

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**Pensions and Investment Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012**

**REPORT BY:** Head of Finance

**SUBJECT:** Auto - enrolment

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**REPORT FOR:** Information

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- 1 Following progress of the Finance Act 2011 and other associated legislation, the Department for Work and Pensions in conjunction with The Pensions Regulator has launched its Auto – enrolment initiative. This is designed to increase the take-up of pension saving amongst the UK’s employed population. It places a range of duties on employers, such as the Council and requires compliance from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012.
- 2 Essentially this initiative requires the Council to automatically enrol all qualifying employees into one of the pension schemes available i.e the Local Government Pension Scheme or the Teachers’ Pension Scheme and where employees opt out of these schemes, to re-enrol them every three years.
- 3 For employers without appropriate pension schemes, there is a national default option – the National Employees Savings Trust (“NEST”). However, local authorities are classed as exempt employers for the purposes of NEST and therefore the default pensions arrangement will not apply to the Council.
- 4 The responsibilities imposed on employers will require the Pensions Section to work closely with colleagues in Employment Services to ensure that the Council meets its responsibilities. Matters are in hand to deal with this issue. In addition, advice will, in due course be made available to other employers participating in the Powys County Council Pension Fund to help them meet their responsibilities in relation to auto-enrolment.
- 5 Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

<b>Recommendation:</b>		<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>	
To note that, in partnership with Employment Services, matters are in hand to ensure that the Council meets its responsibilities in relation to auto – enrolment.		As per report	
<b>Person(s) To Action Decision:</b>			
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:</b>			
<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>		N/A	
<b>Within Policy:</b>	N/A	<b>Within Budget:</b>	N/A
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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<b>Relevant Portfolio Member(s):</b>	Councillor Tony Thomas
<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	