

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:

Also in attendance:

30 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were none.

33 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.

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

There were none.

35 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED AND ADDED MEMBERS

There were none.

36 MINUTES: 21 NOVEMBER 2014

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

37 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 31st 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. Schrodgers 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 Pyrford 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 Schrodgers 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.

38 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.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services