

# **Pensions Sub-Committee**

# Thursday, 04 February 2016 at 10:30

County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

# **AGENDA**

1	Minutes of the last meeting held on 5 November 15	3 - 6
2	Membership of the Sub-Committee To note the appointment of Councillor Richard Jackson (Broxtowe Borough Council) and Mayor Kate Allsop (Mansfield District Council) as representatives of the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities' Association and Sue Reader From Nottingham Trent University as the representative of the Scheduled and Admitted Bodies	
3	Apologies for Absence	
4	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
5	Asset Pooling and Investment Regulations	7 - 22
6	Proxy Voting	23 - 100
7	LAPFF Conference 2015	101 - 106
8	LGPS Annual Benefit Statements	107 - 108
9	Pensions Investment Service Plan and Training	109 - 116

#### 10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee will be invited to resolve:-

"That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the discussions are likely to involve disclosure of exempt information described in paragraph 3 of the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information."

11 Exempt appendix Asset Pooling and Consultation on Revised Investment Regulations

#### **Notes**

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

#### Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.
  - Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact David Forster (Tel. 0115 977 3552) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.
- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx

# minutes

Meeting PENSIONS SUB COMMITTEE

Date Thursday 5 November 2015 at 10.30 am

#### membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

#### **COUNCILLORS**

Reg Adair (Chairman)
Mike Pringle (Vice Chairman)

Chris Barnfather
A lan Campbell
Mrs Kay Cutts

Sheila Place Ken Rigby Parry Tsimbiridis John Wilkinson

#### **Nottingham City Council**

A Councillor Alan Clark

A Councillor Nick McDonald Councillor Anne Peach

#### **Nottinghamshire Local Authorities' Association**

2 Vacancies

#### **Trades Unions**

Mr A Woodward Mr C King

#### **Scheduled Bodies**

Vacancy

#### **Pensioners**

Mr S Haggerty Mr T Needham

#### Also in Attendance

Karen Thrumble (State Street)
Councillor Kieran Quinn (Chair of Local Authority Pensions Fund Forum)

#### Officers in Attendance

Simon Cunnington
David Forster
Neil Robinson
Ciaran Guilfoyle
Sarah Stevenson
Andy Durrant
(Resources)
(Resources)
(Resources)
(Resources)

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 16 July 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from

City Councillors Alan Clark and Nick McDonald Alan Woodward (Union Rep) William Bourne (Independent Advisor)

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

# <u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – ANNUAL BENEFIT</u> STATEMENT

S Stevenson introduced the report and highlighted that there are some issue that the Pensions Regulator is investigating around the annual return for 2013/14 and 14/15.

On a motion by the Chairman seconded by the Vice Chairman it was:-

#### **RESOLVED 2015/030**

That the report be noted and that an update report be presented to the next meeting of the Pensions Sub-Committee with regard to the Pensions Regulators investigations.

#### PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2014/15 PRESENTATION

Members welcomed Karen Thurmble to the meeting. She gave a slide presentation with regard to the performance of the Nottinghamshire Pensions Fund for the performance to the end of March 2015. She highlighted the following points

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- The LGPS is performing very well however having cash somewhat reduces the returns that can be gained.
- The benchmarks set are skewed because of the weighting to US markets although the funds are reaching their 6% targets.
- There may need to be a reassessment of the Internal Multi Asset portfolio.

Members thanked Karen Thurmble for her presentation.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/030**

That the presentation and content be noted.

#### LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUND FORUM PRESENTATION

Members welcomed Councillor Kieran Quinn Leader of Tameside and Chair of LAPFF. He gave a slide presentation on the work of the LAPFF and Shareholder engagement and highlighted the following

- It is about engaging companies to ensure the best results achievable e.g. through adhering to high standards of corporate behaviour and returns are sustainable.
- LAPFF also look towards Carbon risk and Strategic resilience resolutions – so companies look to have a low-carbon business strategy
- Company Diversity and encouraging a wide range of views is critical.
- Shareholder Engagement Accountability
- LGPS Investment Regulations Reform

Members thanked Councillor Quinn for the presentation.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/031**

That the presentation and content be noted.

#### LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUND FORUM BUSINESS MEETING

#### **RESOLVED 2015/032**

That the report be noted.

#### **PROXY VOTING**

**RESOLVED: 2015/033** 

That the report on Proxy Voting be noted

#### **LGC INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2015**

**RESOLVED: 2015/034** 

- 1. That the attendance at key conferences be note as part of the Fund's commitment to ensuring those charged with decision making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills.
- 2. That the report be noted.

#### **PROPERTY INSPECTION 2015**

**RESOLVED: 2015/035** 

That the property Inspections Tour be noted and that they are considered important part of the Funds fiduciary duties

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm

#### **CHAIRMAN**



### **Report to Pensions Sub-Committee**

4 February 2016

Agenda Item:

# REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT

# ASSET POOLING AND CONSULTATION ON REVISED INVESTMENT REGULATIONS

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform members of the proposed responses to the government's request for proposals on asset pooling and consultation on changes to investment regulations.

## **Information and Advice**

- 2. This report is to inform the Sub-Committee of the proposed responses to two recent government documents. Some information relating to this report is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Having regard to the circumstances, on balance the public interest in disclosing the information does not outweigh the reason for exemption because divulging the information would significantly damage the Council's commercial position in relation to the Pension Fund. The exempt information is set out in the exempt appendix.
- 3. In the July Budget 2015, the Government announced its intention to work with Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administering authorities to ensure that they pool investments to significantly reduce costs while maintaining overall investment performance. In November 2015, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published Local Government Pension Scheme: Investment Reform Criteria and Guidance alongside a consultation on revised LGPS Investment regulations. The former document includes 4 criteria against which proposals for pooling will be assessed. These are shown at Appendix A.
- 4. The consultation includes changes to the investment regulations to make significant investment through pooled vehicles possible and to introduce a power for the Secretary of State to intervene in the investment function of an administering authority, particularly where it has not come forward with proposals for pooling that are sufficiently ambitious.
- 5. Authorities are asked to submit their initial proposals to the Government by 19 February 2016. Submissions should include a commitment to pooling and a description of their progress towards formalising their arrangements with other authorities. Authorities can choose whether to make individual or joint submissions, or both, at this first stage.
- 6. Refined and completed submissions are expected by 15 July 2016, which fully address the criteria in the DCLG document. At this second stage, the submissions should comprise:

- for each pool, a joint proposal from participating authorities setting out the pooling arrangement in detail. For example, this may cover the governance structures, decision-making processes and implementation timetable; and
- for each authority, an individual return detailing the authority's commitment to, and expectations of, the pool(s). This should include their profile of costs and savings, the transition profile for their assets, and the rationale for any assets they intend to hold outside of the pools in the long term.
- 7. The government will continue to engage with authorities as they develop their proposals for pooling assets. The initial submissions will be evaluated against the criteria, with feedback provided to highlight areas that may fall outside of the criteria, or where additional evidence may be required. Once submitted, the government will assess the final proposals against the criteria. A brief report will be provided in response, setting out the extent to which the criteria have been met and highlighting any aspects of the guidance that the Government believes have not been adequately addressed.
- 8. Plans should be made to transfer assets to the pools as soon as practicable. It is expected that liquid assets are transferred into the pools over a relatively short timeframe, beginning from April 2018. It is recognised that illiquid assets are likely to transition over a longer period of time. Any assets that are held outside of the pool should be kept under review to ensure that arrangements continue to provide value for money.
- 9. The consultation on the investment regulations recognises that the existing regulations place restrictions on certain investments that may constrain authorities considering how best to pool their assets. It therefore proposes to move to a prudential approach to securing a diversified investment strategy that appropriately takes account of risk (more along the lines of private sector schemes). In so doing, the government proposes to introduce a power to allow the Secretary of State to intervene to ensure that authorities take advantage of the benefits of scale offered by pooling and deliver investment strategies that adhere to regulation and guidance.
- 10. The consultation contains two proposals with a number of themes within each. Responses are sought to eight specific questions. The proposals are detailed in Appendix B with the main themes summarised below.
  - Proposal 1: Adopting a local approach to investment
    - a. Deregulating and adopting a local approach to investment
    - b. Requirement for Investment Strategy Statement
    - c. Non-financial factors
    - d. Investment definitions
  - Proposal 2: Introducing a safeguard Secretary of State power of intervention
    - e. Determining to intervene
    - f. The process of intervention
    - g. Review on intervention
- 11. The current investment regulations have not proved to be a constraint to the Fund, mainly as a result of its long term, relatively traditional, investment strategy. The requirements for the new Investment Strategy Statement are largely met by the existing Statement of Investment Principles (SIP).

- 12. The SIP already includes policies on the extent to which environmental, social and corporate governance matters are taken into account in investment strategy. The consultation states that guidance will be published to make clear to authorities that in formulating these policies their predominant concern should be the pursuit of a financial return on their investments, including over the longer term, and that they should not pursue boycotts, divestments and sanctions which run contrary to UK foreign policy.
- 13. The Fund does not have any blanket policies of divestment, but rather takes an approach of engaging with companies on risk factors that might affect future returns. It is not envisaged that this approach would need to change under the current proposals.
- 14. Appendix C shows the proposed response to the consultation on the investment regulations.
- 15. As members will be aware, the Nottinghamshire fund is involved in creating a Midlands based pool, to be known as "LGPS Central", with 8 other confirmed participants. The total value of the pool is in excess of £30 billion and so comfortably meets the government's criteria on size. A detailed work programme is currently being developed for the pool in order to meet the other criteria. An event was held at County Hall on 29 January 2016 to enable the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and s151 Officers of the participating funds to meet.
- 16. The pool has developed a joint submission for use by participating funds in responding to the government's initial deadline. The draft pool submission is attached in the exempt Appendix. This will be finally agreed by the pool on 5 February 2016. As the initial submission only requires funds to show 'a commitment to pooling and a description of their progress towards formalising their arrangements with other authorities' it is proposed to use this as the Nottinghamshire submission. A full, detailed submission will be required in July 2016.
- 17. Given the timescale, responses to both documents issued by DCLG will be finalised in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman following comments made by members of the Sub-Committee.

# **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. 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

#### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### Financial Comments (SRC 13/01/16)

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

#### **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.

- DCLG: Local Government Pension Scheme: Investment Reform Criteria and Guidance
- DCLG Consultation: Local Government Pension Scheme: Revoking and replacing the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009

#### **Investment Reform Criteria**

- 1.1 In the July Budget 2015, the Chancellor announced the Government's intention to work with Local Government Pension Scheme (the Scheme) administering authorities to ensure that they pool investments to significantly reduce costs while maintaining overall investment performance. Authorities are now invited to submit proposals for pooling which the Government will assess against the criteria in this document. The Chancellor has announced that the pools should take the form of up to six British Wealth Funds, each with assets of at least £25bn, which are able to invest in infrastructure and drive local growth.
- 1.2 The following criteria set out how administering authorities can deliver against the Government's expectations of pooling assets.
- 1.3 It will be for authorities to suggest how their pooling arrangements will be constituted and will operate. In developing proposals, they should have regard to each of the four criteria, which are designed to be read in conjunction with the supporting guidance that follows.
- 1.4 Their submissions should describe:
- **A.** Asset pool(s) that achieve the benefits of scale: The 90 administering authorities in England and Wales should collaborate to establish, and invest through asset pools, each with at least £25bn of Scheme assets. The proposals should describe these pools, explain how each administering authority's assets will be allocated among the pools, describe the scale benefits that these arrangements are expected to deliver and explain how those benefits will be realised, measured and reported. Authorities should explain:
  - The size of their pool(s) once fully operational.
  - In keeping with the supporting guidance, any assets they propose to hold outside the pool(s), and the rationale for doing so.
  - The type of pool(s) they are participating in, including the legal structure if relevant.
  - How the pool(s) will operate, the work to be carried out internally and services to be hired from outside.
  - The timetable for establishing the pool(s) and moving their assets into the pool(s).
     Authorities should explain how they will transparently report progress against that timetable.
- **B. Strong governance and decision making:** The proposed governance structure for the pools should:
  - i. At the local level, provide authorities with assurance that their investments are being managed appropriately by the pool, in line with their stated investment strategy and in the long-term interests of their members;
  - ii. At the pool level, ensure that risk is adequately assessed and managed, investment implementation decisions are made with a long-term view, and a culture of continuous improvement is adopted.

Authorities should also revisit their internal processes to ensure efficient and effective decision making and risk management, while maintaining appropriate democratic accountability.

#### Authorities should explain:

- The governance structure for their pool(s), including the accountability between the pool(s) and elected councillors, and how external scrutiny will be used.
- The mechanisms by which the authority can hold the pool(s) to account and secure assurance that their investment strategy is being implemented effectively and their investments are being well managed.
- Decision making procedures at all stages of investment, and the rationale underpinning this.
- The shared objectives for the pool(s), and any policies that are to be agreed between participants.
- The resources allocated to the running of the pool(s), including the governance budget, the number of staff needed and the skills and expertise required.
- How any environmental, social and corporate governance policies will be handled by the pool(s).
- How the authorities will act as responsible, long term investors through the pool(s), including how the pool(s) will determine and enact stewardship responsibilities.
- How the net performance of each asset class will be reported publically by the pool, to encourage the sharing of data and best practice.
- The extent to which benchmarking is used by the authority to assess their own governance and performance and that of the pool(s), for example by undertaking the Scheme Advisory Board's key performance indicator assessment.

**C. Reduced costs and excellent value for money:** In addition to the fees paid for investment, there are further hidden costs that are difficult to ascertain and so are rarely reported in most pension fund accounts. To identify savings, authorities are expected to take the lead in this area and report the costs they incur more transparently. Proposals should explain how the pool(s) will deliver substantial savings in investment fees, both in the near term and over the next 15 years, while at least maintaining overall investment performance.

Active fund management should only be used where it can be shown to deliver value for money, and authorities should report how fees and net performance in each listed asset class compare to a passive index. In addition authorities should consider setting targets for active managers which are focused on achieving risk-adjusted returns over an appropriate long term time period, rather than solely focusing on short term performance comparisons.

As part of their proposals, authorities should provide:

- A fully transparent assessment of investment costs and fees as at 31 March 2013.
- A fully transparent assessment of current investment costs and fees, prepared on the same basis as 2013 for comparison.
- A detailed estimate of savings over the next 15 years.
- A detailed estimate of implementation costs and when they will arise, including transition
  costs as assets are migrated into the pool(s), and an explanation of how these costs will
  be met.
- A proposal for reporting transparently against their forecast transition costs and savings, as well as how they will report fees and net performance.

- **D.** An improved capacity to invest in infrastructure: Only a very small proportion of Local Government Pension Scheme assets are currently invested in infrastructure; pooling of assets may facilitate greater investment in this area. Proposals should explain how infrastructure will feature in authorities' investment strategies and how the pooling arrangements can improve the capacity and capability to invest in this asset class. Authorities should explain:
  - The proportion of their fund currently allocated to infrastructure, both directly and through funds, or "fund of funds".
  - How they might develop or acquire the capacity and capability to assess infrastructure projects, and reduce costs by managing any subsequent investments directly through the pool(s), rather than existing fund, or "fund of funds" arrangements.
  - The proportion of their fund they intend to invest in infrastructure, and their ambition in this area going forward, as well as how they have arrived at that amount.

Consultation: Local Government Pension Scheme: Revoking and replacing the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009

#### Proposal 1: Adopting a local approach to investment

#### Deregulating and adopting a local approach to investment

- 3.1 In developing these draft regulations, the Government has sought, where appropriate, to deregulate and simplify the regulations that have governed the management and investment of funds since 2009. Some of the existing provisions have not been carried forward into the draft 2016 Regulations in the expectation that they would be effectively maintained by general law provisions and so specific regulation is no longer needed. For example, those making investment decisions are still required to act prudently, and there remains a statutory requirement to take and act on proper advice. Some of the provisions in the 2009 Regulations which have not been carried forward on this basis include:
  - Stock lending arrangements under Regulation 3(8) and (9) of the 2009 regulations. The
    view is taken that the definition of "investment" in draft Regulation 3 is sufficient given
    that a stock lending arrangement can only be used if it falls within the ordinary meaning
    of an "investment".
  - Regulation 8(5) of the 2009 regulations ensures that funds are managed by an adequate number of investment managers and that, where there is more than one investment manager, the value of the fund money managed by them is not disproportionate. Here, the view is taken that administering authorities should be responsible for managing their own affairs and making decisions of this kind based on prudent and proper advice.
  - There are many provisions in the 2009 Regulations which impose conditions on the choice and terms of appointments of investment managers. Since the activities of investment managers are governed by the contracts under which they are appointed, the view is taken that making similar provision in the 2016 Regulations would be unnecessary duplication. Examples include the requirement for investment managers to comply with an administering authority's instructions and the power to terminate the appointment by not more than one month's notice.
  - Regulation 12(3) of the 2009 Regulations requires administering authorities to state the
    extent to which they comply with guidance given by the Secretary of State on the Myners
    principles for investment decision making. As part of the wider deregulation, the draft
    regulations make no provision to report against these principles, although authorities
    should still have regard to the guidance.
- 3.2 These examples of deregulation are for illustrative purposes only. It is not an exhaustive list of provisions which the Government proposes to remove. Consultees are asked to look carefully at the full extent of deregulation and comment on any particular case that raises concerns about the impact such an omission might have on the effective management and investment of funds.

#### **Investment strategy statement**

3.3 As part of this deregulation, the draft regulations also propose to remove the existing schedule of limitations on investments. Instead authorities will be expected to take a prudential approach, demonstrating that they have given consideration to the suitability of different types of investment, have ensured an appropriately diverse portfolio of assets and have ensured an appropriate approach to managing risk.

- 3.4 Key to this will be the investment strategy statement, which authorities will be required to prepare, having taken proper advice, and publish. The statement must cover:
  - A requirement to use a wide variety of investments.
  - The authority's assessment of the suitability of particular investments and types of investments.
  - The authority's approach to risk, including how it will be measured and managed.
  - The authority's approach to collaborative investment, including the use of collective investment vehicles and shared services.
  - The authority's environmental, social and corporate governance policy.
  - The authority's policy on the exercise of rights, including voting rights, attached to its investments.

#### Transitional arrangements

3.5 Draft regulation seven proposes to require authorities to publish an investment strategy statement no later than six months after the regulations come into force (this is currently drafted as 1 October 2016, in case the draft regulations come into effect on 1 April 2016). However, the draft regulations would also revoke the existing 2009 Regulations when they come into effect. Transitional arrangements are therefore required to ensure that an authority's investments and investment strategy are regulated between the draft regulations coming into effect and the publication of an authority's new investment strategy statement. The transitional arrangements proposed in draft regulation 12 would mean that the following regulations in the 2009 Regulations would remain in place until the authority publishes an investment strategy or six months lapses from the date that the regulations come into effect:

- 11 (investment policy and investment of pension fund money)
- 14 (restrictions on investments)
- 15 (requirements for increased limits)
- Schedule 1 (table of limits on investments)

#### **Statement of Investment Principles**

3.6 We do not propose to carry forward the existing requirement under regulation 12 of the 2009 Regulations to maintain a Statement of Investment Principles. However, the main elements, such as risk, diversification, corporate governance and suitability, will instead be carried forward as part of the reporting requirements of the new investment strategy statement. Administering authorities will still be required to maintain their funding strategy statements under Regulation 58 of the 2013 regulations.

#### **Non-financial factors**

- 3.7 The Secretary of State has made clear that using pensions and procurement policies to pursue boycotts, divestments and sanctions against foreign nations and the UK defence industry are inappropriate, other than where formal legal sanctions, embargoes and restrictions have been put in place by the Government. The Secretary of State has said, "Divisive policies undermine good community relations, and harm the economic security of families by pushing up council tax. We need to challenge and prevent the politics of division."
- 3.8 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 already require administering authorities to publish and follow a statement of investment principles, which must comply with guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The draft replacement Regulations include provision for administering authorities to publish their policies on the extent to which environmental, social and corporate governance matters are taken into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. Guidance on how

these policies should reflect foreign policy and related issues will be published ahead of the new Regulations coming into force. This will make clear to authorities that in formulating these policies their predominant concern should be the pursuit of a financial return on their investments, including over the longer term, and that, reflecting the position set out in the paragraph above, they should not pursue policies which run contrary to UK foreign policy.

#### Investment

- 3.9 A few definitions and some aspects of regulation 3, which describes what constitutes an investment for the purpose of these regulations, have been updated to take account of changing terminology and technical changes since the regulations were last issued in 2009. For example, the reference to the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE) has been removed as it now operates as a clearing house and so is covered by the approved stock exchange definition.
- 3.10 Some additional information has been included to make clear that certain investments, such as derivatives, may be used where appropriate. The Government expects that having considered the appropriateness of an investment in their investment strategy statement, authorities would only use derivatives as a means of managing risk, and so has not explicitly stated that this should be the case.

#### Questions

- 1. Does the proposed deregulation achieve the intended policy aim of removing any unnecessary regulation while still ensuring that authorities' investments are made prudently and having taken advice?
- 2. Are there any specific issues that should be reinstated? Please explain why.
- 3. Is six months the appropriate period for the transitional arrangements to remain in place?
- 4. Should the regulation be explicit that derivatives should only be used as a risk management tool? Are there any other circumstances in which the use of derivatives would be appropriate?

#### Proposal 2: Introducing a safeguard - Secretary of State power of intervention

#### **Summary of the proposal**

- 4.1 The first part of this consultation lifts some of the existing restrictions on administering authorities' investments in order to make it easier for them to pool their investments and access the benefits of scale. To ensure that this new flexibility is used appropriately, the consultation also proposes to introduce a power to intervene in the investment function of an administering authority if the Secretary of State believes that it has not had regard to guidance and regulations. The consultation sets out the evidence that the Secretary of State may draw on before deciding to intervene, and makes clear that any direction will need to be proportionate. The power proposed in this consultation is intended to allow the Secretary of State to act if best practice or regulation is being ignored, which will help to ensure that authorities continue to pursue more efficient means of investment.
- 4.2 The July Budget 2015 announcement set out the Government's intention to introduce "backstop" legislation to require those authorities who do not bring forward sufficiently ambitious plans to pool their investments. It also explained that authorities' proposals would need to meet common criteria, which have been published with draft guidance alongside this consultation. The draft power to intervene discussed in this paper could be used to address authorities that do not bring forward proposals for pooling their assets in line with the published criteria and

guidance. The guidance will be kept under review, and will be revised as circumstances change and authorities' asset pools evolve.

