
Investment Steering Committee (ISC)

Minutes of a meeting of the Investment Steering Committee held at 2.00 p.m. at County Hall, Chelmsford on 10 October 2012

Present

Cllr R L Bass (Chairman)	Essex CC
Cllr D Finch (Vice Chairman)	Essex CC
Cllr J Aldridge	Essex CC
Cllr M Lager	Essex CC
Cllr M Mackrory	Essex CC
Cllr J Archer (Observer representing Employers)	Maldon DC
Keith Blackburn (Observer representing scheme members)	UNISON
 Cllr Pam Challis (Essex Pension Board)	 Castle Point BC

The following Advisers were present in support of the meeting;

Keith Neale	Independent Adviser
John Dickson	Hymans Robertson
Matt Woodman	Hymans Robertson

The following officers were present in support of the meeting;

Nicole Wood	Assistant Director – Financial Strategy
Kevin McDonald	Group Manager Investments
Samantha Andrews	Senior Investment Analyst

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hume, Cllr Mrs Barker & Martin Quinn.

2 Declarations of Interest

It was noted that Cllr Mackrory's son works for Aviva.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the ISC which took place on 25 July 2012 were approved as a correct record.

4 Global Custodian

Kevin McDonald introduced a report on the progress on the transition to the new global custodian. He highlighted that the Fund's segregated assets transferred from the Bank of New York to Northern Trust on 1 October 2012, as agreed by the ISC and that officers will continue to monitor all aspects of the transition on an ongoing basis until completion.

The report was noted.

5 Market Commentary

John Dickson introduced a report by Hymans Robertson on the markets as at 30 September 2012. Despite an improved quarter in terms of performance he highlighted steps taken by central banks around the world to stimulate recovery through quantitative easing as growing fears about the global economy continue.

Following discussions on these issues the report was noted

6 Urgent Part 1 Business

The Chairman read out to the Committee a letter received from Tony Hardy thanking the Members for his leaving gift and for the opportunity they gave to him to work with the Essex Pension Fund.

7 Exclusion of the public

Resolved:

That the Public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

- Q2 2012 Investment Tables
- Traffic Light Report
- Officer & Adviser Meeting Reports
- Update on Managers Presenting – Marathon & Aviva
- Investment Manager Presentation – Marathon
- Investment Manager Presentation - Aviva
- Urgent exempt business

8 Q2 2012 Investment Tables

(Press and public excluded)

The Committee received a report from the Group Manager Investments in consultation with Keith Neale Independent Adviser, which gave details of the Fund's investment performance for the quarter ending 30 June 2012.

The value of the Fund had fallen from £3.520bn as at 31 March 2012 to £3.394bn as at 30 June 2012. The report was noted.

9a Traffic Light Report

(Press and public excluded)

The Committee received a report which summarised the current views of Hymans Robertson on each of the Fund's managers.

Following discussions the report was noted.

9b Report of Officer & Adviser meetings with Managers

(Press and public excluded)

The ISC received a report on the Officer & Adviser meeting held with Aviva. The report was noted.

10 Update on Manager Presenting – Marathon and Aviva

(Press and public excluded)

The ISC received a report from Hymans Robertson on Marathon and Aviva.

The report was noted.

11 Investment Manager Presentation – Marathon

(Press and public excluded)

The Committee received a presentation from Neil Ostrer and Graeme Neuff.

It was agreed that officers, in conjunction with advisers, would continue to monitor developments at Marathon Asset Management and a report will be brought to the ISC in the first quarter of 2013.

12 Investment Manager Presentation – Aviva

(Press and public excluded)

The Committee received a presentation from Anna Rule, Alistair Dryer and Sarah Emberson.

13 Urgent Exempt Business

(Press and public excluded)

There was none.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4:10pm.

Chairman
28 November 2012