

LGPS Pooling of Investments

<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Sheila Collins: Interim Director of Finance
<i>Author:</i>	Anton Sweet: Funds and Investments Manager
<i>Contact Details:</i>	(01823) 359584 asweet@somerset.gov.uk
<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 Committee is asked to approve a commitment of £50m to the Brunel Private Equity cycle beginning 1st April 2020.
- 2.2 The remainder of the report is for information only unless the committee deems that action is necessary having reviewed the report.

3. Progress in transition of assets to Brunel

- 3.1 £507.8m of passive equity assets were transferred from management by the internal team to Brunel (sub-managed by LGIM) on 11th July 2018.
- 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 21st November 2018.

- 3.3 The Private Markets team is now fully established and has taken some initial commitments from funds, but not Somerset at this stage. The next cycle of commitments to private markets portfolios is being sought by Brunel for investment from 1st April 2020. As part of the allocations decided on at the June 2018 committee meeting there is an intention to allocate 5% of the total fund to Private Equity in the long-term. Based on the current overall size of the fund and the frequency of commitment windows from Brunel a commitment of £50m is suggested by officers as being consistent with this long-term strategic allocation. Due to the illiquid nature of private markets allocations Committee are requested to formally approve this allocation.
- 3.4 Preparations for the move of our Property assets from LaSalle to Brunel are underway.
- 3.5 £83.7m of emerging market equity were transferred from management by Amundi to Brunel (sub-managed by Genesis Investment Management, Wellington and Investec) on the 9th October.
- 3.6 Following the Emerging Market equity portfolio will be the Global High Alpha Developed equity portfolio. This portfolio is due to transition in Q4 of 2019.
- 3.7 The final equity portfolio we are due to invest in is the Global Small Cap equity portfolio. Brunel opened the search for managers for this portfolio at the start of September. This portfolio is due to transition in Q2 or Q3 of 2020.

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. This now includes consultation with Committee and Board whenever SCC utilises its shareholder voting powers in relation to Brunel.
- 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 30th 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.