4.3 The following sections set out the process for intervention described in draft regulation 8.

### **Determining to intervene**

- 4.4 The draft regulations propose to give the Secretary of State the power to intervene in the investment function an administering authority, if the Secretary of State has determined that the administering authority has failed to have regard to the regulations governing their investments or guidance issued under draft regulation 7(1). In reaching that conclusion, the Secretary of State will consider the available evidence, which might include:
  - Evidence that an administering authority is ignoring information on best practice, for example, by not responding to advice provided by the scheme advisory board to local pension boards.
  - Evidence that an administering authority is not following the investment regulations or
    has not had regard to guidance published by the Secretary of State under draft
    Regulation 7 (1). For example, this might include failing to participate in one of the large
    asset pools described in the existing draft guidance, or proposing a pooling arrangement
    that does not adhere to the criteria and guidance.
  - Evidence that an administering authority is carrying out another pension-related function poorly, such as an unsatisfactory report under section 13(4) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, or another periodic reporting mechanism. (Section 13(4) of the 2013 Act requires a person appointed by the Secretary of State to report on whether the actuarial valuation of a fund has been carried out in accordance with Scheme regulations, in a way that is consistent with other authorities' valuations, and so that employer contribution rates are set to ensure the solvency and long term cost efficiency of the fund.)
- 4.5 If the Secretary of State has some indication to suggest that intervention might be necessary, the draft regulations propose that he may order a further investigation to provide him with the analysis required to make a decision. If additional evidence is sought, draft regulation 8(5) would allow the Secretary of State to carry out such inquiries as he considers appropriate, including seeking advice from external experts if needed. In this circumstance, the administering authority would be obliged to provide any data that was deemed necessary to determine whether intervention is required. The authority would also be invited to participate in the review and would have the opportunity to present evidence in support of its existing or proposed investment strategy.

#### The process of intervention

- 4.6 If the Secretary of State is satisfied that an intervention is required, he would then need to determine the appropriate extent of intervention in the authority's investment function. The draft regulations propose to allow the Secretary of State to draw on external advice to determine what the specific intervention should be if necessary.
- 4.7 Draft regulation 8(2) describes the interventions that the Secretary of State may make. The power has been left intentionally broad to ensure that a tailored and measured course of action is applied, based on the circumstances of each case. For example, in some cases it may be appropriate to apply the intervention just to certain parts of an investment strategy, whereas in particularly concerning cases, more substantial action might be required. The proposed intervention might include, but is not limited to:

- Requiring an administering authority to develop a new investment strategy statement that follows guidance published under draft Regulation 7(1).
- Directing an administering authority to invest all or a portion of its assets in a particular way that more closely adheres to the criteria and guidance, for instance through a pooled vehicle.
- Requiring that the investment functions of the administering authority are exercised by the Secretary of State or his nominee.
- Directing the implementation of the investment strategy of the administering authority to be undertaken by another body.
- 4.8 The Secretary of State will write to the authority outlining the proposed intervention. As a minimum, this proposal will include:
  - A detailed explanation of why the Secretary of State is intervening and the evidence used to arrive at their determination.
  - A clear description of the proposed intervention and how it will be implemented and monitored.
  - The timetable for the intervention, including the period of time until the intervention is formally reviewed.
  - The circumstances under which the intervention might be lifted prior to review.
- 4.9 The authority will then be given time to consider the proposal and present its argument for any changes that it thinks should be made. If, at the end of that period an intervention is issued, any resulting costs, charges and expenses incurred in administering the fund would be met by the pension fund assets.

#### Review

- 4.10 As set out above, each intervention will be subject to a formal review period which will be set by the Secretary of State but may coincide with other cyclical events such as the preparation of an annual report or a triennial valuation. At the end of that period, progress will be assessed and the Secretary of State will decide whether to end, modify or maintain the current terms of the intervention, and will notify the authority of the outcome. The authority will also have the opportunity to make representations to the Secretary of State if it feels a different course of action should be followed. Throughout this period of intervention, the authority will be supported to improve its investment function, so that it is well placed to bring the intervention to an end at the first opportunity.
- 4.11 The Secretary of State's direction will include details about what is required of the authority in order to end the intervention, and how progress will be measured. Progress could, for example, be measured by creating a set of performance indicators to be monitored on an ongoing basis by Government officials, the local pension board, the scheme advisory board, or an independent body. A regime of regular formal reports to the Secretary of State could also be required.
- 4.12 The draft regulations also allow the Secretary of State to determine that sufficient improvement has been made to end the intervention before the review date. The administering authority may also make representations to the Secretary of State before that date, if it has clear evidence that the prescribed action is no longer appropriate.

#### Questions

- 5. Are there any other sources of evidence that the Secretary of State might draw on to establish whether an intervention is required?
- 6. Does the intervention allow authorities sufficient scope and time to present evidence in favour of their existing arrangements when either determining an intervention in the first place, or reviewing whether one should remain in place?
- 7. Does the proposed approach allow the Secretary of State sufficient flexibility to ensure that he is able to introduce a proportionate intervention?
- 8. Do the proposals meet the objectives of the policy, which are to allow the Secretary of State to make a proportionate intervention in the investment function of an administering authority if it has not had regard to best practice, guidance or regulation?

# Draft response to Local Government Pension Scheme: Revoking and replacing the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009

1. Does the proposed deregulation achieve the intended policy aim of removing any unnecessary regulation while still ensuring that authorities' investments are made prudently and having taken advice?

The Nottinghamshire Fund has always taken a prudent approach to its investments, seeking appropriate advice from officers and independent advisers. The Fund has an approved Risk Management Strategy and Risk Register and manages the investment risk by ensuring an adequate number of suitably qualified investment managers and by requiring managers to hold a diversified spread of assets.

This will continue to work well within a "prudential" approach to investment.

2. Are there any specific issues that should be reinstated? Please explain why.

No

- 3. Is six months the appropriate period for the transitional arrangements to remain in place? Six months is appropriate.
- 4. Should the regulation be explicit that derivatives should only be used as a risk management tool? Are there any other circumstances in which the use of derivatives would be appropriate? One of the concerns over the existing regulations is that they are not clear. The new regulations should therefore be explicit. Derivatives are currently used by some of the Fund's investment managers for purposes other than risk management.
- 5. Are there any other sources of evidence that the Secretary of State might draw on to establish whether an intervention is required?

There is a wealth of published information available on the LGPS and individual funds and this should provide sufficient evidence to support a belief that intervention may be required. It should be expected that funds where intervention is being considered are contacted in advance of a final decision to intervene in order to present additional evidence or justification for their position.

6. Does the intervention allow authorities sufficient scope and time to present evidence in favour of their existing arrangements when either determining an intervention in the first place, or reviewing whether one should remain in place?

The timescale for authorities to respond is unclear. A period of 3 to 6 months would be appropriate.

7. Does the proposed approach allow the Secretary of State sufficient flexibility to ensure that he is able to introduce a proportionate intervention?

The proposals give sufficient flexibility. It is hoped that appropriate expert advice is sought by the Secretary of State in all cases of intervention to ensure that it is justified and proportionate.

8. Do the proposals meet the objectives of the policy, which are to allow the Secretary of State to make a proportionate intervention in the investment function of an administering authority if it has not had regard to best practice, guidance or regulation?

Yes.

# Appendix C



## **Report to Pensions Sub-Committee**

4 February 2016

Agenda Item:

# REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT

#### **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 fourth quarter of 2015 (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 quarters will be published on the Fund website (<a href="http://www.nottspf.org.uk/">http://www.nottspf.org.uk/</a>) and with the meeting papers on the Council Diary (<a href="http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx">http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx</a>).

## **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: Ciaran Guilfoyle Investments Officer

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Ciaran Guilfoyle

#### **Constitutional Comments**

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

#### Financial Comments (SRC 13/01/16)

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

## **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.

- PIRC Nottinghamshire CC Pension Fund, Proxy Voting Review, 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015
- Financial Reporting Council, The UK Stewardship Code, September 2012.



# **Nottinghamshire CC Pension Fund**

# **PROXY VOTING REVIEW**

PERIOD 1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015



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# 1 Resolution Analysis

- Number of resolutions voted: 643 (note that it MAY include non-voting items).
- Number of resolutions opposed by client: 174

## 1.1 Number of meetings voted by geographical location

Location	Number of Meetings Voted
UK & BRITISH OVERSEAS	21
EUROPE & GLOBAL EU	18
USA & CANADA	23
JAPAN	2
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	1
TOTAL	65

### 1.2 Number of Resolutions by Vote Categories

Vote Categories	Number of Resolutions
For	406
Abstain	33
Oppose	174
Non-Voting	15
Not Supported	2
Withhold	12
US Frequency Vote on Pay	1
Withdrawn	0
TOTAL	643

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# 1.3 List of meetings not voted and reasons why

Company	Meeting Date	Type	Comment
NEWS CORPORATION	14-10-2015	AGM	no ballot
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOX INC	12-11-2015	AGM	NO BALLOT
ING GROEP NV	18-11-2015	EGM	INFO ONLY MEETING



# 1.4 Number of Votes by Region

		Not		US Frequency					
	For	Abstain	Oppose	Non-Voting	Supported	Withhold	Withdrawn	Vote on Pay	Total
UK & BRITISH OVERSEAS	208	18	33	0	0	0	0	0	259
EUROPE & GLOBAL EU	71	4	46	14	2	0	0	0	137
USA & CANADA	115	11	89	0	0	12	0	1	228
JAPAN	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	406	33	174	15	2	12	0	1	643



# 1.5 Votes Made in the UK Per Resolution Category

UK

	For	Abstain	Oppose	Non-Voting	Not Supported	Withheld	Withdrawn
All Employee Schemes	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Reports	18	4	10	0	0	0	0
Articles of Association	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auditors	13	3	7	0	0	0	0
Corporate Actions	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Donations	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Debt & Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Directors	93	8	10	0	0	0	0
Dividend	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Executive Pay Schemes	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
NED Fees	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Voting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Say on Pay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share Capital Restructuring	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share Issue/Re-purchase	41	0	3	0	0	0	0
Shareholder Resolution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



# 1.6 Votes Made in the US Per Resolution Category

#### US/Global US & Canada

	For	Abstain	Oppose	Non-Voting	Not Supported	Withheld	Withdrawn
All Employee Schemes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Reports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Articles of Association	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Auditors	2	2	13	0	0	0	0
Corporate Actions	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt & Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Directors	101	1	46	0	0	12	0
Dividend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Executive Pay Schemes	2	0	5	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
NED Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Voting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Say on Pay	0	1	19	0	0	0	0
Share Capital Restructuring	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Share Issue/Re-purchase	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shareholder Resolution	6	4	0	0	0	0	0



# 1.7 Votes Made in the EU Per Resolution Category

EU & Global EU

	For	Abstain	Oppose	Non-Voting	Not Supported	Withheld	Withdrawn
All Employee Schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Reports	2	0	9	0	0	0	0
Articles of Association	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
Auditors	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Actions	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Corporate Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt & Loans	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Directors	15	0	15	0	2	0	0
Dividend	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Executive Pay Schemes	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	3	2	5	0	0	0	0
NED Fees	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Voting	0	0	0	14	0	0	0
Say on Pay	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Share Capital Restructuring	16	0	4	0	0	0	0
Share Issue/Re-purchase	15	0	2	0	0	0	0
Shareholder Resolution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



# 1.8 Votes Made in the GL Per Resolution Category

#### Global

	For	Abstain	Oppose	Non-Voting	Not Supported	Withheld	Withdrawn
All Employee Schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Reports	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Articles of Association	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auditors	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Corporate Actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt & Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Directors	10	0	2	0	0	0	0
Dividend	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Executive Pay Schemes	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NED Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Voting	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Say on Pay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share Capital Restructuring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share Issue/Re-purchase	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shareholder Resolution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



# 1.9 Geographic Breakdown of Meetings All Supported

SZ			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
1	0	0	0
AS			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
0	0	0	0
UK			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
21	8	0	8
EU			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
18	4	0	4
SA			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
0	0	0	0
GL			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
0	0	0	0
JP			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
2	1	0	1
US			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
23	1	0	1
TOTAL			
Meetings	All For	AGM	EGM
65	14	0	14

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# 1.10 List of all meetings voted

Company		Meeting Date	Type	Resolutions	For	Abstain	Oppose
TOSHIBA TEC CORP		02-10-2015	EGM	2	2	0	0
TNT EXPRESS NV		05-10-2015	EGM	16	8	0	4
BBA AVIATION PLC		09-10-2015	EGM	2	2	0	0
BEKAERT SA/NV		09-10-2015	EGM	2	0	0	2
THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY		13-10-2015	AGM	16	9	0	7
PAYCHEX INC.		14-10-2015	AGM	13	5	0	8
IG GROUP HOLDINGS PLC		15-10-2015	AGM	17	14	1	2
CITY OF LONDON INVESTMENT GROUP		19-10-2015	AGM	19	16	2	1
BHP BILLITON GROUP (GBR)		22-10-2015	AGM	25	22	0	3
THE CHUBB CORPORATION		22-10-2015	EGM	3	0	1	2
DANIELI & C. OFFICINE MECCANICHE		26-10-2015	AGM	5	1	0	2
MEDIOBANCA SPA		28-10-2015	AGM	8	6	0	2
TRANSOCEAN LTD		29-10-2015	EGM	4	4	0	0
SYMANTEC CORPORATION		03-11-2015	AGM	12	5	1	6
PHAROL SGPS SA		04-11-2015	EGM	2	1	0	1
CARDINAL HEALTH INC.		04-11-2015	AGM	13	10	0	3
SKY PLC		04-11-2015	AGM	19	12	2	5
PERRIGO COMPANY PLC		04-11-2015	AGM	17	7	2	8
LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION		04-11-2015	AGM	10	4	0	6
KLA-TENCOR CORPORATION		04-11-2015	AGM	12	10	1	1
CDK GLOBAL		06-11-2015	AGM	12	9	0	2
PERNOD RICARD SA		06-11-2015	AGM	26	13	0	13
AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING INC.		10-11-2015	AGM	11	9	0	2
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS LTD		10-11-2015	EGM	1	1	0	0
BROADCOM CORPORATION		10-11-2015	EGM	3	0	1	2
BARRATT DEVELOPMENTS PLC	Page 35 of 116	11-11-2015	AGM	19	15	2	2



HAYS PLC	11-11-2015	AGM	18	15	0	3
MEREDITH CORPORATION	11-11-2015	AGM	5	1	0	4
MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS INC.	12-11-2015	AGM	12	6	0	6
BROADRIDGE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS INC.	12-11-2015	AGM	11	9	1	1
KIER GROUP PLC	12-11-2015	AGM	20	16	1	3
TRINITY MIRROR PLC	13-11-2015	EGM	1	1	0	0
VIAVI SOLUTIONS INC.	17-11-2015	AGM	9	7	1	1
JPMORGAN EMERGING MARKETS I.T. PLC	17-11-2015	AGM	16	15	0	1
SMITHS GROUP PLC	17-11-2015	AGM	21	16	1	4
SOLVAY SA	17-11-2015	EGM	3	2	0	0
CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY	18-11-2015	AGM	15	4	0	11
SYSCO CORPORATION	18-11-2015	AGM	14	3	0	11
SOUTH32 LTD	18-11-2015	AGM	7	2	0	4
ORACLE CORPORATION	18-11-2015	AGM	21	9	2	10
LONMIN PLC	19-11-2015	EGM	5	5	0	0
CISCO SYSTEMS INC.	19-11-2015	AGM	15	4	1	10
CREDIT SUISSE GROUP	19-11-2015	EGM	4	2	2	0
LADBROKES PLC	24-11-2015	EGM	4	4	0	0
CYTEC INDUSTRIES INC	24-11-2015	EGM	3	0	1	2
PARTNERSHIP ASSURANCE GROUP PLC	26-11-2015	COURT	1	1	0	0
PARTNERSHIP ASSURANCE GROUP PLC	26-11-2015	EGM	2	2	0	0
VONOVIA SE	30-11-2015	EGM	3	0	0	3
WOLSELEY PLC	01-12-2015	AGM	21	14	3	4
CHRISTIAN DIOR SA	01-12-2015	AGM	15	8	0	7
MICROSOFT CORPORATION	02-12-2015	AGM	13	9	1	3
NOKIA OYJ	02-12-2015	EGM	9	3	0	0
ANTHEM INC	03-12-2015	EGM	2	1	0	1
FIAT CHRYSLER AUTOMOBILES N.V.	03-12-2015	EGM	4	0	0	1

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ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS PLC	04-12-2015	AGM	17	13	1	3
COMCAST CORPORATION	10-12-2015	EGM	1	1	0	0
BELLWAY PLC	11-12-2015	AGM	16	12	2	2
MEDTRONIC PLC	11-12-2015	AGM	16	11	1	3
TELECOM ITALIA SPA	15-12-2015	EGM	5	2	0	3
KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	15-12-2015	EGM	2	0	0	2
JOHNSON MATTHEY PLC	16-12-2015	EGM	2	2	0	0
ALLIED IRISH BANKS	16-12-2015	EGM	12	12	0	0
TELECOM ITALIA SPA	17-12-2015	CLASS	1	1	0	0
KONINKLIJKE (ROYAL) PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV	18-12-2015	EGM	1	1	0	0
JPMORGAN JAPANESE I.T. PLC	18-12-2015	AGM	13	10	3	0
OBARA GROUP INC	18-12-2015	AGM	10	8	0	2



# 2 Notable Oppose Vote Results With Analysis

Note: Here a notable vote is one where the Oppose result is at least 10%.

#### THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY AGM - 13-10-2015

### 1m. Elect Ernesto Zedillo

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 86.0, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 13.4,

#### CITY OF LONDON INVESTMENT GROUP AGM - 19-10-2015

# 3. Approve Remuneration Policy

Disclosure: Overall disclosure is acceptable however pay policy aims are not sufficiently described in terms of the Company's objectives.

**Balance:** Total potential awards under all incentive schemes may be excessive given that the annual bonus maximum cap is not expressed as a percentage of salary. Furthermore awards under the two incentive schemes in operation; the profit share and the ESOP do not have performance conditions and targets attached to them. There is also no holding period attached to the LTIP.

**Contracts:** Service contracts are one year rolling. However it is noted the CEO's contract runs until 2019. Furthermore the CEO is entitled, upon termination, to a proportion of the bonus to which he would have been entitled had he been employed the whole year. For recruiting new directors, the Committee may offer guaranteed annual bonuses. This is not considered best practice.

Rating: BED.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 81.2, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 18.4,

#### THE CHUBB CORPORATION EGM - 22-10-2015

# 3. To adjourn the Chubb special meeting, to solicit additional proxies

The board proposes to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies. Opposition is recommended as it is considered that if a sufficient number of votes are cast at the meeting for a quorum to be present, the outcome should be considered representative of shareholder opinion.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

# 1. Approve the agreement and plan of merger by and among ACE Limited, William Investment Holdings Corporation and Chubb

The Board requests shareholders to approve the merger agreement among ACE Limited, William Investment Holdings Corporation and Chubb. At the effective time of the merger, William Investment Holdings Corporation (subsidiary of ACE), will merge with and into Chubb, with Chubb surviving the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of ACE. As a result of the merger, each share of Chubb common share and

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\$62.93 in cash. In addition, upon completion of the merger, the right to vote on certain corporate decisions, to elect directors and to receive dividends and distributions from Company, will be extinguished. It is expected that ACE and Chubb shareholders will hold approximately 70% and 30%, respectively, of the issued and outstanding ACE common shares.

Voting recommendations on corporate actions, such as merger decisions, are based on the information presented and on the view of the overall independence of the Board. It is noted that, over the time that the merger agreement was approved and until the present time, seven out of fourteen directors were considered to be independent. This level of independence is not considered to be sufficient and does not provide assurance that the transaction received the appropriate level of objective scrutiny. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

#### **SYMANTEC CORPORATION AGM - 03-11-2015**

# 4. Shareholder Resolution: International Policy Committee

Proposed by: n/d. The Proponents request the Board of Directors to establish an International Policy Committee with outside independent experts to oversee the Company's policies and practice regarding environment, human rights, social responsibility, regulations, and other international issues that may affect the Company's operations, performance, reputation, and shareholders' value. The Proponents argue that none of the three primary committees (Audit, Compensation, and Nomination & Governance) has the function to deal with international issues regarding environment, human rights, social responsibility, and regulations, which are also related the legitimacy of the Company's operation worldwide. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and argues that the Company's policies already address the Proponents issues. In particular, the Board argues that the Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board is responsible for oversight of the Company's compliance with legal requirements, ethical standards, and corporate responsibility performance. In addition, the Board argues that the Nominating and Governance Committee actively participates in regular discussions with management regarding the environment, human rights, and social responsibility. The Board argues that the Company has supported the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) to protect human rights, uphold ethical labor conditions, preserve the environment, and combat corruption and that environmental stewardship is an integral part of the Company's business strategy.

The stated aims of the Proponents are considered to be important for the Company shareholders; however, it is considered that the Company already makes a statement as to their current policy over such matters. Furthermore, it is not clear to what extent such a committee would be of any further benefit, as a result an abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain: 5.3, Oppose/Withhold: 91.3,

#### PERRIGO COMPANY PLC AGM - 04-11-2015

#### 1.11. Elect Shlomo Yanai

Independent Non-Executive Director.

