

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**Pensions and Investment Committee
22nd March 2024**

REPORT BY: Head of Finance

SUBJECT: Responsible Investment

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report has been produced to provide Committee with an update on Responsible Investment (RI) matters following the first meeting of the Fund's RI sub-group on the 4th of March 2024.

2. RI sub-group Updates

- 2.1 Minutes for the sub-group will be shared in due course but the agenda covered:
- Terms of Reference and High-Level Objectives
 - Recap on the RI journey to date
 - RI Policy
 - Looking Forward
 - Setting Objectives
 - Voting and Engagement
 - Sharing Communications and Updates
- 2.2 The sub-group invitation is open to all members of the Pensions and Investment Committee, officers responsible for the management of the Fund and the Fund's investment consultant. There were representatives from each at this meeting.
- 2.3 The group reflected on the journey since 2019 and agreed that a review of the existing RI policy was an immediate requirement, to ensure the content remains appropriate in a rapidly challenging and evolving environment. This work will be completed and presented to Committee for approval at the next meeting.
- 2.4 The main discussion was around climate, but it was agreed that responsible investment is a much larger consideration than only climate and should include Human Rights, Social, biodiversity and any other appropriate subject matter that is related. The group will consider all

matters accordingly and meet as frequently as required in order to discuss these.

3 Looking Forward

- 3.1 A discussion took place around setting targets and how best to achieve those targets.
- 3.2 It was acknowledged that the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) will play a key part in helping the Fund achieve its RI objectives and it was recognised that steps have already been taken at the WPP to help Funds along this journey. The launch of the Sustainable Active Equity sub-fund, into which the Powys Fund invests was a significant step forward.
- 3.3 The Pension Fund receives a significant amount of correspondence on RI matters, including from the WPP. A discussion took place around the best way to disseminate the relevant information to the sub-group and in turn, the Pensions and Investment Committee. It was agreed that the Pension Fund Manager would act in the first instance and share information accordingly, highlighting the areas of interest within the communications.

4. Wales Pension Partnership (WPP)

- 4.1 The WPP have also recently published an All Wales Climate Report, which is available on their website [here](#).

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 To note the contents of this report.

Recommendation:		Reason for Recommendation:	
To note the content of the report		As per report	
Person(s) To Action Decision:	Pension Fund Manager		
Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:	Immediately		
Relevant Policy (ies):	N/A		
Within Policy:	N/A	Within Budget:	N/A
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Chris Hurst	01597 827640	01597 826290	churst@powys.gov.uk

Relevant Portfolio Member(s):	Cllr David Thomas
Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A