##### Employer FAQs

##### What is AVC Wise?

AVC Wise is a fully managed platform solution offered to employers that have employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It facilitates the initial on-boarding and transition from standard Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) to salary sacrifice Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions (Shared Cost AVCs) and provides ongoing management of the scheme.

The AVC Wise team provides tax, salary sacrifice and LGPS experts, as well as a customer service team, technical, marketing and account management support.

**We already offer AVCs so is this right for us?**

A Shared Cost AVC can be set up in addition to standard AVC offering but can be deemed a much more effective way for a member to save; whilst saving you money.

 **What if we don't have the resources to implement an AVC scheme?**

The fully managed solution minimises the work for you and your teams. The transition and onboarding is straightforward and you are guided through each step by a dedicated Implementation Manager. The on-going management and administration of the Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contribution scheme is managed through a dedicated AVC Wise Account Manager. The fully managed solution also reduces the administration burden on your teams, working closely with your HR, payroll and communications departments.

**Some of our members are impacted by the annual allowance therefore why should we implement the scheme?**

A small proportion of your employees are likely to be impacted by the annual allowance and a large number not impacted. We can offer individual meetings to put your employees in an informed position as to whether they wish to utilise the scheme.

**We haven't got a big take up of AVCs so how will a salary sacrifice AVC be different?**

A lack of take up could be partially due to lack of awareness, as AVC providers, such as Prudential and Standard Life, have not actively communicated the AVC facility to members since circa 2018.

**Will members be tied into long-term contracts?**

No, members have full access to the platform so they can amend or cancel their plan at any time.

**What's the easiest way to procure a salary sacrifice Shared Cost AVC scheme?**

Local Government organisations can procure our fully managed solution via Portsmouth City Council's salary sacrifice Additional Voluntary Contributions framework. This framework enables UK Local Government and wider public sector customers to seamlessly enter into a contract with AVC Wise Ltd to provide a salary sacrifice Additional Voluntary Contributions (SSAVC) service (including Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions) and other associated products and services.

**What are the benefits of using the Salary Sacrifice AVC framework?**

Save your organisation time: we have already undertaken a procurement compliant with procurement regulations.

Assured supplier standards: suppliers on this agreement are pre-qualified which means they meet the appropriate mandatory and discretionary criteria as set out in the standard supplier selection questionnaire.

Save on resource needs: quality and price have already been assessed with pre-agreed terms & conditions to support all orders.

**How can we access the Salary Sacrifice AVC framework?**

You can find directions on how to access the framework by visiting: https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/business/procurement/salary-sacrifice-additional-voluntary-contributions-framework/