

WIRRAL COUNCIL
PENSIONS COMMITTEE
21 NOVEMBER 2011

SUBJECT:	INVESTMENT MONITORING WORKING PARTY MINUTES 12 OCTOBER 2011
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the minutes of the Investment Monitoring Working Party (IMWP) held on 12 October 2011.
- 1.2 Appendix 2 to the report, the minutes of the IWMP on 12 October 2011, contains exempt information. This is by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, i.e. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members approve the minutes of the IMWP meeting which are attached as an appendix to this report.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The approval of IMWP minutes by the Pensions Committee forms part of the governance arrangements of Merseyside Pension Fund. These arrangements were approved by the Pensions Committee as part of the Statement of Investment Principles at its meeting on 16 November 2010.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The relevant extracts from the Statement of Investment Principles for the role of the IMWP and Pensions Committee are set out below.
- Wirral Council is the Administering Authority with overall responsibility for Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF), which it delegates to its Pensions Committee. This body comprises 10 Wirral Councillors, with representation from other principal employers (5) and Trade Unions (3), representing beneficiaries' interests. There is also an Investment Monitoring Working Party (IMWP) to which all members of the Pensions Committee and Trade Unions are invited; the IMWP meets six times a year.

- The terms of reference for the Committee, IMWP and the Director of Finance are set out in the scheme of delegation for Wirral Council; the structural and operational details of the delegation are set out in a Governance Policy Statement for Merseyside Pension Fund, which can be viewed at: http://mpfmembers.org.uk/pdf/gov_policy.pdf.
- The Pensions Committee takes strategic decisions on asset allocation, investment manager selection and other high-level investment policy matters and delegates tactical asset allocation and investment monitoring through the IMWP. The IMWP is a deliberative body, acting as a forum where investment issues can be discussed in depth, with the power to make recommendations to Committee. The Director of Finance of Wirral Council (Section 151 Officer) is delegated to implement Committee policy and manage MPF, leading a well qualified and experienced internal team.
- The Committee receives what it considers to be proper advice from officers and, in addition, has appointed an external consultant to provide advice on its high-level investment strategy. The Committee has also appointed an independent adviser to the IMWP, to further inform and support decision-making across the breadth of issues that are considered by the IMWP.

4.2 The key items arising from the IMWP minutes are.

The noting of presentations from M&G, Schrodgers and Legal & General .

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 Not relevant for this report.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 Not relevant for this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Not relevant for this report

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no carbon usage implications, nor any other relevant environmental issues arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no planning or community safety implications arising from this report.

FNCE/254/11

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APPENDICES

The attendance at the meeting is attached as appendix one to this report The detailed minutes are an exempt appendix two.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

No reference material used in the production of this report.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Pensions Committee : Statement of Investment Principles The IMWP minutes are reported to the subsequent Pensions Committee Meeting.	16 November 2010

Appendix 1

Minutes of the meeting of the Investment Monitoring Working Party,

12 October 2011

In attendance:

(Chair) Councillor Geoffrey C.J. Watt (WBC)	David Taylor-Smith (Deputy Director of Finance)
Councillor George Davies (WBC)	Peter Wallach (Head of MPF)
Councillor Mike Hornby (WBC)	Paddy Dowdall (Investment Manager)
Paul Wiggins (Unison)	Owen Thorne (Investment Officer)
Greg Campbell (Investment Manager)	Donna Smith (Group Accountant)
Allister Goulding (Investment Manager)	Noel Mills (Investment Advisor)
Adil Manzoor (Accountant Assistant)	Emma Jones (PA to Head of MPF)

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Harry Smith (WBC)	Councillor Ann McLachlan (WBC)
Councillor Norman Keats (Knowsley BC)	Councillor Tom Harney (WBC)
Councillor Joe Hanson (Liverpool CC)	Ian Coleman (WBC)

1. Minutes of the previous IMWP meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2011 had been accepted by Pensions Committee on 19 September 2011.

The Chair, Councillor Geoffrey Watt (GW) asked if anyone had any Declaration of Interest. There were none to record.