Vote Cast: For: 81.0, Abstain: 2.9, Oppose/Withhold: 16.1,

# 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted as proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted as proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted as proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted as proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted as proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has submitted as proposal for shareholder ratification of its Regularive company has been declarated by the regularity of the r

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the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDB. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 88.1, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 11.8,

#### LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION AGM - 04-11-2015

## 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: CDD. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 56.1, Abstain: 1.6, Oppose/Withhold: 42.3,

### 1.01. Re-elect Robert H. Swanson, Jr.

Executive Chairman. It is considered that where a Chairman has also formerly been the CEO that this could impinge on the responsibilities of the incumbent CEO. It is also considered that the Chairman should be independent of management. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

#### CARDINAL HEALTH INC. AGM - 04-11-2015

# 1.09. Elect Gregory B. Kenny

Independent Non-Executive Director.

Vote Cast: For: 86.9, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 12.8,

#### SKY PLC AGM - 04-11-2015

# 19. Meeting notification related proposal

Shareholder approval is sought to call general meetings on 14 clear days notice. All companies should aim to provide at least 20 working days notice for general meetings in order to give shareholders sufficient time to consider what are often complex issues. However, as the proposed change is permissible by the Companies Act, support is recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 89.7, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 10.1,

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### PERNOD RICARD SA AGM - 06-11-2015

# O.5. Approve Agreements with Alexandre Ricard, Chairman and CEO

Proposal for shareholder approval of the related party agreement with Alexandre Ricard relating to his severance agreement as required by French Corporate Law. The agreement contains a forced departure clause under which Mr. Ricard is to be awarded compensation, subject to performance conditions. The clause does not contain disclosure on said performance conditions, which does not permit an assessment of their effectiveness. As the value of the proposed agreement may potentially exceed one year fixed salary, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

## O.11. Advisory Vote on Compensation of Alexandre Ricard, Chairman and CEO since 11 February 2015

It is proposed to approve with an advisory the remuneration paid or due for the year to the Chairman and CEO, Alexandre Ricard.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. As per market practice, quantified targets for the variable remuneration are not disclosed as they are considered confidential information. Variable remuneration consists of an annual bonus and long term incentives. The annual bonus corresponds to 110% of fixed salary at target and is capped at 180%. However, it appears possible that the cap could be exceeded. The CEO's total variable remuneration during the year under review corresponded to less than 200% of his fixed salary, which is acceptable but may be overpaying for underperformance in the absence of quantified targets. With regards to contracts, there are no claw back clauses in place which is against best practice. The CEO's non-compete agreement includes a maximum 24 months' compensation clause, which is considered excessive. Based on these concerns, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 81.0, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 18.9,

# O.12. Advisory Vote on Compensation of Pierre Pringuet, CEO until 11 February 2015

It is proposed to approve with an advisory vote the remuneration paid or due for the year to the former CEO, Pierre Pringuet.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. As per market practice, quantified targets for the variable remuneration are not disclosed as they are considered confidential information. Variable remuneration consists of an annual bonus and long term incentives. The annual bonus corresponds to 110% of fixed salary at target but does not appear to have been capped. There is a number of issues within the long term incentive plan (LTIP), notably the performance period of three years, which is not considered sufficient and the lack of disclosure on targets. The former CEO's total variable remuneration during the year under review correspondeded to 199.81% of his fixed salary, which is acceptable but may be overpaying for underperformance in the absence of quantified targets. Mr Pringuet has not had a contract with the Company since 2009. His severance compensation relates entirely to his directorship. He is however subject to a two-year non-compete clause in exchange for an indemnity equivalent to one year's fixed and variable compensation. It is considered that such clauses should only include fixed remuneration. It is noted that Mr. Pringuet has expressly and irrevocably waived the financial compensation that stems from his non-compete clause but has maintained his 24-month non-compete obligation after leaving the Company as Chief Executive Officer. Based on the lack of disclosure on performance targets and the subsequent potential for excessive remuneration as well as the issues identified within the LTIP, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

# O.14. Authorise Share Repurchase

Authority is sought to allow the Board to repurchase and use capital stock within legal poundaries. The repurchase is limited to 10% of share capital. The authority will

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be valid for 18 months and can be used during a period of public offer. Opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 70.0, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 29.9,

## E.17. Issue shares without pre-emption rights

It is proposed to authorize the Board to issue shares without pre-emptive rights for up to 10% of the share capital. Such authority cannot be used in time of public offer. Meets guidelines.

Vote Cast: For: 88.6, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 11.3,

## E.18. Authorize Board to increase capital in the event of additional demand

In addition to the share issuance authorities sought above, the Board requests shareholder authority for a capital increase of additional 15%, in case of exceptional demand.

A green shoe authorisation enables an authorization of additional shares in the event of exceptional public demand. In this case, the authorization would increase allow the placement of up to 15% additional new shares within a thirty day period at a price equal to that of the initial offer. There are concerns with such authorities as they may potentially represent a discount superior to the discount to which the initial authorisation is limited due to a potential rise in share price in the period between original issuance and secondary issuance. Given the potential for inequitable treatment of shareholders, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 87.2, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 12.8,

# E.19. Authorize Capital Increase for Contributions in Kind

The Board requests authority to issue shares and capital securities in consideration for contributions in kind up to 10% of the issued share capital over a period of 26 months. The proposal is within legal limits and cannot be used in time of public offer. Support is recommended

Vote Cast: For: 89.3, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 10.6,

# E.20. Authorize Capital Increase of up to 10 Percent of Issued Capital for Future Exchange Offers

Proposal to use the authorities sought under resolutions 16 and 17 in time of public offer. The use of share increase or share repurchase during public offer (i.e. a takeover) is considered to be counter to shareholders best interests as they could entrench the board subject to an hostile takeover.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 89.5, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 10.5,

### **AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING INC. AGM - 10-11-2015**

#### 1.08. Re-elect John P. Jones

Non-Executive Chairman. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. However, there is sufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: For: 89.5, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 10.5,

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#### **BROADCOM CORPORATION EGM - 10-11-2015**

## 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company is seeking shareholder approval of golden parachute payments being made to the executives in connection with the merger. It is noted that this proposal is advisory.

Golden parachute payments are considered excessive, with cash severance equal to 3x/2x annual base salary and annual bonus, plus a pro-rata annual bonus at 150% of target for the fiscal year. This amount is equal to \$10.50m for the CEO. In addition, the CEO is entitled to \$85.30m in equity.

The Company has stated that the new Company has substituted all unvested equity awards for shares in the new Company, which have the same vesting conditions as awards made prior to the merger. Any shares that have vested, will be cancelled with the recipient receiving an amount in cash equal to the product of the number of shares.

There are concerns over the excessive nature of equity awards. Mr McGregor's (CEO) total severance package is roughly 97.84x his base salary. On this basis, shareholders are advised to oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 88.3, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 11.1,

### SYSCO CORPORATION AGM - 18-11-2015

#### 1f. Elect Jonathan Golden

Non-Executive Director. Not independent as he is a partner and the sole shareholder of the law firm Arnall Golden Gregory LLP, which is counsel to Sysco. In addition, he has served on the Board for over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 83.7, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 15.8,

# 1g. Elect Joseph A. Hafner, Jr.

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

#### **ORACLE CORPORATION AGM - 18-11-2015**

### 1.1. Elect Jeffrey S. Berg

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Withhold

Results: For: 76.3, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 23.7,

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# 1.2. Elect H. Raymond Bingham

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Withhold Results: For: 69.1, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 30.9,

### 1.3. Elect Michael J. Boskin

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Withhold Results: For: 69.2, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 30.8,

# 1.4. Elect Safra A. Catz

Chief Executive Officer.

Vote Cast: For: 80.9, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 19.1,

#### 1.5. Elect Bruce R. Chizen

Independent Non-Executive Director.

Vote Cast: For: 69.5, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 30.5,

### 1.6. Elect George H. Conrades

Independent Non-Executive Director.

Vote Cast: For: 69.9, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 30.1,

#### 1.7. Elect Lawrence J. Ellison

Executive Chairman. It is considered that where a Chairman has also formerly been the CEO that this could impinge on the responsibilities of the incumbent CEO. It is also considered that the Chairman should not have an executive position, particularly where there are insufficient independent directors. A withhold vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Withhold Results: For: 79.7, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 20.3,

### 1.8. Elect Hector Garcia-Molina

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Withhold Results: For: 79.5, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 20.5,

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## 1.9. Elect Jeffrey O. Henley

Executive Vice Chairman. There is no independent Non-Executive Chairman, contrary to best practice guidelines. As there is also no Lead Director and insufficient independence on the Board, a withhold vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Withhold Results: For: 79.9, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 20.1,

1.10. *Elect Mark V. Hurd* Chief Executive Officer.

Vote Cast: For: 80.9, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 19.1,

### 1.12. Elect Naomi O. Seligman

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as she has served on the Board for more than nine years. there is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Withhold Results: For: 69.6, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 30.4,

# 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDA. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 48.1, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 51.4,

# 5. Shareholder Resolution: Renewable Energy Targets

Proposed by: Trillium Asset Management LLC. The Proponent requests the Board of Directors to set company-wide quantitative targets by March 2016 to increase renewable energy sourcing and/or production. The Proponent argues that the Company does not have renewable energy targets and as a result it may be lagging behind its industry peers. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and states that adoption of the proposal is unnecessary given the Company's efforts to use renewable energy sources, increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In particular, the Board argues that the Company supports renewable energy through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates and the use of renewable energy at many of the Company's facilities globally and employs a number of energy-saving technologies. In addition, the Board states that in the 2014 Corporate Responsibility Report the Company has set sustainability goals which intends to achieve by the end of 2016 (a 10% reduction in energy use in its facilities as compared to 2010 energy use and a 6% improvement in its power usage effectiveness in data centres, as compared to 2010 power usage).

The Proponent has not established a case as to how the resolution will impact on shareholder value. We advise abstaining on this resolution.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 4.0, Abstain: 11.6, Oppose/Withhold: 84.4,

# 6. Shareholder Resolution: Proxy Access

Proposed by: the Nathan Cummings Foundation. The Proponent requests the Board of Directors to adopt a 'proxy access' bylaw. This would allow shareholders who have held at least 3% of the Company's relevant issued shares for three year agents to the Board. The Company would be obliged

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to include such nominees on the general meeting proxy form. The resolution includes proper procedural safeguards for the nomination process. The nominators will be required to certify that their shares were acquired as normal investment business and not for ancillary purposes. The Board is against this proposal and states that proxy access could harm the Company and shareholders as it could facilitate the election of special interest directors who seek to further the particular agendas of the shareholders who nominated them and not the interests of all shareholders.

The move, that would strengthen shareholder democracy, is supported, and it is considered that the proposal would help to increase independent representation on the Board. Furthermore, the requested threshold for holding requirement for nominators is considered sufficient. Furthermore, the nomination of new Board members would facilitate greater independence in the oversight of the Company. Support is therefore recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 54.7, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 44.7,

### 8. Shareholder Resolution: Amendment of the Governance Guidelines

Proposed by: PGGM Vermogensbeheer B.V. and Railways Pension Trustee Company Limited as a co-sponsor. The Proponents request the Board of Directors to approve an amendment to the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines to include a new Section 15. Engagement with Shareholders, and to strike the fifth and sixth sentences of the fourth paragraph of Section 3., setting forth a policy requiring that the Board engages with shareholders on matters of shareholder concern. The Proponents state that the ability of shareholders to communicate with the Board is not effective. In particular, the Proponents argue that at the 2014 Annual General Meeting, their request for dialogue regarding corporate governance matters was turned down and none of their letters written to the Board were received by the independent directors. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and states that the Company has a robust communications process. The Board argues that in fiscal 2015, Board members met with shareholders constituting approximately 33% of the outstanding shares and that since the beginning of fiscal 2016, independent directors have met with eight of the Company's largest institutional shareholders. In addition, the Board argues that in the event that meetings between directors and shareholders cannot be co-ordinated, senior officers meet with the shareholders. In particular, in fiscal 2014, senior officers met with representatives of both Proponents and offered to arrange a meeting between the Proponents and another senior officer, which was declined.

The establishment of a policy on engaging with shareholders will improve shareholder communications and should prove of benefit for all parties. A vote for is recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 34.9, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 64.7,

### 9. Shareholder Resolution: Vote Tabulation

Proposed by: the Chief Executive of Investor Voice. The Proponent requests the Board of Directors to amend the Company's governing documents to provide that all matters presented to shareholders, other than the election of directors, shall be decided by a simple majority of the shares voted For and Against an item. The Proponent states that the Company includes abstentions in the formula for all votes, then counts every Abstain vote as if it were an Against vote. The Proponent argues that adoption of the proposal would harmonize how Company both counts and reports voting results to shareholders, the SEC, and press. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and argues that the Company's voting standards are clearly disclosed and they reflect the Delaware law default standards followed by a majority of Delaware corporations. The Board argues that similar shareholder proposals received the support of only approximately 8.4% and 8.7% of Company common stock at annual meetings in 2014 and 2013, respectively.

It is considered that shareholders should have the right to approve most matters submitted for their consideration by a simple majority of the shares voted. However, it is appropriate for certain matters to be subject to a higher approval threshold. As a result, an abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 9.6, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 90.0,

10. Shareholder Resolution: Lobbying Report Page 46 of 116

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Proposed by: Boston Common Asset Management, LLC. The Proponent requests the Board of Director to prepare a report, updated annually, disclosing: the Company's policy and procedures governing lobbying, both direct and indirect, and grassroots lobbying communications; payments by the Company used for direct or indirect lobbying or grassroots lobbying communications, in each case including the amount of the payment and the recipient; the Company's membership in and payments to any tax-exempt organization that writes and endorses model legislation; and a description of the Board's decision making process for making such payments. The Proponent states that the Company spent more than \$27 million on lobbying for 2013 and 2014 and that it does not disclose its memberships in, or payments to, trade associations, or the portions of such amounts used for lobbying. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and argues that the Company discloses information regarding its lobbying and political activities as required by law. In particular, the Board states that the Company's voluntary 2014 Political Contributions report discloses political contributions under state and local laws and donations to organizations operating under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Board argues that adoption of the proposal could put the Company at a relative disadvantage to its competitors and that the report would be a misuse of Company resources.

It is considered that the transparency and completeness of the Company's reporting on lobbying could be improved. The amount of shareholder funds involved appears to be sufficiently significant to warrant greater disclosure to shareholders. Moreover, it is to the benefit of the Company and its shareholders to be open about lobbying activities and so avoid any suspicion (and the damage that may cause to the Company's reputation) that the Company may be using shareholders' funds in an inappropriate way to gain undue influence. The request for a report is considered reasonable and support is recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 26.7, Abstain: 10.7, Oppose/Withhold: 62.6,

### **LONMIN PLC EGM - 19-11-2015**

## 5. Issue shares for cash in connection with the proposed rights issue and Bapo BEE placing

It is proposed that the Directors be authorised to allot shares for cash in connection with the Proposed Rights Issue and the Bapo BEE Placing. The authority expires at the sooner of the 2016 AGM or 15 months after the passing of the resolution. Given the inter conditionality of the proposals, wherein each proposal can only be passed if all are supported and given the support for the other resolutions, support is recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 87.6, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 12.1,

# 4. Issue shares with pre-emption rights in connection with the proposed rights issue

It is proposed that the Directors be authorised to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of ordinary share capital of \$400,000,000. This represents in excess of 99.99% of the total issued share capital of Lonmin following completion of the Sub-Division based on the nominal value of the new shares of \$0,000001. The Directors intend to use this authority to allot up to 400,000,000,000,000 million New Shares in connection with the Proposed Rights Issue and for no other purpose. Given the inter conditionality of the proposals, wherein each proposal can only be passed if all are supported and given the support for the other resolutions, support is recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 87.7, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 12.1,

# 3. Issue shares with pre-emption rights with the Bapo BEE placing

It is proposed that the Directors be authorised to allot shares at their nominal value of US\$0.000001 per New Share up to an aggregate nominal amount of ordinary share capital of US\$9,150,128.98. This will enable the Board to issue and allot up to 9,150,128,976,631 Shares in connection with the Bapo BEE Placing. Under the mining charter, Group companies in South Africa are required to ensure Regardia partial fation in their assets by groups representing Highly Disadvantaged South

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Africans (HDSAs) through the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) placing process. The proposed rights issue would have the effect of diluting the share ownership of this Community as the Bapo Community cannot afford to take up its rights. This proposal will ensure the Bapo community maintains its holding and the Company complies with the provisions of the mining charter as maintaining HDSA equity ownership is one of the factors on which the Group is assessed by the South African Department of Mineral Resources when considering the Group's on-going compliance with the Mining Charter. Given the inter conditionality of the proposals, wherein each proposal can only be passed if all are supported and given the support for the other resolutions, support is recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 88.6, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 11.1,

#### 2. Amend Articles

Approval is sought to amend the Company's articles of association by the insertion of a new article 12A which provides for the 2015 Deffered Share Rights, pursuant to the proposed Rights Issue as described in Resolution One. The 2015 Deferred shares are issued solely to facilitate the reduction in the nominal value of the shares. The articles contain their limitation and restrictions including limitations on income, capital, voting rights and their transfer and purchase. Given the inter conditionality of the proposals, wherein each proposal can only be passed if all are supported and given the support for the other resolutions, a vote in favour is recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 87.7, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 12.0,

# 1. Approve capital reorganisation

The Company proposes to raise approximately US\$407 million by way of a rights issue in order to provide the Group with sufficient financial flexibility and to satisfy the principal condition precedent of Amended Facilities Agreements it has entered. The Rights Issue will result in the issue of 26,997,717,400 new shares (representing 97.87 per cent) of the enlarged issued share capital of Lonmin) at a price of 1.00 pence per New share. The price equates to a 94pc discount to the producer's closing price of 16.25p on November 6. Holders will get 46 new securities for every one held.

Given that the shares have been trading at a discount for a significant period of time, to avoid the allotment of shares at a discount to their nominal value, this proposal is made. In order to reduce the nominal value of the Shares to undertake the proposed rights issue and the Bapo BEE Placing, shareholders will be asked to approve the Sub-division of existing shares of \$1.00 nominal value into one intermediate ordinary share of \$0.00001 and one 2015 deferred share of \$0.999999 value. The deferred shares are issued solely to facilitate the reduction in the nominal value of the shares and are valueless. Furthermore, under the terms of the 2015 deferred shares, the Company will have the ability to buy back the 2015 deferred shares for aggregate consideration of US40.01 and/or transfer all of the 2015 Deferred shares to the secretary of the Company for nil consideration without obtaining the sanction of the holder or holders of the shares. Approval is sought for a capital re-organisation planned by the Company, comprising the Sub-division and subsequent consolidation of its Shares.

Such transactions are considered on the basis of whether the transaction has been adequately explained and whether there is sufficient independent oversight of the recommended transaction. The circular contains full details of the transaction and there is a sufficient balance of independence on the Board. This provides assurance that the decision was taken with appropriate independence and objectivity. Therefore shareholders are recommended to approve.

Vote Cast: For: 87.7, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 12.0,

### CISCO SYSTEMS INC. AGM - 19-11-2015

# 1f. Elect Dr. John L. Hennessy

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

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Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 87.0, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 12.5,

## 4. Shareholder Resolution: Holy Land Principles

Proposed by: The Holy Land Principles, Inc. The proponent requests the Board of Directors to: Make all possible lawful efforts to implement and/or increase activity on each of the eight Holy Land Principles (see supporting information on this resolution for the principles). The proponent believes that Cisco benefits by hiring from the widest available talent pool. An employee's ability to do the job should be the primary consideration in hiring and promotion decisions. Implementation of the Holy Land Principles— which are both pro-Jewish and pro-Palestinian — will demonstrate Cisco's concern for human rights and equality of opportunity in its international operations. The board states that after consideration, it feels the proposal is unnecessary in light of the Company's demonstrated commitment to equal employment opportunity without regard to age, race, colour, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran status or any other protected status. Its Equal Employment Opportunity/Workplace Conduct Policy Statement clearly sets forth the standards under which Cisco treats all employees and applicants for employment which can be found on the company's website.

The Proponent has not demonstrated how the the adoption of the resolution would improve the employment policies and practices of the Company, which already embrace a commitment to equal opportunities. On this basis a vote to abstain is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 2.6, Abstain: 5.8, Oppose/Withhold: 91.6,

# 5. Shareholder Resolution: Proxy Access

Proposed by: James McRitchie. The Proponents request the Board to adopt a "proxy access" bylaw. This would allow shareholders who have held at least 3% of the Company's relevant issued shares for three years or more to nominate candidates for election to the Board. The Company would be obliged to include such nominees on the general meeting proxy form. The resolution includes proper procedural safeguards for the nomination process. The nominators will be required to certify that their shares were acquired as normal investment business and not for ancillary purposes. The Board is against this proposal and states that it believes that the current corporate governance guidelines and Board practices provide long-term stockholders a meaningful voice in electing directors; adoption of this proposal would be not only unnecessary but also potentially expensive and disruptive; and that Proxy access would serve only to interfere with the Board's ability to serve the long term interests of all stockholders.

The move, that would strengthen shareholder democracy, is supported, and it is considered that the proposal would help to increase independent representation on the Board. Furthermore, the requested threshold for holding requirement for nominators is considered sufficient. Furthermore, the nomination of new Board members would facilitate greater independence in the oversight of the Company. Support is therefore recommended.

