



LANCASHIRE UNISON CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT OUR PENSIONS

TALKS BEGIN



The LGPS trade unions met (26.4.06) to plan a joint approach to negotiations over protection and the future of the LGPS. This followed the agreement reached with the Local Government Association on the Joint Statement on 11 April and the subsequent

suspension of industrial action by all the LGPS unions.

What does the joint statement say?

The Joint Statement is an important step forward towards resolving the dispute over the imposed removal of

the 85 Rule by the ODPM, which gives limited protection for current LGPS members to 2013 only. It only applies to the scheme in England and Wales. It commits all of us to ensure that any changes made now or in the future to the scheme are 'by agreement as far as possible'.



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More importantly, it recognises that there are key issues to be addressed as part of the talks – issues which we have been campaigning on for some time! These are:

- Reaching an agreement on differing actuarial assessments of the cost of protection and the savings that will be made from removing the 85 Rule and introducing the 25% lump sum
- Using the discussions to address the issue of protection for existing staff - including full protection and a 'good quality, sustainable and affordable new-look LGPS'

- Ensuring that any proposals are equality proofed and provide greater choice and flexibility over retirement

What next?

The joint unions and the employers are very keen to progress urgently with the negotiations. We will be meeting four times over the next fortnight to discuss protection and will also be looking for an agreement about the amount of money available from the 50% savings to pay for that protection and improvements to the scheme for the future. That means some hard talking between the

Government Actuaries Department and our own financial advisers – AON.

We will be sending out regular bulletins to you to make sure all our members are bang up to date with the negotiations.

**Please circulate to non-members and encourage them to join.
For an application form contact the Branch Office on
01772 533072 or e-mail unison@unison.lancscg.gov.uk**

