

## **Less than a third of Birmingham workers believe their pension will be adequate, new research suggests**

- Only 29% think their savings will be sufficient for a comfortable retirement
- Nearly one in five (18%) either have or would opt out of a company pension scheme
- 54% say they would rather not think about their pension at the moment
- Over a third (35%) say they were unaware Government and employer pay more into workplace pension than them
- Just under a quarter (24%) say they could afford to pay more into their pension

Less than a third (29 per cent) of workers surveyed in Birmingham believe their pension pot will be sufficient to afford them a comfortable retirement, authoritative new research has revealed.

Despite this, the research conducted by YouGov on behalf of workplace pension provider [Smart Pension](#), found just under a quarter (24 per cent) felt they could afford to save more. Yet they are reluctant to tackle the problem - see all survey data at [www.workplacepensions.com](http://www.workplacepensions.com) -

More than half (54 per cent) said they would rather not think about their pension at the moment and 58 per cent said they were unlikely to invest in a pension in the next five years.

Since 2012 more than six million workers have been automatically enrolled into a workplace pension, which sees employers contribute a minimum of 1 per cent of employee salary, the Government at least 0.2 per cent – while employees only have to pay 0.8 per cent of their net pay into their scheme currently.

The new auto enrolment pensions were introduced to plug a £28bn black hole in the pension budget. Despite this the research found 18 per cent of city workers said they had already or would opt out of the scheme, well above the national average to date of 10%. [source The Pensions Regulator]

As well as burying their head in the sand about the looming pension crisis, the survey also suggests a widespread lack of understanding across the whole country about the benefit of workplace schemes, and how they can help to build up a retirement nest-egg.

In Birmingham 35 per cent of workers said they were unaware auto enrolment meant their employer and the Government's combined contributions pay more into their pension than they do.

However, 44 per cent of those questioned in the city said they have a pension that was set up under auto enrolment, and compares well with London where only 26 per cent of pensions were found to be auto enrolment schemes and Cardiff where 33 per cent were.

Will Wynne, co-founder and MD of Smart Pension, an online platform to help small businesses deal with the challenges of auto enrolment, says: "It seems everyone understands the need to save for their retirement, yet many are simply brushing the issue of pensions under the carpet.

"In a period when savings are being hammered by falling interest rates workplace pensions are an effective way of funding retirement.

"However, this research shows that too many British workers are either overlooking pensions entirely or not putting enough aside.

“There is a £28bn pensions black hole in the UK and workplace pensions are one of the ways people can save not only their own money, but also build up a pension pot much more quickly with contributions from both the Government and their employer.”

ENDS

**Notes to editors:**

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,652 adults, 78 of whom were workers in Birmingham. Fieldwork was undertaken between 18th - 27th July 2016. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults (aged 18+) in each city surveyed.

**ABOUT SMART PENSION:**

Smart Pension is a MAF-accredited online auto enrolment provider. Its platform was built specifically to help thousands of small British businesses sign up their employees to a workplace pension scheme, as required by law. Smart Pension was co-founded in 2014 by Andrew Evans, CEO, and Will Wynne, Managing Director, and launched in May 2015. Its Master Trust is overseen by professional, independent trustees with decades of experience supervising large pension schemes. Smart Pension has partnered with Apex Fund Services, one of the world's largest independent funds administrators, to securely and cost-effectively administer employees' pensions. Smart Pension has a 5 star rating from Defaqto in the auto enrolment category. Smart Pension is the fastest auto enrolment platform on the market to sign up with and advisers and employers can use it for free - there are no upfront or ongoing charges for companies or their advisers. Smart Pension took over sponsorship of the GenLife Master Trust in September 2015.