

MINUTES

meeting: **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE**

date: **20 OCTOBER 2010**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Heap (Chair)	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillor Bilson	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillor Hall	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillor Turner	-	Wolverhampton City Council
Councillor Bains	-	Coventry City Council
Councillor Taylor	-	Dudley MBC
Councillor Silvester	-	Sandwell MBC
Councillor Hewings	-	Solihull MBC
Councilor Zahid Ali	-	Walsall MBC

TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES:-

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

J Fender	-	John Fender Consultancy
K Aitchison	-	ING Real Estate Investment Management (UK) Ltd
M Daggett	-	ING Real Estate Investment Management (UK) Ltd
P Gale	-	Hermes GPE
A Foster	-	William M Mercer Ltd

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Wolverhampton City Council

B Bailey	-	Director of Pensions
P Main	-	Chief Financial Officer
J Saunders	-	Chief Investment Officer, Pension Services
M Fox	-	Democratic Support

Wolverhampton
City Council



APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Clark (Birmingham City Council) and Blood (Dudley MBC), M Clift (Trade Union Representative) and A Owens (External Adviser)

PART I - OPEN ITEMS

Declarations of Interest

8 No interests were declared.

Minutes

9 Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2010 be approved as a correct record.

Exclusion of Press and Public

10 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 1/4)

The Sub-Committee received a presentation from a representative of Ruffer LLP on its Total Return Fund, which invested in traditional asset classes and created value through asset allocation. Ruffer LLP was represented by Steve Russell, Investment Director. The presentation was accompanied by a written document which gave an overview of the organisation, together with a summary of investment, performance and outlook. Following the presentation and question period, the Chair thanked Mr Russell for his attendance at the meeting.

A further presentation was then received from Blue Crest Capital Management, which employed strategies designed to take advantage of the facilitation of global trade through the provision of short term finance. . Blue Crest were represented by James Parsons, Portfolio Manager, Mercantile Fund and Lisa Stuart, Head of UK Client Service. The presentation was accompanied by a written document which gave an overview of the Mercantile Fund, together with a summary of strategy, performance and future outlook. The representatives provided

further information and responded to questions as necessary, following which the Chair thanked them for their attendance.

- 11 Resolved:-
That the presentations be received.

**West Midlands Pension Fund Investment Management Activity
from 1 May 2010 – 30 August 2010 (Appendix 1/5)**

The Director of Pensions submitted a report giving details of investment activity from 1 May – 31 August 2010. Particular reference was made to the purchases detailed within the property section of the report. Members noted comments by the Fund's Property Advisers that 2011 was likely to be a difficult year in terms of property. The Director of Pensions also responded to questions about support for local businesses during the recession, indicating that attempts were being made to steer investments towards the West Midlands area.

- 12 Resolved:-
That the report be received.