

The Society of Pension Professionals Newsletter January 2024

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the January SPP News.

2023 was a busy and rewarding year for SPP, thanks to the support of all our member firms. Our events programme saw over 4,800 attendances across 28 events, a record by some way for us. Our technical committees had plenty occupying them, responding to the raft policy proposals coming from Government and regulators.

Looking ahead at 2024, we expect no reduction in pace - it is becoming a cliché in the industry to note how pensions are anything but boring! We look forward to welcoming our new *Head of Policy & PR*, Phil Hall, in February. Do please welcome him if your paths cross. 2024 is also the year of Presidential transition. Though we will be sad to see Steve Hitchiner demit office mid-year, following his strength of leadership and many successes in the role, we are also rather excited by the calibre of our new President-Elect. More on that to follow...

Have a good month ahead and thank you for your continued support.

SPP Event Recordings

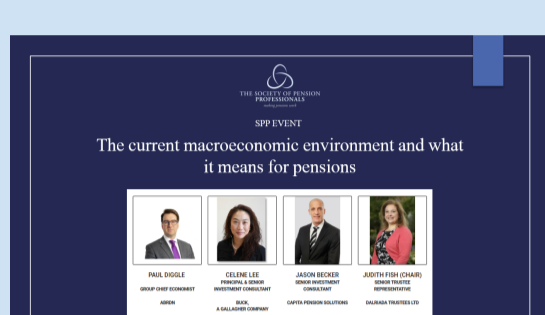
[View all Past Event Recordings Here](#)



[Cyber Risk & Managing Incidents](#)



[Early Career Professionals Christmas Networking Event – The Debates](#)



[How might AI transform the pensions landscape?](#)

SPP In-Conversation piece, Sandisiwe Dhlamini, ED&I Lead at TPR

Continuing our commitment to developing relevant EDI resources for our members, we are pleased to share this short recording, exploring TPR's thoughts on how this agenda is evolving within the pension industry.

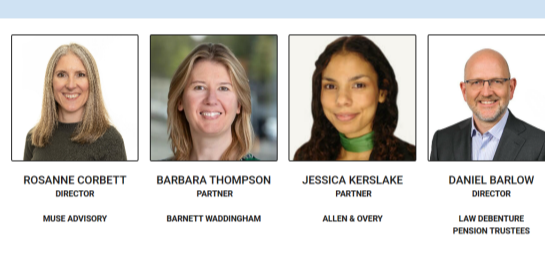
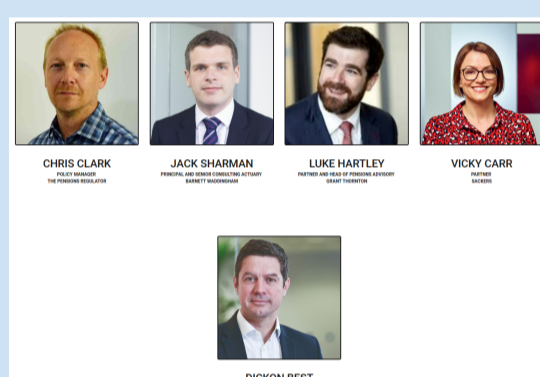


Upcoming SPP Events

[View all Events Here](#)

Capital-Backed Funding Solutions Opportunities and Risks

Online Event
7 February 2024



The new General Code – What you need to know

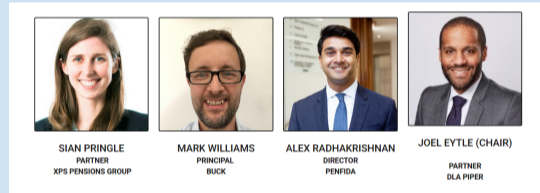
Online Event
14 February 2024

Join us to hear from a range of pensions professionals on what the new General Code will mean for schemes and advisors, what action you will need to take and by when, and for an opportunity to have any questions answered.

Open DB schemes – Exploring the opportunities and challenges

Online Event
28 February 2024

Join us for this session aimed specifically at open DB schemes. We will consider the opportunities for innovation, benefit design, investment strategies and funding, as well as the challenges faced for open schemes, not least regulatory support. Our panel will bring legal, actuarial, covenant and investment expertise.



