

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>				
MEETING:	<b>AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE</b>			
MEETING DATE:	<b>22 JUNE 2018</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM NUMBER</b>		
TITLE:	<b>INVESTMENT PANEL ACTIVITY</b>			
WARD:	<b>ALL</b>			
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>				
List of attachments to this report:				
Appendix 1 – Minutes from Investment Panel meeting held 23 May 2018				
EXEMPT Appendix 2 – Exempt Minutes from Investment Panel meeting held 23 May 2018				

## **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 March 2018 committee meeting, on 23 May 2018. 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 recommendations and decisions arising from the meeting are set out in paragraph 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee:**

- 2.1 Notes the minutes of the Investment Panel meeting on 23 May 2018 at Appendix 1 and Exempt Appendix 2 as summarised in paragraph 4.2 and 4.3

### **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 There were no recommendations or decisions for notification to the Committee from the Investment Panel meeting on 23 May 2018.
- 4.2 As recorded in the minutes, the Panel discussed the ability of DGF managers to achieve their performance objectives in current market conditions, and furthermore, offer diversification benefits where asset allocation does not extend beyond a static equity/bond split. Officers will meet with DGF managers to better understand the performance outlook and appropriateness of performance targets.
- 4.3 Additionally, Mercer agreed to produce a paper on the Fund's currency overlay strategy that can be used to aid discussions with Brunel and ensure that any solution provided by Brunel is in line with the Fund's strategic policy on currency hedging. The paper will be presented at the next Panel meeting.

### **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 and Section 151 Officer have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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