



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Pensions Committee
4 December 2020
10.00am

<u>Item</u>
<b>9</b>
Public

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MONITORING**

**Responsible Officer** Ben Driscoll

e-mail: [ben.driscoll@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:ben.driscoll@shropshire.gov.uk)

Tel: (01743) 252079

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The report is to inform members of Corporate Governance and socially responsible investment issues arising in the quarter 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to accept the position as set out in the report, Manager Voting Reports at Appendix A and BMO Global Asset Management Responsible Engagement Overlay Activity Report at Appendix B.

## **REPORT**

### **3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 3.1 Risk Management is part of the Pension Fund's structured decision-making process by ensuring that investment decisions are taken by those best qualified to take them.
- 3.2 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.3 The Fund's Corporate Governance Policy enables it to influence the environmental policies of the companies in which it invests.
- 3.4 There are no direct Equalities or Community consequences.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **5. Climate Change Appraisal**

- 5.1 The Fund takes Responsible Investment very seriously; it is a key process the investment managers go through before investing where thorough due diligence is undertaken considering all risks including climate change. The

investment managers vote on the Fund's behalf, BMO engage with companies on the Fund's behalf and the Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) and a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code.

- 5.2 Shropshire County Pension Fund has received a Climate Risk Report from LGPS Central.

## 6. Background

- 6.1 The Shropshire County Pension Fund has been actively voting for over fifteen years at the Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings of the companies in which it invests. Voting is carried out by individual Fund Managers on all equity portfolios.
- 6.2 The Fund is also addressing its social responsibility through a strategy of responsible engagement with companies. BMO Global Asset Management provide this responsible engagement overlay on the Fund's UK equities portfolio.

## 7. Manager Voting Activity

- 7.1 Details of managers voting activity during the quarter relating to equity portfolios are attached (Appendix A).

## 8. Responsible Engagement Activity

- 8.1 During the last quarter BMO Global Asset Management have continued to actively engage with companies on the Fund's behalf. An update on the engagement activities for the quarter is attached at Appendix B in the REO Activity report.

### List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Corporate Governance Monitoring report, Pensions Committee 18 September 2020

#### Cabinet Member

N/A

#### Local Member

N/A

#### Appendices

A. Manager Voting Activity Reports.

B. BMO Global Asset Management Responsible Engagement Overlay Reports.