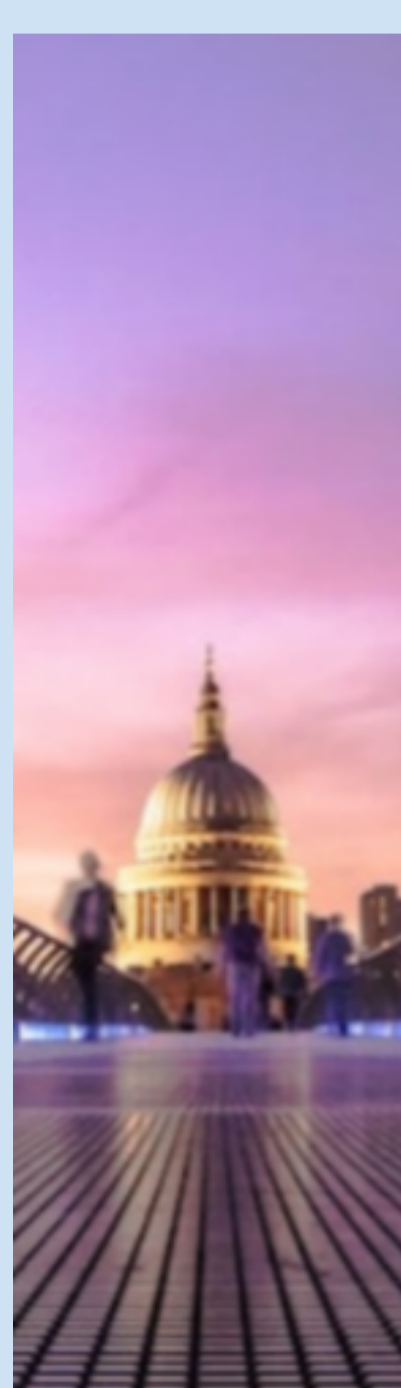
Consultation and Committee News

[View Committee Minutes here](#)

- 1 / Our [response](#) to DWP's [consultation](#) on Considering Social Factors in Pension Scheme Investments has been published.
- 2 / Our [response](#) to HM Treasury's [Call for evidence](#): pension fund clearing exemption has been published.
- 3 / Our [response](#) to DWP's [call for evidence](#): Looking to the future: Great member security and rebalancing risk has been published.

SPP in the News

- 1 / Run on vs bulk annuity transfer was explored by Natalie Winterfrost, in the [Financial Times](#) (paywall).
- 2 / Current DC policy options were explored by the Deputy Chair of our DC Committee, David James, in [Professional Pensions](#).
- 3 / The boundary between guidance and advice was commented on by Jasmine Smiley, SPP Council Member, in [Professional Pensions](#).
- 4 / Reflections following the Autumn Statement were shared by our President, Steve Hitchiner in [Professional Pensions](#).
- 5 / The prospect for alternatives in 2024 is considered by Adam Gillespie, SPP Investment Committee, in [Pensions Expert](#) [here](#) and [here](#).
- 6 / Our [response](#) to DWP's consultation on Considering Social Factors in Pension Scheme Investments was featured in [Professional Pensions](#).
- 7 / Our [response](#) to HM Treasury's call for evidence Call for evidence: pension fund clearing exemption was featured in [Pensions Age](#), [Professional Pensions](#) and [IPE](#).
- 8 / Our [response](#) to DWP's call for evidence on Lifetime Provider Model was featured in [Professional Pensions](#), [Corporate Advisor](#), [Actuarial Post](#), [Financial Times](#) and [Pensions Age](#).
- 10 / AE Reforms were discussed by Legislation Committee member, Mark Bondi in [Professional Pensions](#).
- 11 / 'Are policymakers' DC plans realistic?' was discussed in a column by Martin Willis, Chair of the Defined Contribution Committee, in [Pensions Expert](#).
- 12 / The proposal to change the general levy was commented on by the chair of the Legislation Committee, Faye Jarvis, in the [Pensions Age Magazine](#) (Page 85).
- 13 / The year ahead in pensions was explored by our President, Steve Hitchiner, in [Pensions age](#) and in the [Pensions Age Magazine](#) (Page 28).
- 14 / Retaining EU pension laws was considered by Nick White, SPP Legislation Committee, in the [Pensions Age Magazine](#) (Page 26)
- 15 / Concerns over LGPS pooling were set out by Clifford Sims in [Professional Pensions](#).



Our People

Simon Daniel - Chair of Investment Committee

What firm do you work for and in what role?

I'm a Partner in the Pensions team at Eversheds Sutherland.

If you could make one change to current pensions policy, what would it be?

At the present time, it would be for a focus on long-term consistency and co-ordination of policy and the effective implementation of in-flight initiatives. But I suspect that's a wish that the industry has had of government for sustained periods across the whole history of workplace pension provision in the UK.

What 3 things can you not live without?

A strong cup of coffee and pastry of some kind in the morning (I consider that to be one thing). The love, patience and support of my wife and three boys. And the chance to carve-out some space for thinking and reading time, away from the fast pace of work and the loudness of a home filled with three energetic kids.

What are you passionate about outside of work?

The opportunity to watch football, or even attempt to play it (in the back garden with my boys), – with all the quality level (especially in the back garden), – with Altrincham, Plymouth Argyle and Manchester United all being acceptable, to varying degrees, normally in descending order of acceptability.

