

## **LGPS Pooling of Investments**

<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Peter Lewis: Interim Director of Finance
<i>Author:</i>	Anton Sweet: Funds and Investments Manager
<i>Contact Details:</i>	(01823) 359584 <a href="mailto:asweet@somerset.gov.uk">asweet@somerset.gov.uk</a>
<i>Executive Portfolio Holder:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Division and Local Member:</i>	Not applicable

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Under guidance published by the Government on “LGPS: Investment Reform Criteria and Guidance” in November 2015 we are required to work towards the pooling of the Fund’s investment assets with other LGPS funds with pooling beginning in April 2018.
- 1.2 For the purposes of pooling SCC has aligned itself with 9 other funds in South West England and is working with those funds to create an FCA regulated investment Company, Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (BPP).

### **2. Issues for consideration**

- 2.1 The report is for information only unless the Board deems that action is necessary having reviewed the report.

### **3. Progress in transition of assets to Brunel**

- 3.1 £507.8m of passive assets were transferred from management by the internal team to Brunel (sub-managed by LGIM) on 11<sup>th</sup> July.
- 3.2 £436.5m of active UK equity assets were transferred from management by Aberdeen Standard Investments to Brunel (sub-managed by Aberdeen Standard Investments, Baillie Gifford and Investec) on 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- 3.3 The Private Markets team is now fully established and has taken some initial commitments from funds. Preparations for the move of our Property assets from LaSalle to Brunel are underway
- 3.4 The timetable for transition through 2019 and beyond has been refreshed and agreed along with some extra resources within Brunel to ensure it is delivered. The next portfolio due to be available is Emerging Market equity, which is at the expressions of interest stage of the tender process. The EM portfolio is due to transition in Q3.

3.5 MHCLG have issued draft revised guidance on pooling of LGPS funds. Due to the nature of the way Brunel has been set up and the timetable we have in place we will not need to make significant changes to meet the new guidance assuming it is enacted in its current form.

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

4.1 Both the Pensions Committee and the Pensions Board have been consulted regularly as part of the project process of reaching this point

4.2 An overview briefing on the project was provided to the Fund's Employers meeting in September 2016.

4.3 The Full Somerset County Council meeting received a paper on the pooling at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 It is anticipated that the Brunel Pensions Partnership will allow the fund to make significant saving over time with the Somerset County Council Pension Fund estimated to make savings of £27.8m in the period to 2036 after costs. A significant portion of the likely costs are front loaded and it is anticipated that the Somerset Fund will breakeven in 2024.

5.2 By definition these are forecasts and there are significant risk to their timing and delivery. They are based on a core set of assumptions and actual savings could be significantly greater or smaller over time.

#### **6. Background Papers**

6.1 None

**Note** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.