Vote Cast: For: 64.0, Abstain: 1.1, Oppose/Withhold: 34.9,

#### **VONOVIA SE EGM - 30-11-2015**

# 1. Approve authority to increase authorised share capital against contributions in kind without pre-emptive rights

It is proposed to authorize the Board to increase the share capital by issuing shares rights for up to 52.61% of the share capital against a contribution in kind. Shareholders will not be granted pre-emptive rights and the potential dilution exceeds guidelines. Opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 78.2, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 21.8,

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# 2. Approve authority to increase authorised share capital against cash contribution without pre-emptive rights

It is proposed to authorize the Board to increase the share capital that will result from the implementation of the capital increase against contribution in kind to be resolved in accordance with resolution 1 (EUR 711.19 million), by up to EUR 12.27 million by way of issuing up to 12.27 million shares against a cash contribution. Shareholders will not be granted pre-emptive rights and whilst the potential dilution of 1.72% would be within guidelines, it is advised to oppose in light of the potentially dilutive effect of the implementation of Resolution 1.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 78.6, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 21.4,

# 3. Approve Creation of Capital without pre-emptive Rights

The Company requests the authority to create a new authorized capital. The authority would allow the Company to increase the share capital once or several times during the period ending 30 November 2016 by up to EUR 12,266,064 by issuing up to 12,266,064 no par value registered shares against contributions in cash and/or in kind. However, taken together with the other authorities requested, the level of dilution exceeds guidelines. Therefore, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 78.5, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 21.5,



# 3 Oppose/Abstain Votes With Analysis

#### **TNT EXPRESS NV EGM - 05-10-2015**

### 5.i. Elect D. Cunningham to the Supervisory Board

Non-Executive Director. Not considered to be independent as he is the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of FedEx Express, which has made a public offer for the Company. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 5.ii. Elect C. Richards to the Supervisory Board

Non-Executive Director. Not considered to be independent owing to her position as Senior Vice President and General Counsel at FedEx Services, which has made a public offer for the Company. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose

# 5.iii. Elect D. Bronczek to the Supervisory Board

Non-Executive Chairman. Not considered to be independent as he is the President and Chief Executive Officer of FedEx Express, which has made a public offer for the Company. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose

# 7. Amendment of the remuneration arangements with Mr. De Vries and approval of a one-off retention bonus of EUR 250,000

It is proposed to amend the remuneration arrangements with Mr. De Vries and approve a one-off retention bonus of EUR 250,000. The Board is to make a conditional amendment to the 2014 remuneration policy of the Executive Board to make changes to the remuneration of Mr. De Vries as per the Settlement Date. The aforementioned retention bonus is subject to Mr. De Vries no longer being entitled to the variable component of the Company's remuneration policy six months following the Settlement Date. There are concerns over the discretionary nature and hence the lack of performance conditions attached to any form of one-off retention bonuses. Making such awards is a deviation of the principle of pay for performance and as such, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

### **BEKAERT SA/NV EGM - 09-10-2015**

# 1. Approve the NV Bekaert Stock Option Plan 2015-2017

The Company requests general approval to issue an undisclosed amount of stock options to be determined by the Board of Directors on the motion of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The shares are to be awarded to executives and senior management as well as a limited number of management employees of the Company, over a period of 24 months. There are no quantifiable performance conditions underlying the grant of options. The shares are to be offered for free following an assessment of the beneficiary's long term contribution.

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In light of the lack of performance conditions applied to this specific plan and the potential for excessive dilution levels underlying the grant of shares, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

# 2. Approve the NV Bekaert SA Performance Share Plan 2015-2017

The Company requests general approval to issue an undisclosed amount of Performance Share Units. The shares are to be awarded free of charge to executives and senior management as well as a limited number of management employees of the Company, over a period of 24 months. The shares are scheduled to vest after three years, which is not considered to be sufficiently long-term, upon the achievement of performance targets set annually by the Board. Performance targets remain undisclosed at this time. Achievement at threshold levels is to induce a minimum vesting of 50% of the granted Performance Share Units, which is excessive and may be paying for under performance.

As the performance conditions applied to this specific plan do not meet guidelines and the levels of dilution are unknown in view of the lack of disclosure of amounts of shares to be granted, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

### THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY AGM - 13-10-2015

#### 1d. Elect Scott D. Cook

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.3, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 3.2,

# 1f. Elect A.G. Lafley

Chairman and CEO. Combined roles at the head of the Company. There should be a clear division of responsibilities at the head of the Company between the running of the board and the executive responsibility for the running of the Company's business. No one individual should have unfettered powers of decision. Combining the two roles in one person represents a concentration of power that is potentially detrimental to board balance, effective debate, and board appraisal. Although the positions of Chairman and CEO will be split from November 2015, Mr Lafley will continue as Executive Chairman. This situation blurs the division of responsibilities between CEO and Executive Chairman, and leaves the Board without an independent Chairman.

An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.6, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 2.9,

# 1h. Elect W. James McNerney, Jr.

Lead Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: *Oppose*Results: For: 95.8, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 3.7,

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## 1j. Elect Margaret C. Whitman

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as she has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.8, Abstain: 1.0, Oppose/Withhold: 2.2,

### 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDC. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 91.2, Abstain: 0.9, Oppose/Withhold: 8.0,

#### 1m. Elect Ernesto Zedillo

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 86.0, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 13.4,

## 2. Appoint the auditors

Deloitte proposed. Non-audit fees represented 3.88% of audit fees during the year under review and 4% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditors. The current auditor has been in place for 125 years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.3, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 1.3,

### **PAYCHEX INC. AGM - 14-10-2015**

### 1a. Elect B. Thomas Golisano

Non-Executive Chairman. Not considered independent as he holds 10.4% of the issued share capital, and was President and CEO of the Company until 2004. Therer is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.4, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 1.2,

### 1c. Elect David J.S. Flaschen

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board from more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 53 of 116 Results: For: 97.6, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 2.0,

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# 1d. Elect Phillip Horsley

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years during his first tenure with the Company between 1982 and 2009. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.0, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 1.6,

### 1e. Elect Grant M. Inman

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 95.1, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 4.4,

## 1f. Elect Pamela A. Joseph

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as she has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 0.7,

## 1h. Elect Joseph M. Tucci

Lead Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.3, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 3.2,

# 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BEA. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.1, Abstain: 0.7, Oppose/Withhold: 3.2,

# 3. Approve annual share incentive plan

The Company has put forward a resolution requesting shareholders to approve the Company's 2002 Stock Incentive Plan, including an increase in the aggregate number of shares of common stock available for issuance under the 2002 Plan by 5,000,000 to a total of 42,500,000. As of May 31, 2015, 32.8 million shares have been granted subject to awards under the 2002 Plan and 18.6 million shares remain available. The Plan permits the Company to grant incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, stock awards, restricted stock, restricted stock units, and performance awards. The Plan is open to all employees and is administered by the G&C Committee which has the authority to: interpret the Plan; establish rules and regulations; select the participants; determine the type, size, terms of awards. Under the Plan, participants may not be granted any award for more than 1,500,000 Shares in the aggregate in any calendar year. In addition, the maximum amount payable pursuant to all Performance Awards to any Participant in any calendar year is \$8,000,000 in value.

The Plan Amendment includes a new clawback provision; however, it allows: 54 mofittel to o much discretion to determine the size, type and term of awards. There

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are concerns that performance conditions may be attached to awards at the Committee's discretion and as a result awards may not be subject to robust enough performance targets, and be insufficiently challenging. Stock options and restricted shares granted during the last fiscal year are not subject to performance targets. In addition, the maximum value limit of \$8,000,000 is considered excessive. As a result, an oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 95.4, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 4.0,

#### IG GROUP HOLDINGS PLC AGM - 15-10-2015

# 2. Approve the Remuneration Report

**Disclosure:** Overall disclosure is acceptable however it is noted that gains made by Executive Directors on the exercise of historical awards are not disclosed. **Balance:** The CEO's salary is considered in the upper quartile of a peer comparator group. The Company has one variable incentive scheme in place, the Sustained Performance Plan (SPP), each year awards are made into a 5 year plan account with a certain percentage of the total contributions (current year and previous years if any) vesting each year. The award for the year under review is considered excessive at 206% while CEO total reward (contribution out of the plan account for the year) is not considered excessive at 167.6% of salary. However it is noted that the CEO exercised 179,923 shares awarded under legacy plans in the year under review. Gains on exercise are not disclosed. The balance of CEO realised pay with financial performance is considered acceptable as the change in CEO total pay over five years is commensurate with the change in TSR over the same period. Rating: BC.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 94.9, Abstain: 4.2, Oppose/Withhold: 1.0,

# 12. Re-appoint the auditors

PWC LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 100.00% of audit fees during the year under review and 91% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees raises major concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.6, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 1.3,

### 15. Issue shares for cash

The authority is limited to 10% of the share capital. Despite the changes to the Pre-emption Rights Group suggestions, PIRC maintains that any general authority to issue shares for cash should maintain the current 5% limit. It is recommended to oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 90.2, Abstain: 6.3, Oppose/Withhold: 3.4,

### CITY OF LONDON INVESTMENT GROUP AGM - 19-10-2015

# 3. Approve Remuneration Policy

**Disclosure:** Overall disclosure is acceptable however pay policy aims are not sufficiently described in terms of the Company's objectives.

Balance: Total potential awards under all incentive schemes may be excessive given that the annual bonus maximum cap is not expressed as a percentage of salary. Furthermore awards under the two incentive schemes in operation; the processive given that the annual bonus maximum cap is not expressed as a percentage of salary. Furthermore awards under the two incentive schemes in operation; the processive given that the annual bonus maximum cap is not expressed as a percentage of salary.

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There is also no holding period attached to the LTIP.

**Contracts:** Service contracts are one year rolling. However it is noted the CEO's contract runs until 2019. Furthermore the CEO is entitled, upon termination, to a proportion of the bonus to which he would have been entitled had he been employed the whole year. For recruiting new directors, the Committee may offer guaranteed annual bonuses. This is not considered best practice.

Rating: BED.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 81.2, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 18.4,

# 10. Re-elect Barry Olliff

Chief Executive Officer. It is noted his service contract is valid until 31st December 2019. It is also noted that under his contract, upon termination, he will be entitled to a proportion of the bonus to which he would have been entitled had he been employed the whole year.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.9, Oppose/Withhold: 0.1,

## 14. Appoint the auditors

Moore Stephens LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 15.56% of audit fees during the year under review and 24.09% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than five years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 99.1, Abstain: 0.9, Oppose/Withhold: 0.0,

# BHP BILLITON GROUP (GBR) AGM - 22-10-2015

# 1. Receive the Annual Report

Strategic Report meets guidelines. Adequate environmental and employment policies are in place and quantifiable environmental reporting is detailed. It is of concern that there were worked related fatalities in FY2015.

There is no vote relating to the final dividend paid during the year. In August 2015 the Board declared a final dividend of 62 US cents per share. A statement is made that Company articles permit dividend payment in any manner or by any means determined by the Board. However the lack of opportunity to approve the dividend is a concern. The vote by shareholders on the dividend, on unqualified accounts, discharges the duties of the directors in tandem with the legal responsibilities of the auditors, and reaffirms the necessity of reliably audited accounts for financial governance to function properly. Consequently, an oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

# 2. Appoint the auditors

KPMG proposed. Non-audit fees represented 51.43% of audit fees during the year under review and 33.16% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees raises major concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 56 of 116

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### 9. Approve equity award grant to executive director

The Board is seeking shareholder approval for the purposes of ASX Listing Rule 10.14 for the for the acquisition of securities under the Group's STIP and LTIP by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The use of a single performance criteria is not best practice, particularly since relative performance is outside of the control of the executive. At less than three deciles between the lower and upper performance levels, the vesting scale is not considered sufficiently broad. Furthermore, the size of the grant is potentially excessive, particularly when combined with the annual short term incentives. Based on these concerns, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

### THE CHUBB CORPORATION EGM - 22-10-2015

# 2. Approve, by advisory (non-binding) vote, certain compensation arrangements for Chubb's named executive officers

The Board is seeking approval of the compensation payable to the Company's Named Executive Officers (NEOs) in connection with the merger. PIRC considers that payments relating to merger and aquisition transactions have the potential to intefere with the exercise of objective judgement by the board responsible for making the decision in the best interests of shareholders. This is the particularly the case where board members include NEOs who will receive such payments but even where this is not the case the quantum of such payments can represent a conflict of interest in board deliberations of the relevant transaction.

In considering whether NEO payments related to the merger are appropriate PIRC seeks to identify whether amounts normally payable to NEOs are enhanced as a result of the change in control and include elements that are not pro-rated against performance or earned by service prior to payment. The Company provides for benefits, if the executive officer is terminated by the Company without 'cause' or due to an 'involuntary termination' or resigns due to a 'constructive termination'. The Company and ACE have agreed that any Chubb executive officer, who is terminated due to an involuntary termination or constructive termination following the effective time of the merger but prior to the payment of 2015 bonuses will be paid the full bonus amount awarded. In addition, the equity award agreements in respect of the outstanding restricted stock unit awards held by executive officers (other than Mr. Finnegan, whose awards already provide for vesting upon certain terminations of employment), will be modified to provide for full vesting upon termination due to involuntary termination other than for 'cause' or a 'constructive termination'. At the effective time of the merger, each option to purchase shares of the Company's common stock that is outstanding will be converted into an option to purchase the number of ACE common shares equal to the product of: the number of shares of the Company's common stock underlying each option immediately prior to the effective time of the merger multiplied by an 'equity award conversion amount'. However, if shareholders approve the merger, John D. Finnegan will receive a total compensation of \$80.4m and together with the Named Executive Officers will receive an aggregate total compensation of \$119.9m which is considered to be excessive. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 98.2, Oppose/Withhold: 1.8,

# 3. To adjourn the Chubb special meeting, to solicit additional proxies

The board proposes to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies. Opposition is recommended as it is considered that if a sufficient number of votes are cast at the meeting for a quorum to be present, the outcome should be considered representative of shareholder opinion.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

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# 1. Approve the agreement and plan of merger by and among ACE Limited, William Investment Holdings Corporation and Chubb

The Board requests shareholders to approve the merger agreement among ACE Limited, William Investment Holdings Corporation and Chubb. At the effective time of the merger, William Investment Holdings Corporation (subsidiary of ACE), will merge with and into Chubb, with Chubb surviving the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of ACE. As a result of the merger, each share of Chubb common stock will be converted into the right to receive 0.6019 of an ACE common share and \$62.93 in cash. In addition, upon completion of the merger, the right to vote on certain corporate decisions, to elect directors and to receive dividends and distributions from Company, will be extinguished. It is expected that ACE and Chubb shareholders will hold approximately 70% and 30%, respectively, of the issued and outstanding ACE common shares.

Voting recommendations on corporate actions, such as merger decisions, are based on the information presented and on the view of the overall independence of the Board. It is noted that, over the time that the merger agreement was approved and until the present time, seven out of fourteen directors were considered to be independent. This level of independence is not considered to be sufficient and does not provide assurance that the transaction received the appropriate level of objective scrutiny. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

#### DANIELI & C. OFFICINE MECCANICHE AGM - 26-10-2015

## 4. Approve the Remuneration Report

It is proposed to approve the remuneration report with an advisory vote.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. Variable remuneration consists only of an annual bonus that corresponds to 30% of fixed salary at target. However, it appears possible that the cap could be exceeded, as the Board may award discretionary payments to executives, whose process has not been disclosed. There are no severance agreements in place. However as per Italian Law, employees terminated without cause receive 7.41% of the total remuneration received during their entire service.

Although the total potential variable remuneration seems to be broadly in line with best practice, there is no disclosure regarding the quantified criteria that should inform it. Variable remuneration may eventually overpaying against underperformance. In addition, there is an element of discretion upon the Board, who should approve any exceptional payment. With this respect, there are serious concerns over the organization of the Board, as there are no committees and the Board itself includes a significant number of members connected with the major shareholder or employed by the Company.

On balance, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

# 5. Authorise Share Repurchase

Authority is sought for the purchase and following disposal of own shares for up to 20% of the share capital, which exceeds guidelines. As per Article 2357(4) of the Italian Civil Code, shares exceeding 10% of the share capital should be canceled and the share capital should be reduced accordingly.

Vote Cast: Oppose

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#### MEDIOBANCA SPA AGM - 28-10-2015

# O.2. Approve the Remuneration Report

It is proposed to approve the remuneration report with an advisory vote.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. Variable remuneration consists of an annual bonus, partly paid in shares and deferred over five years (which make the long term incentive). It is capped at 200% of the salary for key risk takers, defined in accordance with the CRD IV. All of the variable remuneration is subject to clawback and malus, which is welcomed.

Despite a consistently capped variable remuneration, there are concerns that variable remuneration may overpay overall, as quantified performance criteria are not disclosed. In addition, although a disclosed severance policy is welcomed, its cap is considered excessive (24 months of total remuneration or EUR 5 million). On these grounds, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## O.3. Approve new executive performance option scheme

This proposal does not include an additional performance share scheme, rather it regards the part of the variable remuneration paid in shares, in accordance with the Remuneration Policy. Paying part of variable remuneration in shares it is considered to be a positive factor (also in light of the five year deferral period and additional one year holding period), and the total variable remuneration seems to be consistently capped. However, the Company does not disclose quantified performance criteria and therefore such performance share scheme may still overpay against underperformance. In addition, the Non-Executive Chairman may also receive performance shares under this scheme, which is against best practice. On balance, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### **SYMANTEC CORPORATION AGM - 03-11-2015**

# 1d. Re-elect David L. Mahoney

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.8, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 2.9,

### 1e. Re-elect Robert S. Miller

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.2, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 3.4,

# 1g. Re-elect Daniel H. Schulman

Non-Executive Chairman. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

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Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 94.6, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 5.0,

#### 1h. Re-elect V. Paul L. Unruh

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.9, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 1.8,

# 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDA. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.3, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 3.3,

## 2. Appoint the auditors

KPMG LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 6.87% of audit fees during the year under review and 4% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditors. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.7, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 1.0,

# 4. Shareholder Resolution: International Policy Committee

Proposed by: n/d. The Proponents request the Board of Directors to establish an International Policy Committee with outside independent experts to oversee the Company's policies and practice regarding environment, human rights, social responsibility, regulations, and other international issues that may affect the Company's operations, performance, reputation, and shareholders' value. The Proponents argue that none of the three primary committees (Audit, Compensation, and Nomination & Governance) has the function to deal with international issues regarding environment, human rights, social responsibility, and regulations, which are also related the legitimacy of the Company's operation worldwide. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and argues that the Company's policies already address the Proponents issues. In particular, the Board argues that the Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board is responsible for oversight of the Company's compliance with legal requirements, ethical standards, and corporate responsibility performance. In addition, the Board argues that the Nominating and Governance Committee actively participates in regular discussions with management regarding the environment, human rights, and social responsibility. The Board argues that the Company has supported the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) to protect human rights, uphold ethical labor conditions, preserve the environment, and combat corruption and that environmental stewardship is an integral part of the Company's business strategy.

The stated aims of the Proponents are considered to be important for the Company shareholders; however, it is considered that the Company already makes a statement as to their current policy over such matters. Furthermore, it is not clear to what extent such a committee would be of any further benefit, as a result an abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: *Abstain*Results: For: 3.4, Abstain: 5.3, Oppose/Withhold: 91.3,

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#### **PHAROL SGPS SA EGM - 04-11-2015**

# 2. Elect Maria do Rosário Pinto-Correia and André Cardoso de Meneses Navarro after co-optation

Bundled proposal to ratify the co-option of two non-executive directors. Maria do Rosário Pinto-Correia is considered to be independent, while André Cardoso de Meneses Navarro is not considered to be independent, as he is executive within the group BCP Millennium, a significant shareholder. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### CARDINAL HEALTH INC. AGM - 04-11-2015

# 1.03. Elect George S. Barrett

Chairman and CEO. Combined roles at the head of the Company. There should be a clear division of responsibilities at the head of the Company between the running of the board and the executive responsibility for the running of the Company's business. No one individual should have unfettered powers of decision. Combining the two roles in one person represents a concentration of power that is potentially detrimental to board balance, effective debate, and board appraisal.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 95.1, Abstain: 0.7, Oppose/Withhold: 4.3,

# 2. Appoint the auditors

EY proposed. Non-audit fees represented 21.03% of audit fees during the year under review and 20.08% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.6, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 1.1,

# 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDA. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.6, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 3.0,

#### SKY PLC AGM - 04-11-2015

## 3. Approve the Remuneration Report

All elements of each Director's cash remuneration is disclosed. All outstanding share incentive awards are stated with award dates and market prices at the date of grant. The balance of the CEO's realised pay with financial performance is not considered appropriate as the change in the CEO's total pay over five years is considered excessive and not commensurate with the change in TSR over the periods Variable rewards are almost 16 times the CEO's base salary as such they

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are considered excessive. The ratio of CEO pay to average employee pay for the year under review is also not acceptable at 77:1. At 879% of base salary, combined variable awards granted to Mr Darroch exceed the acceptable threshold of 200% of base salary.

