

**AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE - INVESTMENT PANEL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held**

Wednesday, 4th March, 2015, 11.00 am

**Members:** Councillor Charles Gerrish (Chair), Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones, Ann Berresford, Councillor Mary Blatchford, Roger Broughton and Councillor Ian Gilchrist

**Advisors:** John Finch; Tony Earnshaw (Independent Advisor)

**Also in attendance:** Tony Bartlett, Head of Business, Finance and Pensions; and Liz Woodyard, Investments Manager

**32 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure

**33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none

**34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There was none

**35 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

The Chair stated that this would be the last meeting of the Panel to be attended by John Finch. On behalf of the Panel, he extended his thanks to John for his past services and advice.

**36 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS**

There was none

**37 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED AND ADDED MEMBERS**

There was none

## **38 MINUTES: 21 NOVEMBER 2014**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chair

## **39 REVIEW OF INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE FOR PERIODS ENDING 30 DEC 2014**

The Panel considered a report on the performance of the Fund's Investment Managers for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and updated the Panel on routine aspects of the Fund's investments.

The Investments Manager outlined the report. Members discussed the performance monitoring report by JLT (Appendix 2). John Finch stated that there was significant volatility in UK Gilts – there had been a collapse in commodity prices and the Frontier Markets were down in the last quarter. However, the Equity Markets remained positive and good returns were expected after the Quarter. He commented generally on world markets and the healthy UK economic growth although there was concern about the Euro.

He continued by reporting on the performance of managers stating that 10 of the 18 managers had outperformed over the Quarter and 14 out of 16 over the 3 year period. Schroders had made some changes and had outperformed in the last Quarter. He drew attention to some managers not meeting their 3 year targets including Partners. The Investments Manager suggested that this was partially due to the impact of the Foreign Exchange. In addition, the figures calculated by WM use a time weighted return to measure return and this is not so appropriate for investments in closed funds. Consideration may need to be given to setting an appropriate benchmark to monitor Partners.

The Investments Manager commented that Pырford had made a poor start in 2014 but had improved in the last Quarter. The Chairman stated it should be recorded that the Panel had received a presentation by representatives of Schroders Global Equity portfolio team, namely, Simon Webber, Alex Tedder and Lyndon Bolton. It was apparent that the influence of Alex Tedder had produced a more consistent performance and had strengthened the team. The Panel requested that Officers monitor their performance closely to ensure performance continued to improve and any areas of concern reported to the Panel as a matter of priority.

**RESOLVED** (1) to note the information set out in the report; and (2) identified issues to be notified to the Avon Pension Fund Committee

## **40 WORKPLAN**

The Investments Manager circulated an updated Workplan which was discussed by the Panel.

**RESOLVED** to note (1) the Workplan; and (2) the proposed manager meeting schedule for the Panel

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