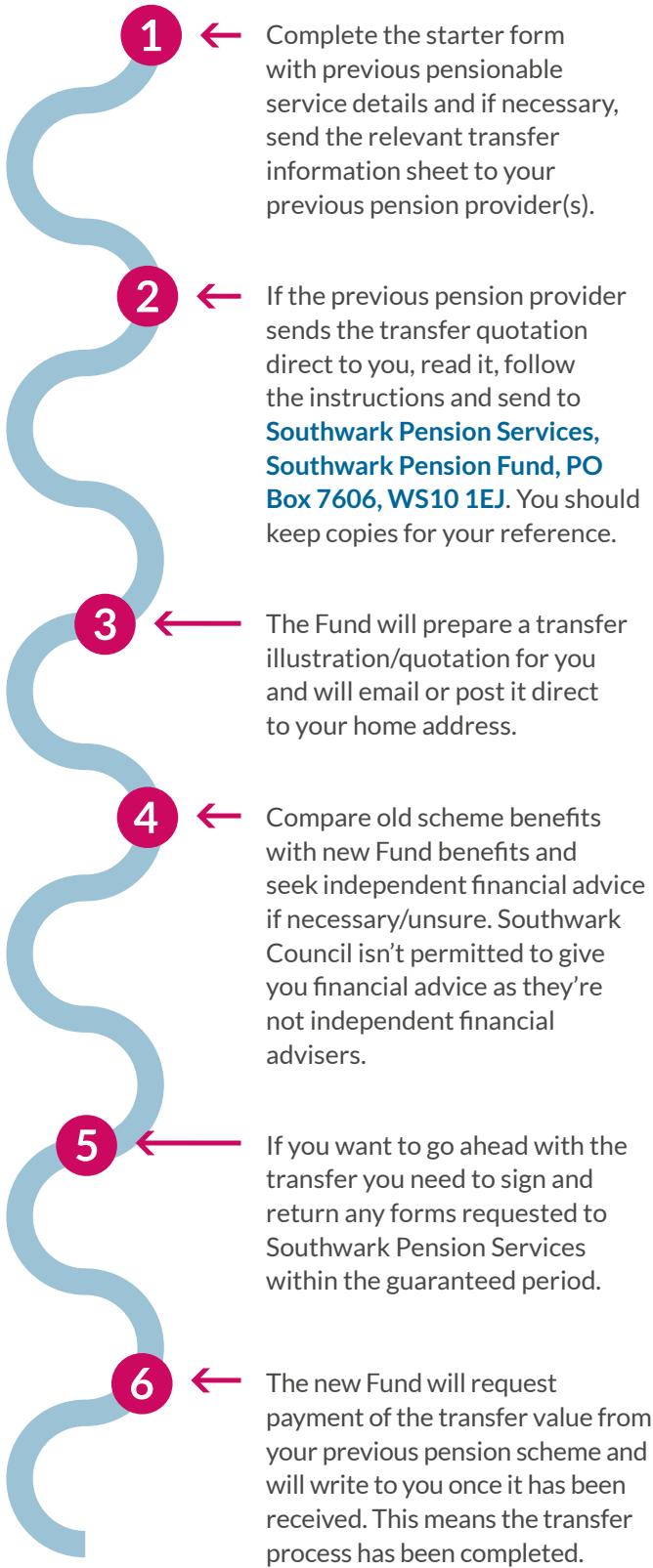
What to do if you want to go ahead with the transfer

If you wish to proceed with the transfer into the Fund, please read and follow the exact instructions that the Fund gives you with the illustration. This should tell you what form to complete with any other requirements.

If the transfer value offered has a guarantee period, the Fund will advise you of this. You'll also be told of any deadlines for when the paperwork should be returned. This is important as some pension schemes charge a fee for providing a second transfer value quotation within a 12 month period and this fee isn't covered by Southwark Council.



Process overview



Your checklist

Date request sent	<input type="text"/>
Date details sent to The London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund (the Fund)	<input type="text"/>
Quotation received	<input type="text"/>
Date received independent financial advice (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Acceptance/rejection of transfer sent to the Fund	<input type="text"/>
Date service credit confirmed	<input type="text"/>





Concert 2021.