Rating: BE

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 91.7, Abstain: 1.3, Oppose/Withhold: 7.0,

## 4. Re-elect Nick Ferguson

Incumbent Chairman. Independent upon appointment. However, he is also Chairman of the Nomination Committee which does not set targets for the proportion of women on the Board. There is insufficient female representation on the Board. An oppose vote is recommended

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.6, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

# 11. Re-elect Matthieu Pigasse

Independent Non-Executive Director. He missed three of the seven Board meetings held during the year under review. No adequate justification has been provided. It is noted that every year since appointment Mr. Pigasse has missed two or more Board/Committee meetings. Also, there are concerns aver his aggregate time commitment. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 91.2, Abstain: 0.7, Oppose/Withhold: 8.2,

### 14. Re-elect James Murdoch

Non-Executive Director. Not independent as he was the Chief Executive of the Company prior to his appointment as a Non-Executive Chairman. He is the son of Rupert Murdoch, the ultimate controlling shareholder, through 21st Century Fox. He is a representative of the company on the Board and in June 2015, he was appointed as CEO of 21st Century Fox. On 3 April 2012 Mr Murdoch stepped down from his chairmanship and became Non-Executive Director. Due to concerns over Mr Murdoch's fitness to serve, as explained in the supporting information, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.3, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 1.5,

## 15. Appoint the auditors and allow the board to determine their remuneration

Deloitte proposed. Non-audit fees represented 678.26% of audit fees during the year under review and 338.46% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees raises major concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.7, Abstain: 0.8, Oppose/Withhold: 2.5,

# 16. Approve Political Donations

Proposal to make political donations to political parties and/or independent election candidates, political organisations other than political parties, and to incur political expenditure. The authority is limited to £300,000 and terminates at the next AGM or within 15 months. Whilst the Company has no intention of making political donations, the amount proposed is considered excessive. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Page 62 of 116 Results: For: 98.7, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

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#### 18. Issue shares for cash

The authority expires at the next AGM and is limited to 10% of the share capital. This level exceeds recommended limits. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.5, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 1.9,

#### PERRIGO COMPANY PLC AGM - 04-11-2015

#### 1.01. Elect Laurie Brlas

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 90.9, Abstain: 2.9, Oppose/Withhold: 6.2,

## 1.02. Elect Gary M. Cohen

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 90.6, Abstain: 2.9, Oppose/Withhold: 6.5,

#### 1.07. Elect Gerald K. Kunkle Jr.

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 90.6, Abstain: 2.9, Oppose/Withhold: 6.5,

### 1.06. Elect Michael J. Jandernoa

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he is the former Chief Executive and Chairman at the Company and has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 91.4, Abstain: 2.9, Oppose/Withhold: 5.7,

### 1.08. Elect Herman Morris Jr.

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 91.3, Abstain: 2.9, Oppose/Withhold: 5.8,

#### 1.09. Elect Donal O'Connor

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as prior to his nomination for election to the Perrigo Board of Directors, Mr. O'Connor provided consulting services to Perrigo and received a total of \$60,000 in fees. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 63 of 116 Results: For: 92.0, Abstain: 2.9, Oppose/Withhold: 5.1,

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## 1.10. Elect Joseph C. Papa

Chairman and CEO. Combined roles at the head of the Company. There should be a clear division of responsibilities at the head of the Company between the running of the board and the executive responsibility for the running of the Company's business. No one individual should have unfettered powers of decision. Combining the two roles in one person represents a concentration of power that is potentially detrimental to board balance, effective debate, and board appraisal.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 88.8, Abstain: 3.7, Oppose/Withhold: 7.5,

## 2. Appoint the auditors

EY proposed. Non-audit fees represented 7.43% of audit fees during the year under review and 29.69% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees raises some concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than five years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 98.3, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 1.6,

### 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDB. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 88.1, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 11.8,

# 7. Adopt revised Articles of Association of the Company

The purpose of Proposal 7 is to make certain amendments to the Company's Articles of Association in order to ensure that the changes to Irish company law effected by the 2014 Act will not have unintended effects on the application of the Company's Articles.

Perrigo's current constitutional documents (its Memorandum and Articles of Association) disapply the model set of articles and instead uses a tailored Memorandum and Article of Association. The Company is seeking to continue its existing approach of setting out its regulations that govern the Company as opposed to relying on the statutory defaults.

The proposed changes appear to have little effect on the overall points required by the Companies Act 2014. However, the Company states while the summary contained in this proxy statement outlines the changes being proposed to the articles, it is not complete, which means the Company could make additional changes between issuing the proxy materials and shareholders voting on this proposal. On this basis, shareholders are advised to abstain unless the Company provides further clarification as to the final version.

Vote Cast: Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

### **LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION AGM - 04-11-2015**

# 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its exagetive4cofnp4 osation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects

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the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: CDD. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 56.1, Abstain: 1.6, Oppose/Withhold: 42.3,

# 1.01. Re-elect Robert H. Swanson, Jr.

Executive Chairman. It is considered that where a Chairman has also formerly been the CEO that this could impinge on the responsibilities of the incumbent CEO. It is also considered that the Chairman should be independent of management. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

#### 1.05. Re-elect David S. Lee

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. In addition there are concerns over his aggregate time commitments. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 90.8, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 9.0,

## 1.06. Re-elect Richard M. Moley

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 93.9, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 5.8,

### 1.07. Re-elect Thomas S. Volpe

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.7, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 3.0,

# 4. Appoint the auditors

Ernst & Young LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 7.09% of audit fees during the year under review and 8% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditors. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.4, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 1.3,

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#### **KLA-TENCOR CORPORATION AGM - 04-11-2015**

### 2. Appoint the auditors

PwC proposed. Non-audit fees represented 10.30% of audit fees during the year under review and 7.81% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.2, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.7,

## 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BCC. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders abstain.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 97.0, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 2.6,

#### CDK GLOBAL AGM - 06-11-2015

# 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: C for Disclosure; D for Balance; and C for Contracts. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

# 4. Approve our 2014 Omnibus Award Plan

The Company is seeking shareholder approval of the 2014 Omnibus Award Plan. The 2014 Plan provides for an aggregate of 12,000,000 shares of common stock to be reserved for issuance (7.5% of the outstanding share capital).

The Plan is presented as an omnibus plan, which means that bundled within the same official plan there are various incentive plan elements aimed at rewarding different groups of employees, officers and executives. These plans permit the granting of options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance grants and dividend equivalents. However, we note that the Compensation Committee retains the power to select employees to receive awards and determine the terms and conditions of awards (and also note that 'management employees' appear most likely to be the principal beneficiaries of the Plan).

It is considered that, as performance conditions may be attached to awards at the Compensation Committee's discretion, there are concerns that awards under the Plan will not necessarily be subject to suitable performance measures with sufficiently robust performance targets (if any). As a result, shareholders cannot assess whether the Plan will operate to align participants' incentives with shareholders' interests. Accordingly, we recommend that shareholders oppose the resolution.

Vote Cast: Oppose

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#### PERNOD RICARD SA AGM - 06-11-2015

# O.1. Approve Financial Statements and Statutory Reports

Disclosure is adequate. The financial statements and statutory reports were made available sufficiently before the meeting and have been audited and certified. However, a number of corporate governance concerns have been identified.

There is no de facto division at the head of the Company between the chairmanship of the board and executive responsibilities, as these are both run by members of the founding family. There are also concerns that the former CEO Mr. Pringuet remains of the board, having reached the statutory age limit for the post of Chief Executive. The roles of Chairman and Chief Executive are completely different and should be separated. Generally, it is considered that the combination of roles at a listed company can only be justified on a temporary basis under exceptional circumstances. In addition, eight out of 14 board members are linked to significant shareholders. The founding family and Rafaël Gonzales-Gallarza (0.56% of the issued share capital) seem to have a disproportionate representation on the Board as they jointly hold 13.7% of the share capital (and 19.70% of the voting rights) but have five representatives on the Board. It is noted that Rafaël Gonzalez-Gallarza and Société Paul Ricard hold a shareholder agreement under which Mr. Gonzalez-Gallarza undertakes to consult Société Paul Ricard prior to any Pernod Ricard Shareholders' Meeting in order for them to vote in a similar fashion. Based on these concerns, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.5, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 0.4,

# O.2. Approve Consolidated Financial Statements and Statutory Reports

Disclosure is adequate. The consolidated financial statements and statutory reports were made available sufficiently before the meeting and have been audited and certified. However, based on the governance concerns identified in resolution 1, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.6, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 0.4,

# O.4. Approve Auditors' Special Report on Related-Party Transactions

Shareholders are asked to approve the statutory auditors' special report, in compliance with article L. 225-38 and following of the French Commercial Code, concerning the agreements authorised by the Board during the year under review.

A new agreement has been formulated for the benefit of Chairman and CEO, Alexandre Ricard. The agreement is a draft on benefits related to Mr. Ricard's potential cessation of employment.

In light of the lack of the concerns noted within the agreement and a lack of independent representation on the Board, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.4, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 0.5,

# O.5. Approve Agreements with Alexandre Ricard, Chairman and CEO

Proposal for shareholder approval of the related party agreement with Alexandre Ricard relating to his severance agreement as required by French Corporate Law. The agreement contains a forced departure clause under which Mr. Ricard is to be awarded compensation, subject to performance conditions. The clause does not contain disclosure on said performance conditions, which does not permit an assessment of their effectiveness. As the value of the proposed agreement may potentially exceed one year fixed salary, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

O.6. Ratify Appointment of Veronica Vargas as Director

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Non-Executive Director candidate. Not considered to be independent as she is the great-granddaughter of Mr. Paul Ricard, the founder of the Company. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 93.3, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 6.6,

# O.11. Advisory Vote on Compensation of Alexandre Ricard, Chairman and CEO since 11 February 2015

It is proposed to approve with an advisory the remuneration paid or due for the year to the Chairman and CEO, Alexandre Ricard.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. As per market practice, quantified targets for the variable remuneration are not disclosed as they are considered confidential information. Variable remuneration consists of an annual bonus and long term incentives. The annual bonus corresponds to 110% of fixed salary at target and is capped at 180%. However, it appears possible that the cap could be exceeded. The CEO's total variable remuneration during the year under review corresponded to less than 200% of his fixed salary, which is acceptable but may be overpaying for underperformance in the absence of quantified targets. With regards to contracts, there are no claw back clauses in place which is against best practice. The CEO's non-compete agreement includes a maximum 24 months' compensation clause, which is considered excessive. Based on these concerns, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 81.0, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 18.9,

# O.12. Advisory Vote on Compensation of Pierre Pringuet, CEO until 11 February 2015

It is proposed to approve with an advisory vote the remuneration paid or due for the year to the former CEO, Pierre Pringuet.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. As per market practice, quantified targets for the variable remuneration are not disclosed as they are considered confidential information. Variable remuneration consists of an annual bonus and long term incentives. The annual bonus corresponds to 110% of fixed salary at target but does not appear to have been capped. There is a number of issues within the long term incentive plan (LTIP), notably the performance period of three years, which is not considered sufficient and the lack of disclosure on targets. The former CEO's total variable remuneration during the year under review correspondeded to 199.81% of his fixed salary, which is acceptable but may be overpaying for underperformance in the absence of quantified targets. Mr Pringuet has not had a contract with the Company since 2009. His severance compensation relates entirely to his directorship. He is however subject to a two-year non-compete clause in exchange for an indemnity equivalent to one year's fixed and variable compensation. It is considered that such clauses should only include fixed remuneration. It is noted that Mr. Pringuet has expressly and irrevocably waived the financial compensation that stems from his non-compete clause but has maintained his 24-month non-compete obligation after leaving the Company as Chief Executive Officer. Based on the lack of disclosure on performance targets and the subsequent potential for excessive remuneration as well as the issues identified within the LTIP, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

# O.13. Advisory Vote on Compensation of Daniele Ricard, Chairman Until Feb. 11, 2015

It is proposed to approve with an advisory vote the remuneration paid or due for the year to the former Chairman, Daniele Ricard. During Fiscal 2014, Ms. Ricard was not entitled to any variable, annual or multi-year portion, special bonus, rights to stock options or performance-based shares or termination of service payments. The compensation received by Ms. Ricard during the year amounted to EUR 67,836. The compensation structure meets best practice; however, in light of the governance concerns identified. We would recommend abstention, but as abstention is not a valid vote in France, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 68 of 116 Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 99.9, Oppose/Withhold: 0.1,



### O.14. Authorise Share Repurchase

Authority is sought to allow the Board to repurchase and use capital stock within legal boundaries. The repurchase is limited to 10% of share capital. The authority will be valid for 18 months and can be used during a period of public offer. Opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 70.0, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 29.9,

### E.18. Authorize Board to increase capital in the event of additional demand

In addition to the share issuance authorities sought above, the Board requests shareholder authority for a capital increase of additional 15%, in case of exceptional demand.

A green shoe authorisation enables an authorization of additional shares in the event of exceptional public demand. In this case, the authorization would increase allow the placement of up to 15% additional new shares within a thirty day period at a price equal to that of the initial offer. There are concerns with such authorities as they may potentially represent a discount superior to the discount to which the initial authorisation is limited due to a potential rise in share price in the period between original issuance and secondary issuance. Given the potential for inequitable treatment of shareholders, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 87.2, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 12.8,

# E.20. Authorize Capital Increase of up to 10 Percent of Issued Capital for Future Exchange Offers

Proposal to use the authorities sought under resolutions 16 and 17 in time of public offer. The use of share increase or share repurchase during public offer (i.e. a takeover) is considered to be counter to shareholders best interests as they could entrench the board subject to an hostile takeover.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 89.5, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 10.5,

## E.22. Authorize Issued Capital for Use in Restricted Stock Plans

It is proposed to authorise the Board of Directors to grant performance-based shares to employees and Executive Directors of the Company and Group companies over a period of 38 months. The maximum amount of shares allotted is capped at 1.5%. For Executive Directors, allocations are subject to performance conditions, the targets of which have not been disclosed. As the disclosure of performance conditions applied to this specific plan do not meet guidelines, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 92.7, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 7.3,

### E.23. Authorize Issued Capital for Use in Stock Option Plans

It is proposed to authorise the Board of Directors to grant stock options to employees and Executive Directors of the Company and Group companies over a period of 38 months. The maximum amount of options allotted is capped at 1.5%. For Exececutive Directors, allocations are subject to performance conditions, the targets of which have not been disclosed. As the performance conditions applied to this specific plan do not meet guidelines, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 94.3, Abstain: 0.1, Oppose/Withhold: 5.7,

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### **AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING INC. AGM - 10-11-2015**

## 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDB. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.0, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 2.5,

## 3. Appoint the auditors

Deloitte & Touche LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 25.56% of audit fees during the year under review and 26% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees raises serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditors. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.4, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 1.3,

### **BROADCOM CORPORATION EGM - 10-11-2015**

# 1. Approve the Merger

The Company and Avago Technologies Limited have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 28, 2015. The Company will undergo a series of mergers, which will result in the Company becoming an indirect subsidiary of Broadcom, Avago, Pavonia Limited ("Holdco"). Holdco will be renamed "Broadcom Limited" in connection with the Transactions.

Broadcom shareholders who make a valid election to receive cash, who fail to make a valid election or whose election is revoked, will be entitled to \$54.50 in cash per share. Alternatively, shareholders can elect to receive 0.4378 freely-tradeable Holdco Ordinary Shares per Broadcom Common Share or 0.4378 Restricted Exchangeable Units per Broadcom Common Share.

The primary objective of the foregoing structure of the transaction consideration is to achieve an overall mix of consideration of approximately half cash and half equity (subject to fluctations in the value of Holdco equity) to Broadcom shareholders, while also modifying that goal to allow any holder of Broadcom Common Shares who desires to receive securities of the surviving company in a transaction intended to constitute a tax-free exchange to achieve that result.

Voting recommendations on corporate actions, such as merger decisions, are based on the information presented and on the view of the overall independence of the Board. It is noted that, over the time that the merger agreement was approved and until the present time, four out of nine directors were considered to be independent. This level of independence is not considered to be sufficient and does not provide assurance that the transaction received the appropriate level of objective scrutiny. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 99.4, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 0.1,

# 2. Adjourn meeting and proxy solicitation

The Board requests authority to adjourn the special meeting until a later date or dates, if necessary, in order to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the merger. An oppose vote is recommended to any adjournment or postponement of meetings if a

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sufficient number of votes are present to constitute a quorum. It is considered that where a quorum is present, the vote outcome should be considered representative of shareholder opinion.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.6, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 3.0,

# 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company is seeking shareholder approval of golden parachute payments being made to the executives in connection with the merger. It is noted that this proposal is advisory.

Golden parachute payments are considered excessive, with cash severance equal to 3x/2x annual base salary and annual bonus, plus a pro-rata annual bonus at 150% of target for the fiscal year. This amount is equal to \$10.50m for the CEO. In addition, the CEO is entitled to \$85.30m in equity.

The Company has stated that the new Company has substituted all unvested equity awards for shares in the new Company, which have the same vesting conditions as awards made prior to the merger. Any shares that have vested, will be cancelled with the recipient receiving an amount in cash equal to the product of the number of shares.

There are concerns over the excessive nature of equity awards. Mr McGregor's (CEO) total severance package is roughly 97.84x his base salary. On this basis, shareholders are advised to oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 88.3, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 11.1,

# **BARRATT DEVELOPMENTS PLC AGM - 11-11-2015**

# 2. Approve the Remuneration Report

**Disclosure:** Overall disclosure is acceptable. EPS and ROCE targets for LTIP awards are not disclosed. Upon engagement, the Company states that this approach was decided after consultation with shareholders and progress against targets is disclosed on an annual basis.

**Balance:** CEO total realised rewards are considered highly excessive at 810.8% of salary (LTIP: 671%, Annual Bonus: 139.8%). CEO total awards granted are considered excessive at 339.8% of salary (Annual Bonus: 139.8%, LTIP: 200%). The balance of CEO realised pay with financial performance is considered acceptable as the change in CEO total pay over five years is commensurate with the change in TSR over the same period. The CEO pay increased by 57.9% over that period while the TSR increased by 59%. Termination arrangements for the departing CEO, Mark Clare are in line with the policy. However, concerns are raised over the excessiveness of the CEO's rewarded pay. It is also noted that his salary is in the upper quartile of a peer comparator group. Rating: BD.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 91.5, Abstain: 3.7, Oppose/Withhold: 4.9,

### 5. Re-elect Mr J M Allan

Incumbent Chairman. Chairman. Independent upon appointment. Mr Allan is Chairman of the Board of Tesco Plc, another FTSE 350 listed company. This raises concerns about his external time commitments, as the Chairman should be expected to commit a substantial proportion of his time to the role. An oppose vote is therefore recommended.

Vote Cast: *Oppose*Results: For: 98.2, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 1.1,

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# 12. Appoint the auditors

Deloitte proposed. Non-audit fees represented 26.44% of audit fees during the year under review and 41% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees raises some concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than five years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 98.4, Abstain: 0.9, Oppose/Withhold: 0.7,

## 15. Renewal of the Barratt Developments PLC Co-Investment Plan (To be renamed the deferred bonus plan)

Participants will receive either a basic award, in place of all or a proportion of a cash bonus that would otherwise have been paid, or a basic award and a matching award. Currently, the maximum amount of bonus which may be deferred into shares is 50% of base salary. This can then be matched on 1:1 basis, resulting in 100% of salary Co-IP award. If a full year bonus is deferred and matched, total bonus awards can reach 200% of salary. The vesting of any matching award will be subject to performance conditions set by the Committee at the time of grant which will normally be tested over at least three financial years. It is intended that the performance conditions attached to any matching awards would be on the same basis as any performance conditions attached to any LTPP award being granted. Upside discretion may be applied by the Committee as accelerated vesting is permissible for those deemed 'good leavers' on severance and on a change of control. As participation is not extended to all employees and it may result in a further increase in the quantum of executive remuneration, an abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 94.6, Abstain: 0.9, Oppose/Withhold: 4.5,

# HAYS PLC AGM - 11-11-2015

# 2. Approve the Remuneration Report

**Disclosure:** Disclosure is considered acceptable. The Company's approach of providing a snapshot view of key details of the remuneration policy and implementation is commendable.

**Balance:** CEO total realised rewards under all schemes are considered excessive at 477% of salary (LTIP: 354.5%, Annual Bonus: 122.5%). The balance of CEO realised pay with financial performance is not considered acceptable as the change in CEO total pay over five years is not commensurate with the change in TSR over the same period. Lastly, CEO salary is considered to be in the upper quartile of the chosen comparator group. Rating: AD.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 95.7, Abstain: 1.1, Oppose/Withhold: 3.3,

### 4. Re-elect Alan Thomson

Incumbent Chairman. Independent upon appointment. Mr Thomson is Board Chairman of Bodycote plc, another FTSE 350 listed company. This raises concerns about his external time commitments, as the Chairman should be expected to commit a substantial proportion of his time to the role. An oppose vote is therefore recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.9, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 1.5,

# 12. Appoint the auditors

Deloitte proposed. Non-audit fees represented 33.33% of audit fees during the year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit

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fees raises some concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.7, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 2.3,

#### **MEREDITH CORPORATION AGM - 11-11-2015**

## 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDC. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

### 3. Appoint the auditors

KPMG proposed. Non-audit fees represented 16.76% of audit fees during the year under review and 13.66% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS INC. AGM - 12-11-2015

## 6. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: CDA. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### 4. Amend 1996 Stock Incentive Plan

The Company has put forward a resolution requesting shareholders to amend the Company's 1996 Stock Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares available for issuance by 4,000,000 shares, representing approximately 1.4% of the Company's outstanding shares. Subject to shareholders approval, a total of 141,100,000 shares of the Company's common stock will be reserved for issuance under the Plan. As of September 2, 2015, approximately 21,726,393 shares were available for purchase. The Plan is open to all employees and permits the Company to award stock options, restricted stock units (including Market Share Units), and restricted stock. The Plan is administered by a Committee appointed by the Board of Directors, which has the authority to select participants; determine the number of shares; and the terms and conditions of awards. The Plan limits the number of shares with respect to which incentive stock options and non-qualified stock options may be granted in any fiscal year of the Company to any participant to 4,000,000 with the company to which restricted stock units and restricted stock to 2,000,000

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shares.

