

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE	
MEETING DATE:	9 DECEMBER 2016	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	INVESTMENT PANEL ACTIVITY	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Minutes from Investment Panel meeting held 14 November 2016</p> <p>EXEMPT Appendix 2 – Exempt Minutes from Investment Panel meeting held 14 November 2016</p> <p>EXEMPT Appendix 3 - Summaries of Investment Panel meetings with Managers</p>		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Investment Panel is responsible for addressing investment issues including the investment management arrangements and the performance of the investment managers. The Panel has delegated responsibilities from the Committee and may also make recommendations to Committee. This report informs Committee of decisions made by the Panel and any recommendations.
- 1.2 The Panel has held one formal meeting since the September 2016 committee meeting, on 14 November 2016. The draft minutes of this meeting provides a record of the Panel's debate before reaching any decisions or recommendations and can be found in Appendix 1 and Exempt Appendix 2.
- 1.3 The Panel also held a Meet the Managers Workshop on 14 November 2016, a summary of the meetings is at Exempt Appendix 3.
- 1.4 The recommendations and decisions arising from these meetings are set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the decision taken as summarised in paragraph 4.2(1)**
- 2.2 Notes the minutes of the Investment Panel meeting on 14 November at Appendix 1 and Exempt Appendix 2 and the summary of the Meet the Managers Workshop at Exempt Appendix 3.**

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 In general the financial impact of decisions made by the Panel will have been provided for in the budget or separately approved by the Committee when authorising the Panel to make the decision.
- 3.2 There are transactional costs involved in appointing and terminating managers. Where these arise from a strategic review allowance will be made in the budget. Unplanned changes in the investment manager structure may give rise to transition costs which will not be allowed for in the budget.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

- 4.1 The following decisions and recommendations were made by the Panel at the Investment Panel meeting on 14 November 2016:

4.2 Implementation of Liability Management Framework

Committee delegated the implementation of the liability risk management framework to Officers in consultation with the Panel. The setting of yield-based triggers is an important element of the risk management framework. Triggers are designed to increase the Fund's exposure to interest rates and inflation to the target level of liability matching over time, and it is the triggers that ultimately determine the real rates of return that the programme will lock-in.

Following the Panel discussion (included in the minutes in the Appendices) the Panel noted the amendment to the trigger framework proposed by Mercer and made the following decision:

- (1) Decision for noting – to delegate setting of triggers to Officers in consultation with Investment Consultant, Actuary and Manager.

Rationale: Market conditions impact the appropriate trigger levels. Given the volatility in the market it is necessary to finalise the trigger levels at the point of implementation and in the future as becomes necessary. The delegation enables the setting of triggers to be done at the appropriate time by Officers in consultation with the Investment Consultant, Actuary and the Manager.

5 INVESTMENT PANEL DELEGATION

- 5.1 The activity was undertaken under in line with the delegation set out in the Fund's Terms of Reference approved in May 2015:

The Investment Panel will:

- 1. Review strategic and emerging opportunities outside the strategic asset allocation and make recommendations to the Committee.*
- 2. Review the Statement of Investment Principles and submit to Committee for approval.*
- 3. Report regularly to Committee on the performance of investments and matters of strategic importance*

and have delegated authority to:

- 4. Approve and monitor tactical positions within strategic allocation ranges.*
- 5. Approve investments in emerging opportunities within strategic allocations.*

6. *Implement investment management arrangements in line with strategic policy, including the setting of mandate parameters and the appointment of managers.*
7. *Approve amendments to investment mandates within existing return and risk parameters.*
8. *Monitor investment managers' investment performance and make decision to terminate mandates on performance grounds.*
9. *Delegate specific decisions to Officers as appropriate.*

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Avon Pension Fund Committee is the formal decision-making body for the Fund. As such it has responsibility to ensure adequate risk management processes are in place. An Investment Panel has been established to consider in greater detail investment performance and related matters, and to carry out responsibilities delegated by the Committee.
- 6.2 A key risk to the Fund is that the investments fail to generate the returns required to meet the Fund's future liabilities. This risk is managed via the Asset Liability Study which determines the appropriate risk adjusted return profile (or strategic benchmark) for the Fund.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An equalities impact assessment is not necessary as the report is primarily for information only.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 This report is primarily for information and therefore consultation is not necessary.

9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 9.1 The issues to consider are contained in the report.

10 ADVICE SOUGHT

- 10.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal & Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director – Business Support) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	