



Investment Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Investment Sub-Committee held at The Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 2.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Malcolm Longley (Chair)
Councillor Charles Morton
Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Phil Bignell
Peter Borley-Cox
Robert Austin

Also Present:

Chris West, Mercer Ltd
James Thurgood, Mercer Ltd

Adam Street Partners:

Ross Morrison (Partner, Primary Investments)
Yohan Hill (Director of ESG)
Ana Maria Harrison (Partner)

Officers:

Mark Whitby, Head of Pensions
David Crum, Independent Advisor
Robbie McRobbie, Pension Services Financial Manager
Ben Barlow, Funding and Investment Manager
Marina Watkins, Democratic Services Officer

79. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from James Smith, Assistant Director - Finance (Strategy) and Councillor Cathrine Russell.

80. **Declarations of Interest**

Robert Austin declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as a member of LGPS. Councillors Phil Bignell and Graham Lawman disclosed personal interests as his wife was a deferred member of LGPS.

81. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Investment sub-committee of 30 November 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

82. **Quarterly Performance Report for the Period Ending 31 December 2022**

At the Chair's invitation, James Thurgood from Mercer presented the quarterly performance report.

The overall financial situation was improving with increases in inflation and interest rates slowing down. Economic growth was starting to increase in China after the disruption of Covid. Asset returns were positive, and a positive performance in quarter four had made up for ground lost over the earlier part of the financial year. The estimated funding level had increased to 135%, with a modest increase in assets over the quarter (£34.6m), coupled with the decrease in liabilities (£80m).

Baillie Gifford had performed poorly, although this was not unexpected and was somewhat offset over the long term where performance was good. Should performance not improve, there may be a future recommendation to come out of the portfolio, which had a high growth style which was not particularly aligned with diversification. It was noted that the performance was negative but constituted a small part of the portfolio.

RESOLVED:

That the Investment Sub-Committee noted the quarterly performance report for the period ending 31 December 2022.

83. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Chair moved that the remainder of the meeting be held in private:

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph(s) 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the public and press were excluded from the remainder of the meeting and the Investment Sub-Committee moved into private session.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____