There are concerns that performance conditions may be attached to awards at the Committee's discretion and as a result awards may not be subject to robust enough performance targets, and be insufficiently challenging. The Market Share Units and restricted shares granted during the last fiscal year are not subject to performance targets. In addition, award limits are considered to be excessive. As a result, an oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 2. Appoint the auditors

Deloitte proposed. Non-audit fees represented 20.07% of audit fees during the year under review and 41.34% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees raises some concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### **BROADRIDGE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS INC. AGM - 12-11-2015**

## 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDB. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 3. Appoint the auditors

Deloitte proposed. Non-audit fees represented 4.35% of audit fees during the year under review and 10.36% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than five years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Abstain

#### KIER GROUP PLC AGM - 12-11-2015

## 2. Approve the Remuneration Report

**Disclosure:** Overall disclosure is considered acceptable.

Balance: CEO total realised rewards are not considered excessive as only the annual bonus was paid out at 91.9% of salary. The balance of CEO's realised pay with financial performance is considered acceptable as the change in CEO total pay over five years is commensurate with the change in TSR over the same period. The CEO pay increased by 14.03% while TSR increased by 15% over this five year period. The ratio of CEO to average employee pay has been estimated and is found inappropriate at 27:1. The CEO's salary is considered in the upper quartile and a salary is considered during the year

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was awarded "good leaver" status. The awarding of "good leaver status" for a director who resigns is not considered appropriate or in shareholders' interests. Rating: AD.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.8, Abstain: 0.7, Oppose/Withhold: 1.5,

#### 13. Re-elect Mr P M White

Incumbent Chairman. Incumbent Chairman. Independent on appointment. He is also Chairman of Unite Group plc and Lookers plc, both constituents of the FTSE 350 company index, which raises concerns about his external time commitments.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.1, Abstain: 0.7, Oppose/Withhold: 3.2,

### 15. Appoint the auditors

PWC proposed. Non-audit fees represented 23.81% of audit fees during the year under review. While this amount is not considered material as to warrant concerns over the auditor's independence, it is noted that the current audit firm served as internal auditor before being appointed external auditor for approximately three years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 98.0, Abstain: 1.9, Oppose/Withhold: 0.1,

#### 18. Issue shares for cash

The authority is limited to 10% of the share capital. Despite the changes to the Pre-emption Rights Group suggestions, PIRC maintains that any general authority to issue shares for cash should maintain the current 5% limit. It is recommended to oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 94.9, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 5.1,

#### JPMORGAN EMERGING MARKETS I.T. PLC AGM - 17-11-2015

## 12. Appoint the auditors and allow the board to determine their remuneration

PWC proposed. Non-audit fees represented 0.00% of audit fees during the year under review and 2.41% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. However, the current auditor has been in place for more than ten years, since 2004. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.7, Abstain: 0.7, Oppose/Withhold: 0.7,

#### **VIAVI SOLUTIONS INC. AGM - 17-11-2015**

## 2. Appoint the auditors

PwC proposed. Non-audit fees represented 16.75% of audit fees during the year under review and 17.58% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit Page 75 of 116

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fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than five years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: DDC. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### SMITHS GROUP PLC AGM - 17-11-2015

## 1. Receive the Annual Report

Strategic Report meets guidelines. Adequate environmental and employment policies are in place and relevant, up-to-date, quantified environmental reporting is disclosed. The Company also disclosed the proportion of women on the Board, in Executive Management positions and within the whole organisation. However, the company has made donations in the US which are deemed to be political during the year. The Group made political donations of US\$68,000 (£44,000) to 'raise awareness and to promote the interests of the Company, on a bi-partisan basis'. Similar donations have been made for the past four years. Such donations require additional clarification as to who are exactly the recipients and how such expenditure is in the best interest of shareholders. An abstain vote is therefore recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain Results: For: 98.7, Abstain: 0.9, Oppose/Withhold: 0.4,

## 2. Approve Remuneration Policy

No maximum salary or cap on salary increase have been set. The maximum level of pension contribution (or allowance in lieu thereof) is 30% of annual base salary, which is considered excessive.

Under the LTIP, the performance period is three years with the possibility of a holding period being applied post vesting, however, no holding period is currently applied. This is not considered a sufficiently long-term performance period. Performance is assessed against multiple performance conditions which is welcomed, however the conditions do not operate independently and replicate those utilised under the bonus plan. Dividend accrual is applied from the date of grant on shares that vest. This practice is accumulating dividends on the rewards before the performance has been met.

In the event of termination, the amount of compensation for executive, as so determined, will not be less than 12 months' basic salary. The treatment of bonuses and outstanding variable awards for leavers remains subject to Remuneration Committee discretion, and the remuneration committee retains the discretion to waive performance conditions and time pro-rata vesting, which is considered inappropriate. Finally, the Company's recruitment policy allows for the replication of new appointees' forfeited schemes at their previous employers, which is an inappropriate practice.

Rating: BDC

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 89.4, Abstain: 7.2, Oppose/Withhold: 3.3,

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## 3. Approve the Remuneration Report

Over the past five years, average annual increase in CEO pay has been approximately 9.7% whereas, on average, TSR has increased by 8%. This demonstrates alignment. Despite this, the quantum available under the variable pay elements is considered excessive. The maximum potential awards under all incentive schemes was limited to 660% of salary for the CEO (180% for Annual Bonus, 180% for CIP and 300% for LTIP), which exceeds PIRC's 200% of salary cap. Likewise, for the year under review the total pay-out under variable schemes was excessive at 367% of salary. Performance targets are not disclosed under the annual bonus scheme. However, the same performance conditions are used for the LTIP and under this scheme targets are disclosed on a prospective basis. Replication of performance conditions is not considered appropriate as it is effectively rewarding directors twice for the same performance.

Some of the recruitment awards made to Mr O'Shea and Mr. Reynolds Smith are not deemed appropriate as no performance conditions are attached. In addition, outstanding LTIP and CIP awards for outgoing CEO, Philip Bowman, will not be pro-rated for time served.

Rating: CE

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 85.0, Abstain: 7.2, Oppose/Withhold: 7.8,

### 13. Appoint the auditors

PWC proposed. Non-audit fees represented 10.00% of audit fees during the year under review and 14.18% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years, since 1998. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.0, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 2.5,

## 21. Approve new long term incentive plan

The Company seeks shareholder approval to discontinue the Co-Investment Plan and replace it with the LTIP 2015. Removal of the CIP plan helps to simplify the remuneration arrangements. The new LTIP will have a ten-year life span.

Participation is at the discretion of the Remuneration Committee but it is expected that the scheme will only be used for executives. Initially, annual awards will be made with a face value of 300% of base salary for the Chief Executive and 250% of base salary for the Finance Director. However, the Committee has power to make share awards up to a maximum face value of 400%. When aggregated with other variable awards the face value can reach 580% of salary. This is considered highly excessive. The necessity to increase the maximum under the LTIP is unclear.

Performance conditions must be applied and will be measured over the three financial years, or such longer period as the committee may determine. This performance period is not considered sufficiently long-term. No holding period is scheduled to be applied, however, the Committee has discretion to apply one. Dividend accrual will be applied on any vesting shares in the period between grant and vesting. Such practice is not considered to be in shareholders' interests as it rewards a director before the performance has been met.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 90.4, Abstain: 7.6, Oppose/Withhold: 2.0,

#### **CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY AGM - 18-11-2015**

#### 1.1. Elect Bennett Dorrance

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he is a descendant of the founding Dorrance family, which controls 42.1% of issued share capital. In addition, Page 77 of 116

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Mr. Dorrance holds 15.0% of the issued share capital and has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

#### 1.2. Elect Randall W. Larrimore

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

### 1.4. Elect Mary Alice D. Malone

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as she is a member of the Dorrance family, which controls 42.1% of issued share capital. In addition, Ms. Malone holds 17.2% and has served on the board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.7,

#### 1.5. Elect Sara Mathew

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as she has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

#### 1.7. Elect Charles R. Perrin

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

## 1.8. Elect A. Barry Rand

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

#### 1.11. Elect Archbold D. van Beuren

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he is a member of the Dorrance family, which either beneficially or indirectly controls 42.1% of the issued share capital. In addition he is a former executive of the Company. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 78 of 116 Results: For: 99.4, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.4,

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## 1.12. Elect Les C. Vinney

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.1, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.7,

#### 2. Appoint the auditors

PwC LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 20.62% of audit fees during the year under review and 17% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditors. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.3, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.4,

### 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: CDC. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.9, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 1.7,

## 4. Approval of Campbell Soup Company 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan

The Company has put forward a resolution requesting shareholders to approve the Company's 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan. The Plan permits the Company to grant stock options, SARs, restricted stock (including restricted performance stock), unrestricted stock and stock units (including performance-restricted stock units and restricted stock units)). The Plan is open to any key salaried employee who is a management salaried employee (812 employees). Non-employee directors are also eligible to receive awards other than incentive stock options. The Plan will be administered by the Committee which has the power to interpret the Plan and to establish rules for its administration. Under the Plan, a maximum of five million options and SARs may be issued in one year to any one participant and a maximum of \$10 million for each year in a performance period or restricted period may be awarded in the form of restricted stock, restricted stock units or performance units to any one participant.

It is noted that as performance conditions may be attached to awards at the Compensation Committee's discretion, there are concerns that the Committee will have considerable flexibility in the payout of discretionary awards, which are not supported. There are concerns that awards may not be subject to robust enough performance targets and be insufficiently challenging. In addition, the bonus limit is considered to be excessive. As a result an oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.3, Abstain: 0.3, Oppose/Withhold: 3.4,

#### SYSCO CORPORATION AGM - 18-11-2015

## 1a. Elect John M. Cassaday

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of Dagein by the first 6 here is insufficient independent representation on the board.

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Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 91.3, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 8.3,

#### 1b. Elect Judith B. Craven

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 92.9, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 6.7,

#### 1f. Elect Jonathan Golden

Non-Executive Director. Not independent as he is a partner and the sole shareholder of the law firm Arnall Golden Gregory LLP, which is counsel to Sysco. In addition, he has served on the Board for over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 83.7, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 15.8,

### 1g. Elect Joseph A. Hafner, Jr.

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 0.0, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 100.0,

## 1i. Elect Nancy S. Newcomb

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.9, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 2.7,

## 1k. Elect Richard G. Tilghman

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 95.7, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 3.9,

#### 11. Elect Jackie M. Ward

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 93.0, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 6.6,

## 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDB. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 80 of 116 Results: For: 90.4, Abstain: 0.7, Oppose/Withhold: 8.9,



### 3. Appoint the auditors

EY proposed. Non-audit fees represented 3.15% of audit fees during the year under review and 5.58% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.7, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 0.8,

#### 1j. Elect Nelson Peltz

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he is CEO of Trian Fund Management, L.P., which beneficially owns 7% of the outstanding share capital. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 98.5, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 1.1,

### 1d. Elect Joshua D. Frank

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he is an executive of Trian Fund Management, L.P., which beneficially owns 7% of the outstanding share capital. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.2, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 0.4,

#### **ORACLE CORPORATION AGM - 18-11-2015**

## 2. Re-approve the Executive Bonus Plan

The Company has put forward a resolution requesting shareholders to re-approve the Executive Bonus Plan for compliance with Section 162(m). It is expected that in fiscal 2016, approximately 20 executive officers will participate in the Executive Bonus Plan. The Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee which has the power to select participants, establish the performance goals and determine each participant's target award. Under the Plan, awards are limited to a maximum of \$15,000,000 million per person in any one year performance period.

The Plan allows the Committee too much discretion to determine the size, type and term of awards. There are concerns that performance conditions may be attached to awards at the Committee's discretion and as a result awards may not be subject to robust enough performance targets, and be insufficiently challenging. In addition, the maximum value limit of \$15,000,000 million is considered excessive. As a result, an oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 93.3, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 6.5,

## 3. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDA. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 81 of 116 Results: For: 48.1, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 51.4,



### 4. Appoint the auditors

Ernst & Young LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 6.67% of audit fees during the year under review and 5% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditors. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.1, Abstain: 0.2, Oppose/Withhold: 0.7,

## 5. Shareholder Resolution: Renewable Energy Targets

Proposed by: Trillium Asset Management LLC. The Proponent requests the Board of Directors to set company-wide quantitative targets by March 2016 to increase renewable energy sourcing and/or production. The Proponent argues that the Company does not have renewable energy targets and as a result it may be lagging behind its industry peers. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and states that adoption of the proposal is unnecessary given the Company's efforts to use renewable energy sources, increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In particular, the Board argues that the Company supports renewable energy through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates and the use of renewable energy at many of the Company's facilities globally and employs a number of energy-saving technologies. In addition, the Board states that in the 2014 Corporate Responsibility Report the Company has set sustainability goals which intends to achieve by the end of 2016 (a 10% reduction in energy use in its facilities as compared to 2010 energy use and a 6% improvement in its power usage effectiveness in data centres, as compared to 2010 power usage).

The Proponent has not established a case as to how the resolution will impact on shareholder value. We advise abstaining on this resolution.

Vote Cast: Abstain: 11.6, Oppose/Withhold: 84.4,

#### 9. Shareholder Resolution: Vote Tabulation

Proposed by: the Chief Executive of Investor Voice. The Proponent requests the Board of Directors to amend the Company's governing documents to provide that all matters presented to shareholders, other than the election of directors, shall be decided by a simple majority of the shares voted For and Against an item. The Proponent states that the Company includes abstentions in the formula for all votes, then counts every Abstain vote as if it were an Against vote. The Proponent argues that adoption of the proposal would harmonize how Company both counts and reports voting results to shareholders, the SEC, and press. The Board recommends shareholders oppose and argues that the Company's voting standards are clearly disclosed and they reflect the Delaware law default standards followed by a majority of Delaware corporations. The Board argues that similar shareholder proposals received the support of only approximately 8.4% and 8.7% of Company common stock at annual meetings in 2014 and 2013, respectively.

It is considered that shareholders should have the right to approve most matters submitted for their consideration by a simple majority of the shares voted. However, it is appropriate for certain matters to be subject to a higher approval threshold. As a result, an abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 90.0,

#### SOUTH32 LTD AGM - 18-11-2015

### 4. Appoint the auditors

KPMG proposed. Non-audit fees represented 4.93% of audit fees during the year under review. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. While upon engagement it is disclosed to suppose the statutory auditors in June 2015, KPMG is the auditor

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of BHP Billiton, from which South32 demerged. The auditors cannot thus be regarded as independent and the fact that both companies have different audit partners is not considered sufficient.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 5. Approve the Remuneration Report

In accordance with Section 250R of the Australian Corporations Act, the directors are seeking approval of the remuneration report. The Act does not require directors to act on approval of the resolution and the vote is advisory.

The maximum potential award for the CEO under all incentive schemes is considered excessive when it can represent more than 200% of his salary. The variable remuneration of the CEO for the year under review is above this threshold, which is considered excessive. The CEO, Graham Kerr received Short Term Incentive (STI) awards worth 77% of salary and Long Term Incentive (LTI) awards vested at 125% of salary. In addition, there are concerns over the features of the LTIP, which are not considered appropriate.

It should be noted that due to the demerger of the Company from BHP Biliton, the remuneration report covers the period from 1 July 2014 to 24 May 2015, where the Company was a subsidiary of BHP Billiton and the period from 25 May 2015 to 30 June 2015 where it became an independent entity. Replacement and transitional awards have been made to replace BHP Billiton awards. While these replacement awards are of a similar value and made on similar terms, performance and service conditions are linked to South32 instead of BHP Billiton.

## Vote Cast: Oppose

## 6. Approve equity award grant to executive director

The Board is seeking shareholder approval for the purposes of ASX Listing Rule 10.14 for the grant of Performance Rights and Deferred Securities under the Company's incentive plan, the Equity Incentive Plan (EIP).

The proposed LTI grant is worth \$5,735,000 (324% of his fixed remuneration), which in conjunction with the STI opportunity (up to 180% of fixed remuneration), is considered excessive. Awards are in the form of equity based Performance Rights under the Company's Executive Performance Rights Plan with a four year performance period which is considered sufficiently adequate. The LTI is based on the achievement against a sole performance condition: relative TSR. It is considered best practice for awards to be linked to more than one performance condition. Furthermore, the absence of non-financial parameters to assess Executives' long-term performance is considered contrary to best practice as such factors allow the remuneration policy to focus on the operational performance of the business as a whole and the individual roles of each of the senior executives in achieving that performance. It is noted that the Company retains a discretion to pay in cash instead of shares which indeed defeats the purpose of this scheme and is not supported.

Half of the CEO's STI grant is paid to him in the form of rights which vests after two years. The deferred STI grant is worth up to 61% of his fixed remuneration. It is noted that the Board has discretion to determine that both STI deferred rights and LTI performance rights vest upon cessation of employment.

While the practice of deferring bonus awards into shares is supported, LTI based schemes are inherently flawed. There is the inherent risk that they are rewarding volatility rather than the performance of the company (creating capital and - lawful - dividends). They are inherently acting as a complex and opaque hedge against absolute company under performance and long-term share price falls. They are also a significant factor in reward for failure.

## Vote Cast: Oppose

## 7. Approve Termination Payments to Executives

Under sections 200B and 200E of the Companies Act, companies must get shareholder approval for giving termination benefits other than statutory entitlements. Employment contract benefits are payments in lieu of notice and restraint page 183ca petalat a combined value of six months base salary. Where employment ceases

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due to death or disability, Key Management Personnel (KMP) are entitled to a lump sum payment equal to four times salary (death) or a pension equal to 30% of their anual gross salary (disability).

Concerns are raised over the discretion permitted the Board under this proposal, particularly for those deemed 'good leavers' under the equity awards made under the Company's long term and short term incentive plans. This includes discretion to vest awards with effect from the cessation date or in the case of long-term incentive awards, to allow more than a pro-rata portion to remain on foot and be eligible in the ordinary course. Based on this level of discretion, an oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### CISCO SYSTEMS INC. AGM - 19-11-2015

#### 1a. Elect Carol A. Bartz

Lead Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.1, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 3.3,

#### 1b. Elect M. Michele Burns

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 95.3, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 4.1,

## 1c. Elect Michael D. Capellas

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as Michael D. Capellas served as the Chairman of the Board of VCE from January 2011 to November 2012 and was its CEO from May 2010 to September 2011. VCE is a joint venture that Cisco formed in fiscal 2010 with EMC, with investments from VMware and Intel. In addition, he has been on the board for over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.2, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 2.3,

#### 1d. Elect John T. Chambers

Executive Chairman. It is not considered good practice for a Chairman to hold an executive position in the Company as we believe that the management of the business and the functioning of the Board are best kept separate.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 96.4, Abstain: 1.1, Oppose/Withhold: 2.5,

## 1f. Elect Dr. John L. Hennessy

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 87.0, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 12.5,

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## 1h. Elect Roderick C. McGeary

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.2, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 2.3,

## 1j. Elect Arun Sarin

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 99.0, Abstain: 0.5, Oppose/Withhold: 0.5,

#### 1k. Elect Steven M. West

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent owing to a tenure of over nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.0, Abstain: 0.6, Oppose/Withhold: 2.4,

## 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: BDC. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 92.1, Abstain: 0.8, Oppose/Withhold: 7.1,

## 3. Appoint the auditors

PwC proposed. Non-audit fees represented 0.68% of audit fees during the year under review and 1.55% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 97.7, Abstain: 0.4, Oppose/Withhold: 1.8,

## 4. Shareholder Resolution: Holy Land Principles

Proposed by: The Holy Land Principles, Inc. The proponent requests the Board of Directors to: Make all possible lawful efforts to implement and/or increase activity on each of the eight Holy Land Principles (see supporting information on this resolution for the principles). The proponent believes that Cisco benefits by hiring from the widest available talent pool. An employee's ability to do the job should be the primary consideration in hiring and promotion decisions. Implementation of the Holy Land Principles— which are both pro-Jewish and pro-Palestinian — will demonstrate Cisco's concern for human rights and equality of opportunity in its international operations. The board states that after consideration, it feels the proposal is unnecessary in light of the Company's demonstrated commitment to equal employment opportunity without regard to age, race, colour, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran status or any other protected status. Its Equal Employment Opportunity/Workplace Conduct Policy Statement clearly sets forth the standards under which Cisco treats all employees and applicants for employment which can be found on the company's website.

The Proponent has not demonstrated how the the adoption of the resolution would improve the employment policies and practices of the Company, which already embrace a commitment to equal opportunities. On this basis a vote to abstraigs & commitment to equal opportunities.

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Vote Cast: Abstain: 5.8, Oppose/Withhold: 91.6,

#### **CREDIT SUISSE GROUP EGM - 19-11-2015**

## 3.a. Transact any other business: Proposals of shareholders

Proposal to instruct the independent proxy to approve all shareholder proposals that may be included on the agenda, up until the time of the meeting. No proposals have been set forth at this time. Abstention is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 3.b. Transact any other business: Proposals of the Board

Proposal to instruct the independent proxy to approve all Board proposals that may be included on the agenda, up until the time of the meeting. No proposals have been set forth at this time. Abstention is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain

#### CYTEC INDUSTRIES INC EGM - 24-11-2015

## 1. Approve the Merger

The Company is seeking shareholder approval of the merger between the Company and Solvay SA (a public limited company organized under the laws of Belgium). The Company will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Solvay and will cease to be a publicly traded Company following the consummation of the merger. Shareholders are being offered \$72.25 per share, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes.

The closing price on the last trading day prior to the public announcement of the execution of the merger agreement, was \$58.39 per share of common stock. This represents a premium of 28.9% of the closing price of our common stock on July 28, 2015, the last trading day prior to the public announcement of the execution of the merger agreement and a premium of approximately 46.2% to the volume weighted average price of our common stock over the one-year period prior to July 27, 2015. Voting recommendations on corporate actions, such as merger decisions, are based on the information presented and on the view of the overall independence of the Board. It is noted that, over the time that the merger agreement was approved and until the present time, three out of ten directors were considered to be independent. This level of independence is not considered to be sufficient and does not provide assurance that the transaction received the appropriate level of objective scrutiny. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation in connection with the merger

The Company has put forward a proposal relating to the compensation payable to executives in connection with the merger as required by the Dodd-Frank Act. While allowing shareholders the opportunity to vote on this matter is considered good practice. The proposal itself is advisory and directly linked to approving the merger. The Company has a contractual obligation to pay the executives any agreed remuneration disclosed in the proxy materials despite the vote on this proposal if the merger is consummated.

