

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT**LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUND FORUM BUSINESS MEETING****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report on the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) business meeting held in London on 31 January 2017.

Information and Advice

2. The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum was formed in 1990 to provide an opportunity for the UK's local authority pension funds to discuss investment and shareholder engagement issues. LAPFF currently has 72 members (shown at Appendix A) with combined assets of well over £100 billion and is consequently able to exert significant influence over companies in which funds are invested.
3. LAPFF exists 'to promote the long-term investment interests of UK local authority pension funds, and in particular to maximise their influence as investors to promote corporate social responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest'. It also:
 - a. Provides a forum for information exchange and discussion about investment issues.
 - b. Facilitates the commissioning of research and policy analysis of issues in a more effective manner than individual members could achieve.
 - c. Provides a forum for consultation on shareholder initiatives.
 - d. Provides a forum to consider issues of common interest to all pension fund administrators and councillors.
4. The business meeting (combined with the AGM) was attended on behalf of Nottinghamshire Pension Fund by an officer representative.
5. The main aim of the AGM was to agree and adopt an updated LAPFF constitution. This is available as a background paper to this report.
6. The usual quarterly update on LAPFF's engagement work was provided. It was interesting to note the reluctance that Sports Direct has shown with regard to meeting with the LAPFF chair Cllr. Kieron Quinn (GMPF). Sports Direct failed to attend a meeting that had been arranged by LAPFF, and then failed to provide anything in the way of an apology. When pressed for an explanation they then blamed the error on an absent PA. The company's attitude to its own staff was noted.

7. A very short presentation was made by Bob Holloway (ex DCLG, now LGA). His update on pooling provided no information which was not otherwise obtainable from Nottinghamshire's own pool (LGPS Central).

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report be noted.

Report Author:
Ciaran Guilfoyle
Investments Officer

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Ciaran Guilfoyle

Constitutional Comments

9. Because this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (TMR 01/02/17)

10. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

- LAPFF constitution
- Draft LAPFF Quarterly Engagement Report Oct 2016 – Dec 2016

