

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE & PROCUREMENT**PROXY VOTING****Purpose of the Report**

1. The Fund is committed to supporting best practice in corporate governance and has adopted the *UK Stewardship Code* as recommended by the CIPFA *Principles for investment decision making and disclosure*. This report is to inform members of the voting of equity holdings in the first quarter of 2014 (calendar year) as part of this ongoing commitment.

Information and Advice

2. The *UK Stewardship Code*, issued in September 2012 by the Financial Reporting Council, highlights the responsibilities that institutional investors have with regard to the “long-term success of companies in such a way that the ultimate providers of capital [in this case, the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund] also prosper”. These responsibilities include, among other things, having a clear policy on voting and on the disclosure of voting activity. The *Code* states that investors “should not automatically support the board”.
3. Alongside this the CIPFA *Principles for investment decision making and disclosure* require administering authorities to include a statement of their policy on responsible investment in the Statement of Investment Principles and report periodically on the discharge of such responsibilities. The Fund’s statement on responsible investment states that “the Fund continues to exercise its ownership rights by adopting a policy of actively voting stock it holds”.
4. The Fund retains responsibility for voting (rather than delegating to its investment managers) and votes the majority of its equity holdings in the UK, Europe, US and Japan. Voting is implemented by Pensions Investment Research Consultants (PIRC). PIRC issue Shareholder Voting Guidelines each year and these are the basis of the voting implemented on behalf of the Fund.
5. An overview of the voting activity and analysis of the key issues during the quarter are shown in the attached report from PIRC. This information will also be available on the Fund’s website at: <http://www.nottspf.org.uk/pensionfund/voting/>.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. 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:

Simon Cunnington

Senior Accountant – Pensions & Treasury Management

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Simon Cunnington

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Financial Reporting Council, The UK Stewardship Code, September 2012.