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The Company states that for the past three fiscal years, cash performance awards will be subject to accelerated vesting, with performance deemed at maximum performance level. Accelerated vesting is not considered acceptable. In addition, vesting at maximum performance level is considered excessive and further disjoins pay and performance. Shareholders are advised to oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 3. Adjourn the meeting and it necessary solicit additional proxies

The Board requests authority to adjourn the special meeting until a later date or dates, if necessary, in order to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the merger. An oppose vote is recommended to any adjournment or postponement of meetings if a sufficient number of votes are present to constitute a quorum. It is considered that where a quorum is present, the vote outcome should be considered representative of shareholder opinion.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### **VONOVIA SE EGM - 30-11-2015**

## 1. Approve authority to increase authorised share capital against contributions in kind without pre-emptive rights

It is proposed to authorize the Board to increase the share capital by issuing shares rights for up to 52.61% of the share capital against a contribution in kind. Shareholders will not be granted pre-emptive rights and the potential dilution exceeds guidelines. Opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 78.2, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 21.8,

## 2. Approve authority to increase authorised share capital against cash contribution without pre-emptive rights

It is proposed to authorize the Board to increase the share capital that will result from the implementation of the capital increase against contribution in kind to be resolved in accordance with resolution 1 (EUR 711.19 million), by up to EUR 12.27 million by way of issuing up to 12.27 million shares against a cash contribution. Shareholders will not be granted pre-emptive rights and whilst the potential dilution of 1.72% would be within guidelines, it is advised to oppose in light of the potentially dilutive effect of the implementation of Resolution 1.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 78.6, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 21.4,

## 3. Approve Creation of Capital without pre-emptive Rights

The Company requests the authority to create a new authorized capital. The authority would allow the Company to increase the share capital once or several times during the period ending 30 November 2016 by up to EUR 12,266,064 by issuing up to 12,266,064 no par value registered shares against contributions in cash and/or in kind. However, taken together with the other authorities requested, the level of dilution exceeds guidelines. Therefore, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose Results: For: 78.5, Abstain: 0.0, Oppose/Withhold: 21.5,

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#### **WOLSELEY PLC AGM - 01-12-2015**

## 2. Approve the Remuneration Report

All elements of each Director's cash remuneration is disclosed. All outstanding share incentive awards are stated with award dates and market prices at the date of grant.

The balance of realised pay with financial performance is not considered acceptable as the change in CEO total pay over the last five years is not aligned to the change in TSR over the same period. Over the five year period average annual increase in CEO pay has been approximately 39.91% whereas, on average, TSR has increased by 27.87%. Variable pay realised by Executive Directors is more than 200% of base salary as such it is considered excessive. The ratio of CEO realised pay to employee average pay is not considered appropriate at 41 to1. Award grants made in the year are also deemed excessive.

Rating: AD

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 3. Approve Remuneration Policy

Overall disclosure of the policy is considered acceptable. Remuneration policy aims are fully explained in terms of the Company objectives, however, the Company does not consult with employees on the executive pay policy.

In relation to the bonus, the deferral period is only applied where the executive director has not met the shareholding minimum requirement.

The Company operates a Long Term Incentive Plan under which awards vest subject to performance conditions which do not run interdependently. Also, no non-financial performance metrics are used. At three years, the performance period is not considered sufficiently long term. It is, however, noted that and a holding period will be used. Total potential awards that can be made under all incentive schemes may amount to 500% of base salary as such they are considered excessive. Dividend accrual may apply on vesting share awards from the date of grant, contrary to best practice.

Directors are employed on a 12 -month rolling basis. Inappropriate upside discretion may be applied on termination of employment as the Remuneration Committee has discretion to disapply pro-rata for actual time in service. Rating: BDB

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 6. Re-elect Mr John Daly

Independent Non-Executive Director. He missed one of the five Audit Committee meetings held during the year under review. No adequate justification has been provided. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 7. Re-elect Mr Gareth Davis

Incumbent Chairman. Considered independent upon appointment. However, he is also the Chairman of two other FTSE 350 companies. A chair of more than one large public company cannot effectively represent corporate cultures which are potentially diverse and the possibility of having to commit additional time to the role in times of crisis is ever present, particularly in diverse international, complex and heavily regulated groups or groups which are undergoing significant governance changes.

An oppose vote is therefore recommended.

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## 8. Re-elect Ms Pilar Lopez

Independent Non-Executive Director. Ms Lopez missed one of the five Audit Committee meetings held during the year under review. No adequate justification has been provided. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 17. Approve Political Donations

Proposal to make political donations to political parties and/or independent election candidates, political organisations other than political parties, and to incur political expenditure. The authority terminates at the next AGM or within 15 months. However, at £125,000 the limit is considered excessive. An abstain vote is recommended

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 21. Approve new long term incentive plan

Approval is sought for the Wolseley Group Long Term Incentive Plan 2015 (LTIP). Awards will be subject to performance measures which work independently contrary to guidelines. Grants are individually capped at 350% of base salary. This limit is considered excessive and can lead to generous payouts. In addition, dividend accrual is applied on vesting awards from the date of grant. At three years, the vesting period is not considered sufficiently long term. It is noted a holding period will apply. In the event of termination of employment the Remuneration Committee has the inappropriate discretion to disapply pro rata for the actual time in service. Rating: BD

Vote Cast: Oppose

## **CHRISTIAN DIOR SA AGM - 01-12-2015**

## O.1. Approve Financial Statements and Statutory Reports

Disclosure is adequate. The financial statements were made available sufficiently before the meeting and have been audited and certified. The auditors have not qualified their opinion. However, a number of corporate governance concerns have been identified.

There are concerns that there do not seem to be the necessary checks and balances to offset the power of the Chairman and CEO: only two directors out of 11 are considered to be independent, which leads to an audit committee with only one member considered to be independent. All of the above contravenes best practice and the absence of checks and balances may lead to unhealthy governance practices whereby the Chairman and CEO may overstep his authority.

It is also noted that the Financial Statements and Statutory Reports have only been made available in French at this time. Although the Company is not strictly a large entity as defined by the Eu Audit Directive or the EU Directive on the Disclosure of Non-Financial Information, it is considered that its international dimension would require an English language version of the annual report. Based on the above concerns, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## O.2. Approve Consolidated Financial Statements and Statutory Reports

Disclosure is adequate. The consolidated financial statements were made available sufficiently before the meeting and have been audited and certified. The auditors have not qualified their opinion. However, based on the corporate governate govern

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## Vote Cast: Oppose

#### O.8. Re-elect Denis Dalibot

Non-Executive Director. Not considered to be independent as he is a manager at Groupe Christian Dior/Groupe Arnault. In addition, he has been on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the board.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## O.9. Appoint Jaime de Marichalar y Saenz de Tejada as Censor

It is proposed to appoint Jaime de Marichalar y Saenz de Tejada as Censor for a period of three years up to the Company's general meeting in 2018. He is not considered to be independent as he is a adviser to the President of Spain of Groupe LVMH and a director for Loewe SA (Spain), which are part of the Groupe Christian Dior/Groupe Arnault. In addition, he has been on the board for over nine years. Opposition is recommended.

## Vote Cast: Oppose

## O.10. Advisory Vote on Compensation owed or due to Bernard Arnault, Chairman and CEO

It is proposed to approve with an advisory the remuneration paid or due for the year to the Chairman and CEO.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. As per market practice, quantified targets for the variable remuneration are not disclosed as they are considered confidential information. Variable remuneration during the year under review exceeds 200% of salary and it is considered to exceed best practice. In addition, it may be overpaying for underperformance, in absence of quantified targets. There are no claw back clauses in place, which makes it unlikely for shareholders to reclaim unfairly obtained remuneration. On this basis, opposition is advised.

## Vote Cast: Oppose

## O.11. Advisory Vote on Compensation owed or due to Sidney Toledano, General Managing Director

It is proposed to approve with an advisory the remuneration paid or due for the year to the Sidney Toledano, General Managing Director.

There is lack of disclosure with respect of targets and measurable criteria for variable remuneration, which prevents shareholders from making an informed assessment. As per market practice, quantified targets for the variable remuneration are not disclosed as they are considered confidential information. Variable remuneration during the year under review is in line with best practice although it may be overpaying for underperformance, in the absence of quantified targets. There are no claw back clauses in place, which makes it unlikely for shareholders to reclaim unfairly obtained remuneration. On this basis, opposition is advised.

## Vote Cast: Oppose

## E.14. Authorize up to 1 Percent of Issued Capital for Use in Restricted Stock Plans

The Company requests general approval to issue free of charge shares, corresponding to 1% of the issued share capital, to employees and management over a period of 26 months. .

As there are no performance conditions underlying the issue of shares, opposition is recommended.

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Vote Cast: Oppose

#### MICROSOFT CORPORATION AGM - 02-12-2015

### 1.02. Elect Teri L. List-Stoll

Independent Non-Executive Director. However, there are concerns over her aggregate time commitments.

Vote Cast: Abstain

#### 1.09. Elect John W. Stanton

Independent Non-Executive Director. However, Mr. Stanton is the Chair of the Compensation Committee. There are serious concerns over executive compensation. On this basis, shareholders are advised to oppose his re-election.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 2. Advisory vote on executive compensation

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. The compensation rating is: DEA. Based on this rating, it is recommended that shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 3. Appoint the auditors

Deloitte proposed. Non-audit fees represented 2.76% of audit fees during the year under review and 1.69% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### **ANTHEM INC EGM - 03-12-2015**

## 2. To adjourn the special meeting, to solicit additional proxies

The Board proposes to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies. Opposition is recommended as it is considered that if a sufficient number of votes are cast at the meeting for a quorum to be present, the outcome should be considered representative of shareholder opinion.

Vote Cast: Oppose

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#### FIAT CHRYSLER AUTOMOBILES N.V. EGM - 03-12-2015

## 3. Approve the De-merger of Ferrari

Proposal to de-merge Ferrari from FCA; as a consequence, all shares in Ferrari N.V. held by the Company will transfer to FE Interim B.V. (controlled by the Company through Stichting FCA). This is the first of two de-mergers.

Although there are no serious concerns with de-merging the Ferrari business from the Company, it is considered worth noting two concerns. The first regards the timing of the announcement of the separation, in October 2014: the CEO Mr. Marchionne (who will be Chairman and CEO of Ferrari) announced the separate listing of Ferrari for 2015 and on the same day exercised stock options for EUR 10.7 million (such options would have expired in November 2014 and prior to the announcement they were worth approximately EUR 3.7 million). In addition, after the second de-merger, the Company will still control 80% of Ferrari, whose share capital will still consist of ordinary and special voting rights shares (not listed and not transferable). In aggregate, this operation appears to replicate FCA governance (with its concerns regarding concentration of voting power and double class shares) into Ferrari, whose 80% of the share capital will still be controlled by FCA. On the basis that this de-merger continues an inappropriate governance structure, opposition to the de-merger is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS PLC AGM - 04-12-2015

## 2. Approve the Remuneration Report

All elements of each Director's cash remuneration is disclosed. All outstanding share incentive awards are stated with award dates and market prices at the date of grant.

The balance of the CEO's realised pay with financial performance is considered appropriate as the change in the CEO's total pay over five years is commensurate with the change in TSR over the same period. However, the quantum available under the variable pay elements is considered excessive. The maximum potential awards under all incentive schemes are limited to 350% of salary for the CEO, which exceeds the recommended cap of 200% of salary. When this is considered in the context of the CEO's salary, which is in the upper quartile of the comparator group, this provides an opportunity for highly excessive payouts. It is noted that realised variable pay for the year under review is within acceptable limits. The ratio of CEO realised pay to employee average pay is not considered appropriate at 123 to 1. Rating: BC

Vote Cast: Abstain

#### 4. Re-elect Emma Adamo

Non-Executive Director. Not considered to be independent as she is a representative of Wittington Investments Limited, which holds 59.06% of the Company's voting rights. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 7. Re-elect Timothy Clarke

Senior Independent Director. Not considered to be independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. A Senior Independent Director should be independent, in order to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to the role. An oppose vote is recommended.

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Vote Cast: Oppose

#### 8. Re-elect Javier Ferran

Non-Executive Director. Not considered to be independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board. Also, Mr Ferran has missed one of the five Audit Committee meetings held during the year under review. An oppose vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### **BELLWAY PLC AGM - 11-12-2015**

### 2. Approve the Remuneration Report

**Disclosure:** Overall disclosure is considered acceptable. However, accrued dividends on share incentive awards are not separately categorised.

**Balance:** CEO total realised rewards are considered excessive at 202.8% of salary (Annual Bonus: 106.5%, 95.8%). The balance of CEO realised pay with financial performance is considered acceptable as the change in CEO total pay over five years is commensurate with the change in TSR over the same period. The CEO pay increased by 3.70% over that period while TSR increased by 44.13%. The increase in CEO salary (20%) is not considered in line with that awarded to the workforce (3%) and is not adequately justified. Furthermore, the ratio of CEO to average employee pay has been estimated and is found inappropriate at 27:1. Rating: AC.

Vote Cast: Abstain

#### 4. Re-elect Mr J K Watson

Incumbent Chairman. Not considered to be independent on appointment as he has previously held executive responsibilities within the Company. Mr Watson was Chief Executive from 1999 to 2013. He has been employee of the Company since 1978. An abstain vote is recommended.

Vote Cast: Abstain

#### 8. Re-elect Mr J A Cuthbert

Senior Independent Director. Considered independent. The Board lacks sufficient female representation and no statement has been made in the report regarding the Company's plans to address this imbalance. As he is the Chairman of the Nomination Committee, it is recommended shareholders oppose.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 11. Appoint the auditors

KPMG proposed. Non-audit fees represented 25.27% of audit fees during the year under review and 24.70% on a three-year aggregate basis. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditor. The current auditor has been in place for more than ten years, since the Company's listing in 1979. No audit tendering has been carried out in this period and no concrete plans to do this have been disclosed. There are concerns that failure to regularly rotate the audit firm can compromise the independence of the auditor.

Vote Cast: Oppose Page 93 of 116

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#### **TELECOM ITALIA SPA EGM - 15-12-2015**

### O.1. Set the Number of Board Directors

Proposal by the shareholder Vivendi, which holds approximately 20% of the share capital, to increase the size of the Board from 13 to 17 members. The shareholder argues that its investment in Telecom is a long term investment and part of its European Strategy, and that the new board size will reflect the changes in capital. In the new Board, Vivendi increased its stake from 15% (as of September 2015) to 20% prior to this meeting would be represented by four directors (approximately 23.5% of the share capital). In aggregate, it is considered that Vivendi would be overrepresented on the Board. Opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### O.2. Elect New Directors

Proposal by the shareholder Vivendi. It is proposed to bundle the election of four directors under this resolution: Arnaud Roy de Puyfontaine, Stéphane Roussel, Hervé Philippe and Félicité Herzog.

Contrarily to market practice, the proponent shareholder does not disclose whether the proposed candidates are to be considered independent. However, three of them (except Ms. Herzog) are high executives of Vivendi and thus not considered to be independent. In addition, although the Board resulting from this meeting still applies local gender diversity requirements (33%), this slate of candidates only contributes with one out of four candidates (25%). Lastly, there is insufficient independence on this slate of candidates and on the resulting Board. On these grounds, opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## O.4. Exempt Directors from non-competition duties as per art. 2390 of Italian Civil Code

Proposed by the shareholder Vivendi to deviate from applicable law (art. 2390 Civil Code). It is proposed that the newly elected Directors may enter in limited liability partnerships or companies that are competing with the Company, without prior shareholders approval. The degree of discretion that this authority will leave in the hands of the board is considered to be excessive and would disrupt the link between director and shareholders.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY EGM - 15-12-2015

## 1. Approve reverse stock split

The Company is seeking shareholder approval to carry out a reverse stock split on a 1-for-250 basis. Shareholders who own less than 250 shares will have their shares cancelled and converted into the right to receive \$52.50 for each such share of Stock in lieu of receiving a fractional post-reverse stock split share of stock. The 52-week trading price of the Company's stock ranged from \$42.53 to \$50.05.

The Board states that the reason for the reverse stock-split is because it has come to the conclusion that the costs of being a Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") reporting company outweighs the benefits and, thus, it is no longer in the best interests of the Company or shareholders, including the Company's unaffiliated shareholders to remain an SEC reporting company. The reverse stock-split will enable the Company to terminate its registration on the SEC.

There are concerns that this move by the Board is aimed at freezing out smallenders, which would give the existing large shareholders the benefit of taking the

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Company private, without having to pay a fair premium for the remaining stock. Further, there are serious concerns surrounding the rights of shareholders who remain at the Company after the stock-split as the Company will no longer be regulated by the SEC and, thus, will no longer have to comply with its regulations and provisions, including less disclosure surrounding company performance for shareholders.

Shareholders are advised to oppose this proposal. However, it is noted that management owns 66.7% of the outstanding share capital.

Vote Cast: Oppose

## 2. Amend Articles: effect the reverse stock split

This proposal aims to set out the terminology needed by the Board (in the articles of incorporation) to be able to carry out the reverse stock-split. As this proposal is ancillary to proposal 1, for which an oppose vote is recommended. Shareholders are advised to oppose this resolution.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### JPMORGAN JAPANESE I.T. PLC AGM - 18-12-2015

#### 5. Re-elect Alan Barber

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is an insufficient level of independence on the Board. However, concerns are mitigated by the fact that Mr Barber will be standing down in 2016.

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 6. Re-elect Andrew Fleming

Chairman. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. However, there is an insufficient level of independence on the Board. Whilst typically, the Chairman is excluded from determinations of overall Board independence based on the Higgs' report, because of the reduced involvement and responsibility required for an Investment Trust, chairmen are counted as a standard non-executive Director and are included in the overall level of Board independence. Concerns are mitigated by the disclosure of the Company's intention to address the level of Board independence, as two non-independent directors will be stepping down in 2016 and a recruitment process will be begun.

Vote Cast: Abstain

## 7. Re-elect Keith Percy

Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years and there is insufficient independence on the Board. Concerns are mitigated as upon engagement, it is disclosed that Mr Percy will be standing down in 2016.

Vote Cast: Abstain

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#### **OBARA GROUP INC AGM - 18-12-2015**

#### 3.1. Elect Obara Yasushi

In reviewing Japanese governance arrangements it is recognised that regulatory recognition of a concept of independence is in its infancy and that the balance of outside directors relative to company insiders is a more established benchmark of good governance.

President, Representative Director. It is considered that it is the responsibility of the most senior Board members to ensure that there is appropriate outside oversight of Board decisions. As there is inadequate outside presence on the Board (less than three outside directors), an oppose vote on the most senior directors is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose

#### 4.1. Elect Taniuchi Hiroshi

The traditional governance structure for Japanese companies (Kansayaku) involves the appointment of corporate auditors. Large Japanese companies are required to form a board of corporate auditors with powers to examine board activities and oversee financial reports. Such companies are required by law to appoint at least three statutory auditors to the corporate audit board. At least half the corporate auditors must qualify as 'outsiders'. Beyond this legal minimum, it is considered to be best practice that boards of corporate auditors should be composed wholly of outsiders. New appointments are therefore considered in the context of their affect on the balance of independence where disclosure allows. It is considered that the corporate auditor board will be approximately 67% independent following the Annual Meeting.

Inside Corporate Auditor. Not considered to be independent. Opposition is recommended.

Vote Cast: Oppose



# 4 Appendix

The regions are categorised as follows:

ASIA	China; Hong Kong; Indonesia; India; South Korea; Laos; Macao; Malaysia; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Taiwan; Papua New Guinea; Vietnam
SANZA	Australia; New Zealand; South Africa
EUROPE/GLOBAL EU	Albania; Austria; Belgium; Bosnia; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; France; Finland; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Moldova; Monaco; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland
JAPAN	Japan
USA/CANADA	USA; Canada; Bermuda
UK/BRIT OVERSEAS	UK; Cayman Islands; Gibraltar; Guernsey; Jersey
SOUTH AMERICA	Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguary; Peru; Uruguay; Venezuela
REST OF WORLD	Any Country not listed above

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The following is a list of commonly used acronyms and definitions.

Acronym	Description		
AGM	Annual General Meeting		
CEO	Chief Executive Officer		
EBITDA	Earnings Before Interest Tax Depreciation and Amortisation		
EGM	Extraordinary General Meeting		
EPS	Earnings Per Share		
FY	Financial Year		
KPI	Key Performance Indicators - financial or other measures of a company's performance		
LTIP	Long Term Incentive Plan - Equity based remuneration scheme which provids stock awards to recipients		
NED	Non-Executive Director		
NEO	Named Executive Officer - Used in the US to refer to the five highest paid executives		
PLC	Publicly Listed Company		
PSP	Performance Share Plan		
ROCE	Return on Capital Employed		
SID	Senior Independent Director		
SOP	Stock Option Plan - Scheme which grants stock options to recipients		
TSR	Total Shareholder Return - Stock price appreciation plus dividends		



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## **Report to Pensions Sub-Committee**

4 February 2016

Agenda Item:

# REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT

## **LAPFF CONFERENCE 2015**

## **Purpose of the Report**

1. To report on the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) Conference 2015 held in Bournemouth.

## Information and Advice

- 2. The LAPFF Conference 2015 was held on 2nd to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at the Highcliff Marriott Hotel in Bournemouth. In accordance with prior approval and as part of the Fund's commitment to ensuring those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills, the conference was attended by Councillor Chris Barnfather and Neil Robinson (Group Manager Financial Management). The theme of the conference was 20 Years of Responsible Investment: Where Next?
- 3. Councillor Kieran Quinn, Chair of LAPFF; Paul Hackett, The Smith Institute

The conference began with a welcome from Councillor Kieran Quinn who reflected over what was happening twenty years ago on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1995 (which included Newcastle being ten points clear at the top of the English Football League!) and the changes that have taken place in technology over the past twenty years. One percent of people in the UK had access to the internet two decades ago compared with ninety-four percent today and, of course, social media was unheard of.

Mr Hackett reinforced the view that LAPFF is a successful organisation with an expanding membership and with a voice, which occupies a unique place in investor engagement. He cited a list of the major issues and initiatives with which LAPFF has been involved over the last twenty years:

- In 1995, the "Cedric the Pig" campaign at British Gas;
- The dual roles of chairman/CEO at Marks and Spencer;
- Poor governance at News Corporation (before the phone hacking scandal);
- The 'true and fair view' issue with the Financial Reporting Council;
- Environment and governance issues at Shell.

These are in addition to the many other current and ongoing initiatives that are covered in the LAPFF 2015 Annual Report.

4. Investor Engagement: does it work?

This session began with Martin Gilbert, CEO, Aberdeen Asset Management, outlining his view that engagement is crucial if investment interests are to be served. With Aberdeen holding two percent of UK shares, often for ten years or more, it is important that they act as share owners and engage with companies. There may be periods of underperformance but he encourages his fund managers not to sell if they believe in the stocks they hold and for them to take a long term view. He referred to the example of Rolls Royce where, in his view, positive engagement with the company over a long period played a large part in turning it around.

