

M M I N U T E S

meeting: **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE**

date: **22 APRIL 2009**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Heap (Chair)	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillors Bilson and Docherty	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillor Mrs Johnson	-	Coventry City Council
Councillor Silvester	-	Sandwell MBC
Councillor Allport	-	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

EXTERNAL ADVISORS IN ATTENDANCE:-

K Aitchison	-	ING Real Estate Investment Management (UK) Ltd
M Daggett	-	ING Real Estate Investment Management (UK) Ltd
I Whittock	-	ING Real Estate Investment Management (UK) Ltd
J Fender	-	John Fender Consultancy
P Gale	-	Gartmore Investment Ltd
A Ubhi	-	William M Mercer Ltd

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:- Wolverhampton City Council

B Bailey	-	Director for Pension Services
J Saunders	-	Chief Investment Officer, Pension Services
F Davis	-	Customer and Shared Services
M Fox	-	Democratic Support, Office of the Chief Executive

Wolverhampton
City Council



APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Clark (Birmingham City Council), Councillor Zahid Ali (Walsall MBC) and Councillor Quarmby (Wolverhampton City Council).

PART I - OPEN ITEMS

Declarations of Interest

- 19 No interests were declared.

Mike Corlett

- 20 Members were concerned to learn of the illness of Mike Corlett, who had previously attended meetings of the Sub-Committee and the Superannuation Committee in the role of External Adviser. John Fender agreed to convey to Mr Corlett the good wishes of the Sub-Committee.

Welcome to New External Adviser

- 21 The Chair welcomed Amarik Ubhi to his first meeting of the Sub-Committee, representing William M Mercer Ltd.

Minutes

- 22 Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meetings held on 20 October 2008 and 20/22 January 2009 be approved as a correct record.

Exclusion of Press and Public

- 23 Resolved:-
That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from consideration of the items of business in Part II of the agenda on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act (information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person) is likely to be disclosed.

PART II – EXEMPT ITEMS

Investment Presentations (Appendix 1/7)

The Sub-Committee received a presentation from the Director of Pensions and the Chief Investment Officer on the implementation of the revised investment strategy as approved at the January meeting of the Investment Advisory Sub-Committee. Copies of the presentation were circulated at the meeting. A discussion took place on the

possibility of exploring partnership working or involving Government agencies which could be a source of funding for the Fund and the Director responded that the Fund was open to any opportunities which might arise, although this was limited by the likely extent of the return relative to the risks and the size of any project.

A further presentation was then received from Clontarf Capital, an independent advisory firm specialising in alternatives, and in particular hedge funds, private equity, real estate and commodities. The Fund was represented by the firm's founder, Aoifinn Devitt and Javier Jerez. The presentation was accompanied by additional written information which looked at the recent performance of the Manager, strategies employed and options for the future. Following the presentation and question period, the Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting and they withdrew.

- 24 Resolved:-
That the presentations be noted.

**West Midlands Pension Fund Investment Management Activity
From 1 December 2008- 28 February 2009 (Appendix 1/8)**

The Director for Pension Services submitted a report giving details of investment activity from 1 December 2008 to 28 February 2009. He drew attention particularly to progress in the property section of the report and particularly to the purchase of the superstore in Great Barr, Birmingham. Members noted that a more detailed presentation on the property section of the portfolio would be submitted at the next meeting.

- 25 Resolved:-
That the report be received.

Vote of Thanks

The Chair expressed appreciation particularly to the External Advisors who had supported the Fund during the municipal year. Councillor Docherty also made reference to the work of the Chair during the same period.

- 26 Resolved:-
That the appreciation of the Members of the Committee to the Chair for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair during the municipal year be placed on record.