

M I N U T E S

meeting: **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE**

date: **15 JULY 2009**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Heap (Chair)	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillors Bilson, Hall and T H Turner	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillor Mrs Johnson	-	Coventry City Council
Councillor Silvester	-	Sandwell MBC
Councillor Allport	-	Solihull MBC

TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES:-

I Smith	-	UNITE/AMICUS
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EXTERNAL ADVISORS IN ATTENDANCE:-

P Gale	-	Gartmore Investment Ltd
M Daggett	-	ING Real Estate Investment Management (UK) Ltd
A Owens	-	William M Mercer Ltd
A Ubhi	-	William M Mercer Ltd

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Wolverhampton City Council

B Bailey	-	Director of Pensions
S Kembrey	-	Chief Legal Officer
P Main	-	Chief Financial Officer
J Saunders	-	Chief Investment Officer, Pension Services
K Dervey	-	Pension Services
M Fox	-	Democratic Support, Office of the Chief Executive

Wolverhampton
City Council



APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Clark (Birmingham City Council), Blood (Dudley MBC) and Zahid Ali (Walsall MBC), M Clift (Trade Union Observer) and John Fender (John Fender Consultancy)

PART I - OPEN ITEMS

Declarations of Interest

- 1 No interests were declared.

Minutes

- 2 Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2009 be approved as a correct record.

Exclusion of Press and Public

- 3 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 1/1)

The Sub-Committee received a presentation from Bache Commodities Group, who had managed a commodity portfolio for the Fund since November 2007. There were represented by Simon Smith, Director - Commodity Solutions Group and Marc Fisher - Commodity Solutions Originator. The presentation was accompanied by additional written information which looked at performance during the financial year 2008/2009, the outlook for 2009 onwards, together with the investment methodology and the investment process. Following the presentation and question period, the Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting and they withdrew.

A further presentation was then received from Insight Investment Management who attended the meeting to present a Global Farmland Fund which they would be launching in Autumn 2009. Insight were represented by Reza Vishkai - Head of Alternatives/Fund Manager, Charmion McBride, the Fund's Chief Operating Officer and Joanna Fidling, Local Authorities Director. The presentation was

accompanied by additional written information which detailed the investment case as well as additional information about the Fund, which would be investing in direct assets relating to agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture on a global basis. The representatives answered a number of questions about the details of the countries earmarked for investment and the experience of the group in managing farms. Following the question period, the Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting and they withdrew.

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Resolved:-

That the presentations be noted and that the Director for Pension Services continue to work with Insight Investment Management regarding any potential investment in the future.

West Midlands Pension Fund Investment Management and Activity from 1 March - 31 May 2009 (Appendix 1/2)

The Director for Pension Services submitted a report giving details of investment activity from 1 March - 31 May 2009. He drew attention particularly to a new proposition in connection with the property section of the portfolio and Mike Daggett provided additional information about the potential acquisition.

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Resolved:-

That the report be received.