



Pensions in partnership

June 2011



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Compliance certificates 2011

We will shortly be issuing these with a deadline for return of **30 June 2011**.

One of the confirmations you will be asked for is that you have published an up to date **policy statement for all employer discretions** under the LGPS.

Pensions politics

A further announcement from the Chancellor about the potential 3.2% increase in employee contribution rates is expected some time in June.

Recent press coverage has focussed on strike plans in protest at the proposed changes to public sector pensions.

Industry experts have suggested that the strikes are a little pre-emptive in that there are as yet no concrete plans in place to changes existing schemes.

The Government is re-considering its plans to speed up the introduction of higher state pension ages.

NAPF local authority conference

Key topics at the recent conference were:

- The potential increase in employee contribution rates. The consensus was that this is a "cash grab" by the government that would be hugely detrimental to the scheme.
- Lord Hutton's report. Several speakers were concerned that no further details will be available until Autumn.

Other news

Our annual meeting is on **Friday 17 June**.

As you may be aware from our 2011/12 Business Plan, we will be taking forward some processing streamlining improvements during 2011. These have come out of the Cap Gemini "Innovating pensions" project that started in Feb with consultancy and project work on our processes and structures.

Some upcoming, possible developments include:

- An updated, error proofed new start spreadsheet for employers. The next step is to trial this with 1 employer.
- An updated S12 form on which the embedded spreadsheet has been error proofed. The next step is a trial with EAC.
- A new policy on providing provisional calculation requests. This will be discussed at the Admin Forum meeting with our largest employers on 24th June.

Finally we would find it helpful if you could check that you have **a process in place to notify us if any of your employees changes address**. You can supply us with a monthly spreadsheet or individual forms, both available from <http://www.spfo.org.uk/Employers/Forms/>

This will help to keep the number of returned 2011 benefit statements down in the Autumn.