Mr Gilbert stated that, in his experience, engagement encourages good company governance through attending annual general meetings, insisting on seeing the chairman of the board on his or her own and taking time to understand the business. It is important also, however, that the share "owners" are not seen as activists, even though engagement may focus on fundamental aspects of company structure (e.g. separate roles for the chairman and CEO) and issues of policy. There have been notable engagement failures, though, and in his view there had been an over supportive relationship with the Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland.

## 5. Engagement through the ages: the Chairs

The next session on the first morning of the conference provided an opportunity for past Chairs of LAPFF to reminisce over their experiences with the organisation. The four protagonists were Councillor Kieran Quinn, current Chair of LAPFF and three former Chairs of LAPFF - Ian Greenwood, West Yorkshire PF, Councillor Darren Pulk, Nottinghamshire PF and John Saunders, L B Newham PF.

Mr Saunders began by reflecting on the growth of LAPFF, increasing from a membership of thirty in 2004 to a current membership of sixty-six. In the early days it was difficult to challenge companies on governance; it was very much a team effort between members, activists, individuals and PIRC.

Councillor Pulk reaffirmed the purpose of LAPFF; to serve investment interests by promoting the highest standards in:

- Corporate governance;
- Corporate social responsibility;
- Awareness of climate change:
- Improving transparency and reporting.

The major themes that he recalled from his time as Chair of the Forum included workforce practices, equal pay for women, carbon emission targets, remuneration policies and anti-union activity in the USA.

Mr Greenwood stated that the biggest single thing was the ability to meet with the chairs of boards of the major companies and the progress that has been made through this engagement; now these leaders ask to see LAPFF!

Councillor Quinn ended the session by offering praise for PIRC and pointing out that the membership of LAPFF is still growing (sixty-nine funds by the end of 2016). The work must continue with the next big issue, in his view, being tax transparency.

## 6. What are the dynamics of a successful board?

After having been introduced by Councillor John Gray, L B Newham, Phil White, Chair of the Kier Group, in a very well received presentation, started to answer this question by showing a video to demonstrate that Kier is all about people. Mr White stated that he had enjoyed every minute of his career, having dealt with real people and having gained a tremendous amount of experience of the difference between right and wrong when running a business and of running directors' boards.

He was keen to point out that, with organisations being so diverse (with different owners, values and people, etc.) directors' boards have to be 'created'; it is not something that can be googled and there is no simple checklist that, when ticked, will ensure a successful board. Things can go wrong with any board, no matter how successful it appears to be (e.g. Tesco, VW, FIFA, Kids Company, Co-Op, Northern Rock) and directors need to stick it out and not "run for the hills". Mr White put forward his basic rules:

- Know the difference between right and wrong;
- Things are not black or white but grey and often involve a compromise;
- Good governance has to come from the top;
- Look for different skillsets in appointing to the team.

Together with good chairing and having a good CEO, individuals' understanding of their respective roles and the aims and values of the organisation, together with putting the organisation first and operating to the highest standards are all important.

## 7. Directors' duties, directors' succession planning

The next session continued the theme of engagement with company boards with James O'Loughlin, PIRC considering LAPFF's challenge when trying to ascertain the dynamics of a successful board and its policies, processes and procedures. Using the interesting analogy of an iceberg, he asks if good succession planning (as the visible element, exemplifying the level of risk taking) can indicate the dynamics of a successful board (the invisible part). His answer is that it can, but only in certain circumstances.

Using the example of an unexpected CEO death and where the reaction of the stock market is near zero, then this could indicate that there is good succession planning in place. It could also indicate, though, that either the markets don't care or there is a fundamental attribution error. In the end it is the quality of the business that counts but, with ever higher competitiveness, the CEO's contribution and importance is growing. This is particularly important when there is an iconic CEO in a situation of rapid company growth, where culture gives the company an advantage and where that advantage is being eroded. In this sort of context succession planning is a very clear indicator of the dynamics of a successful board.

## 8. Corporate accountability in a globalised world

In this session Martin Day, Senior Partner, Leigh Day LLP, who specialises in "bringing chickens home to roost", and Daniel Balint-Kurti, Global Witness gave examples of how the law has been used to challenge global corporations. Most notably:

In 2006, a ship chartered by the Dutch-based oil and commodity shipping company,
Trafigura, offloaded toxic waste at the Ivorian port of Abidjan. The waste was then
dumped by a local contractor at as many as twelve sites in and around the city of
Abidjan. The gas caused by the release of these chemicals was blamed by the Ivorian

Government for the deaths of seventeen and the injury of over thirty thousand Ivorians. After being sued, and at first denying responsibility, the company paid \$46m in compensation.

 In a similar case of environmental pollution causing damage in Nigeria, Shell offered £4,000 to a community of fishermen; this was increased to £55m after a successful lawsuit.

A recent landmark case, Chandler v Cape plc, became the first time that an injured employee of a subsidiary company established that an employer's parent company owes a duty of care. Mr Day pointed out, however, that there are obstacles to justice including funding issues, delay and intimidation.

Mr Balint-Kurti, whose campaign group investigates corruption scandals, advised that investors need to ask tough questions and, in his case, he buys a share and goes to annual general meetings in order to embarrass the board!

## 9. Carbon transition management: how should investors respond?

Tom Harrington, Senior Investment Manager, Greater Manchester Pension Fund began the next session by describing the pressure that has been brought to bear on the GMPF with regard to divesting of carbon assets. The pressure tactics used have ranged from protesters with banners outside council offices brandishing slogans like, "Don't be a dinosaur, move our money out of fossil fuels" to internet postings attacking individual companies in which the Fund has holdings, for their alleged activities.

The GMPF's approach is to echo the UNISON view that:

- The first duty of the LGPS is to pay the staff their pension benefits when they retire;
- Divesting of carbon assets without having found adequate renewable investment returns would create huge economic uncertainty;
- It would be irresponsible to begin any programme of disinvestment in fossil fuels that threatened in any way the ability of the funds to pay people's pensions.

The GMPF engages, of course, through LAPFF and takes part in other collaborative initiatives.

Further, the GMPF has investigated and taken opportunities to invest in various companies which deal in cleaner energy such as:

- Energias De Portugal integrated power company 70% of assets are CO2 free;
- Fortum Corp heat and power generation company 90% of assets are CO2 free;
- Beijing Enterprises Holdings a gas operator taking part in the government's efforts to make the city coal-free.

## 10. LGPS Developments

The first day of the conference ended with a consideration of hottest topic currently on the LGPS agenda: pooling. The panel was introduced and chaired by Councillor Mary Barnett, Greater Gwent (Torfaen) PF, LAPFF Executive and the four protagonists were Brian Bailey, PIRC, Bob Holloway, DCLG, Cllr Kieran Quinn, Chair of LAPFF & GMPF and Terry Crossley, PIRC.

Bob Holloway began the discussion by outlining briefly the evolution of the policy, which began when the question was asked "why are there eighty-nine funds?" Merging funds was quickly ruled out as was the possibility of making passive investment mandatory. The position has been reached now of pooling assets (but not 100% of assets) and non-mandatory collective investment vehicles, with the twin goals of reducing investment fees and achieving greater efficiency through economies of scale. Mr Holloway's view is that the ball is now firmly in the Funds' court.

The rest of the panel were sceptical of what Mr Holloway described as a "backstop power", for the Secretary of State to intervene under certain circumstances and take over Funds' powers. Mr Holloway insisted that he thought intervention would be minimal and that ministers, in agreeing to let go of certain controls, had to have a backstop.

Councillor Quinn ended the discussion by recommending that, if they had not already done so, delegates should read the latest Government document and make up their own minds.

11. How investment engagement with companies has changed over the last twenty years. The second day of the conference began with Deborah Gilshan, Railpen Investments, adding to the messages of the previous day: that engagement is not just about information gathering. The concept of stewardship is more accepted and what it is to be an owner of shares is more understood. Companies, too, recognise that amplifying the voice of the long term shareholder is helpful.

Amanda Mellor, Company Secretary, Marks & Spencer described shareholder engagement from a company's viewpoint. According to her, twenty years ago the company didn't even bother about votes cast at the AGM. Over more recent years, though, a great deal more thought has been given to engagement and working together. The company has learnt the value of long term investor relationships and has positively nurtured them. The more time given to consultations the better and she considers that Marks & Spencer is lucky to be so high profile which encourages investors to attend and engage at large events.

## 12. What's been going on in the European Parliament on IFRS?

Councillor Richard Greening LB Islington, LAPFF Executive, Syed Kamal MEP and Tim Bush, PIRC updated conference delegates on the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issue which calls into question the purpose of accounts.

Mr Kamal (via a video link from the European Parliament) described the recent activity in the Parliament where some time ago questions were raised about accounting standards: "How did the banks get away with it?" "Why weren't alarm bells rung?" During the last four years there have been no satisfactory answers. Mr Kamal is part of the group of MEPs who is scrutinising IFRS9 and examining the need for loss provisioning and the reliance on "experts" who seem to be intent on outsmarting the authorities. His view is that company accounts should not be just for accountants but for the purpose of governance, especially with the reporting of a "true and fair view" partly underpinning European financial stability. Tim Bush, in his presentation, reinforced the view that, since the audit failure with regard to HBOS, the Financial Reporting Council simply has not followed up adequately. LAPFF has engaged a specialist Queen's Counsel whose opinion is that the FRC is reading the basic legislation wrongly: the legislation applies to the specified numbers in the accounts (i.e. they need to be correct) whilst the FRC prefers to regard a "true and fair view" as denoting usefulness of the accounts as a whole! The debate continues.

## 13. What's changed in LGPS investments since 1995?

The next session of the morning involved a discussion involving Karen Thrumble, State Street, Paddy Dowdall, GMPF and John Harrison, Independent Consultant. The panel started by acknowledging that funds have significantly more choice now than they did twenty years ago: equity investment is more diversified and alternatives now comprise nine percent of the average fund. The greater complexity has brought with it both opportunities and challenges. There is the opportunity to reduce volatility, reduce reliance on a small number of managers and a chance to increase diversification. The wider choice of investment opportunities, however, requires greater time, training and governance from all involved (and has brought about a greater reliance on advisors). In addition, the wider choice of managers makes manager selection an ever more difficult task.

Funds that have become extremely complex have not performed better than their less complex peers and this partly reflects the relatively high investment of many of these funds in alternative assets. These assets have reduced risks but have usually resulted in lowering returns. The conclusion is that funds need to continue to view all decision making in the clear context of their long term objectives.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. 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.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That it be noted that attendance at key conferences is part of the Fund's commitment to ensuring those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills.
- 2. That the report be noted.

Report Author: Neil Robinson

**Group Manager – Financial Management** 

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Neil Robinson

## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## Financial Comments (SRC 13/01/16)

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

## Background Papers and Published Documents

None



## **Report to Pensions Sub-Committee**

4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Agenda Item: xx

# REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - HUMAN RESOURCES & CUSTOMER SERVICE

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - ANNUAL BENEFIT STATEMENTS

## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Pensions Sub-Committee of the updated position relating to the preparation and distribution of annual benefit statements to members of the scheme.

## 2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 Members will be aware that a number of exceptional circumstances led to a delay in distribution of annual benefit statements relating to the 2014/15 year notably the need to develop new systems to cater for the career average arrangements and changing data requirements which affected the ability of some employers to submit returns in accordance with the requested timescales.
- 2.2 This position was mirrored nationally across funds in England and Wales with the specific problems with regard to receiving timely, quality data from employers recognised by both the Local Government Association and the Pension Regulator.
- 2.3 Members will recall an action and communication plan was developed to support implementation, within which statements were scheduled for distribution in batches in November & December.
- 2.4 Distribution proceeded in accordance with the plan backed up by documented advice to members, payslip messaging, a dedicated helpline option and targeted communication to employers covering distribution and support. In excess of two-thirds of all statements where an employer submission has been received have now been distributed.
- 2.5 However, this leaves a proportion of member records subject to review and systems action, where the Pensions Office and the relevant employer are working in partnership to resolve outstanding member data queries. Therefore, a third distribution batch is now planned to take place towards the end of February to maximise circulation of statements before the end of this financial year.
- 2.6 The Pension Regulator has been informed of current distribution actions and our plan to achieve full employer compliance in 2015/16 with a view to implementing the Civica system portal as a means of distributing the statements for 2016/17.

2.7 Whilst the Pension Regulator is aware of the specific problems with regards to receiving appropriate data from employers, it is limited in its capacity to tackle the problem as its role does not include direct scope over employers. The Pension Regulator is however giving consideration to producing guidance on the expectation of employers which, if published, will be made available during Spring 2016. It is anticipated that such guidance will form part of our future communication strategy and will support our on-going message to employers on the importance of the submission of timely and accurate data.

## 3. Statutory and Policy Implications

3.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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.

## 4. Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that the Pensions Sub-Committee note the contents of the report.

## MARJORIE TOWARD SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS & HR

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sarah Stevenson, Group Manager, Business Support Centre on 0115 9775740 or sarah.stevenson@nottscc.gov.uk

## **Constitutional Comments (KK)**

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

## **Financial Comments (SRC)**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **Background Papers**

Pension Sub Committee - 5.11.2015: item 4.

## Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

ΑII



## **Report to Pensions Sub-Committee**

4 February 2016

Agenda Item:

# REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT

## PENSIONS INVESTMENT SERVICE PLAN AND TRAINING

## **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the Pensions & Treasury Management Service Plan in respect of pension fund investments for 2016/17 and of progress against the 2015/16 plan. To note the attendance at conferences and training during 2015/16 and to seek approval for attendance at conferences and training in 2016/17.

## Information and Advice

- 2. It is considered best practice that a business plan is agreed to support the work of the Fund, including major milestones and issues to be considered during the year and appropriate provisions regarding training. The investment related activity of the Fund is supported by the Pensions & Treasury Management team within the Resources Department and this team produces a service plan each year outlining key tasks and outputs.
- 3. The relevant parts of the plan for 2015/16 were presented to the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee in March 2015 and these are reviewed at **Appendix A**. The majority of issues were properly considered and appropriate actions taken but outstanding items that remain relevant have been included in the plan for 2016/17. The relevant extracts of the plan for 2016/17 are shown at **Appendix B**.
- 4. The Fund is committed to ensuring those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills and this is achieved through attendance at key conferences and the provision of specific training and information for members. Attendance at conferences and training during 2015/16 is shown at **Appendix C**. Reports have been presented to the Pensions Sub-Committee on each of the conferences attended as well as the property inspection.
- 5. It is proposed to arrange a further property inspection in 2016/17 and to continue to attend key pension conferences. The Local Government Employers (LGE) LGPS Fundamentals course is well regarded by those who have attended and it is proposed to continue to offer this course to new members of the Committees or those wishing to refresh existing knowledge.

7. Approval is sought for attendance at the following conferences and training in 2016/17. Nominations will be sought in due course for attendance at these events.

Conference	Location	Date	Attendance
PLSA Local Authority Conference	Cotswolds	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	2 Members
(formerly NAPF)		May 2016	1 Officer
LGE LGPS "Trustees"	Cardiff (2015)	June	2 Members
Conference			1 Officer
LGC Investment Summit	Celtic Manor	7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	2 Members
		Sep 2016	1 Officer
LAPFF Annual Conference	Bournemouth	7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	1 Member
		Dec 2016	1 Officer
Property Inspection	Various	October	Available to all
			members of Sub-
			Committees
LGE LGPS Fundamentals Course	Various	October to	New Members and
		December	Members requiring
			refresher training

## Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. It is considered best practice for an administering authority to prepare a business plan to support the work of the Fund and to ensure those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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 review of the 2015/16 Service Plan be noted.
- 2) That the 2016/17 Plan be noted.
- 3) That it be noted that attendance at key conferences and training is part of the Fund's commitment to ensuring those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills.
- 4) That attendance at conferences and training during 2015/16 be noted.
- 5) That The Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee be recommended to approve attendance at conferences and training as shown at paragraph 7.

Name of Report Author: Simon Cunnington

Title of Report Author: Senior Accountant - Pensions & Treasury Management

## For any enquiries about this report please contact: Simon Cunnington

## **Constitutional Comments (KK 18/01/16)**

1. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Pensions Sub-Committee.

## Financial Comments (SRC 15/01/16)

2. Costs associated with attending conferences and other training events are a legitimate charge to the Fund in accordance with governing regulations. An appropriate proportion of the costs of the Pensions & Treasury Management team is recharged to the Fund on an annual basis.

## **Background Papers**

None

## Pensions & Treasury Management Service Plan 2015/16

The relevant parts of the 2015/16 Service Plan are shown below with comments on progress.

Output/Tasks	Deadline	Comments
Investment Performance		
Manage In-house portfolio	Ongoing	Transactions, values and returns
		reported to Investment Sub-
Manifes Fund nonformance and institute of	Ongrains	Committee each quarter.
Monitor Fund performance against strategy	Ongoing	Fund valuation reported to Investment Sub-Committee each
		quarter. Fund performance presented
		to Pensions Sub-Committee by State
		Street Global Services.
Statement of Accounts		
Prepare statement of accounts	31/05/15	Produced on time and with an
-		unqualified audit opinion.
Report to PF Committee	30/09/15	Report to Pension Fund Committee
		on 08/09/15 to present the accounts
		and the external auditor's ISA260
	_	report.
Annual Report		Regulatory deadline 1st December
Prepare and publish annual report	30/09/15	Annual report completed ahead of
' '		regulatory deadline and published on
		the Fund website on 28/09/15.
IAS19/FRS17 Reports	0.4/0.4/4.5	
Year-end 31st March	31/04/15	Reports relating to accounting
Year-end 31st July	31/08/15	disclosures commissioned from
Year-end 31st August	30/09/15	actuary on behalf of employers.
Quarterly Closedown		
Quarter end March	27/05/15	All records reconciled and reports
Quarter end June	26/08/15	submitted by publication deadlines.
Quarter end September	25/11/15	Performance data submitted to State
Quarter end December	24/02/16	Street. ONS returns completed.
Advice and Support to Committees etc		
Pensions Investment Sub-Committee	Ongoing	Quarterly valuation and performance
	<u> </u>	summary reports produced.
Pensions Sub-Committee	Ongoing	Reports produced in accordance with
Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee	Ongoing	the Work Programmes for each
		committee.

# Appendix A

Pensions Working Party	Ongoing	Two Working Parties held to consider:  1. Investment in equities 2. Emerging markets and the Specialist Portfolio
Advice and information to committee members	Ongoing	Advice provided as required.
Consider Training Needs Analysis (TNA)	30/06/15	Report to Pensions Sub-Committee on 16/07/15 with TNA attached.
Triennial Valuation		Due as at 31 March 2016
Set preliminary meeting with actuaries	30/11/15	Meeting set for February 2016.
Other		
Review Fund policies	Ongoing	Retained as item in 2016/17 plan. Policies will be reviewed in light of Pension Board.
Tender for Independent Adviser	30/06/15	Contract awarded from 01/10/15
Tender for Proxy Voting Services	30/04/15	Decision made to participate in creation of LGPS Framework. Mini-tender will be undertaken once established.
Implementation of new Admin system	30/06/15	Reporting requirements from new system are under review.
Implementation of Pensions Board	Ongoing	First meeting of Board held in December 2015. External adviser appointed. Assessment of internal resources required included in 2016/17 plan.

## Pensions & Treasury Management Service Plan 2016/17

The relevant parts of the 2016/17 Service Plan are shown below.

Output/Tasks	Deadline	Comments
Investment Performance		
Manage In-house portfolio	Ongoing	
Monitor Fund performance against strategy	Ongoing	
Statement of Accounts		
Prepare statement of accounts	27/05/16	
Report to PF Committee and Pension Board	30/09/16	
Annual Report		Regulatory deadline 1st December
Prepare and publish annual report	30/09/16	
IAS19/FRS17 Reports		
Year end 31st March	29/04/16	Reports relating to accounting
Year end 31st July	31/08/16	disclosures commissioned from
Year end 31st August	30/09/16	actuary on behalf of employers.
Tear one orserragust	30/03/10	actually on bonan or omproyers.
Quarterly Closedown	Reports:	
Quarter end March	31/05/16	Reconcile records and prepare
Quarter end June	23/08/16	reports for Sub-Committee.
Quarter end September	22/11/16	Submit performance data to WM.
Quarter end December	21/02/17	Complete ONS returns.
Advice and Support to Committees etc		
Pensions Investment Sub-Committee	Ongoing	Reports produced from Quarterly
		Closedown process.
Pensions Sub-Committee	Ongoing	Work Programme will be maintained
Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee	Ongoing	to assist the management of
Pension Board	Ongoing	agendas, the scheduling of business
Danaiana Washina Dantu	Ongoing	and forward planning.
Pensions Working Party	Ongoing	Two Working Parties scheduled. Items for consideration will be
		determined in conjunction with the
		Chairman.
Pension Fund Annual Meeting	October	Presentations to Annual Meeting.
Advice and information to committee	Ongoing	As required.
members	39	- 1
Triennial Valuation		Due as at 31 March 2016
Submit data to actuaries	29/07/16	Subject to separate timetable
Meet with actuaries to agree assumptions	30/09/16	Subject to separate timetable
Liaise with Admin re employer comms	Ongoing	
Agree final valuation report	31/03/17	

# Appendix B

LGPS Asset Pooling		
Fortnightly meetings with LGPS Central	Ongoing	
Agree work programme with pool	01/04/16	
Final submission to government	15/07/16	
Implementation of pool	Ongoing	
Other		
Review Fund policies	Ongoing	Review policies and revise as appropriate
Tender for Proxy Voting Services	31/12/16	Utilise LGPS Framework once established
Implementation of Pensions Board	30/04/16	Assess resources in conjunction with external adviser

# Attendance at conferences and training during 2015/16

Event/Training	Location	Date	Attendance
NAPF Local Authority Conference	Cotswolds	May	Cllr Parry Tsimbiridis Nigel Stevenson (Officer)
LGE LGPS "Trustees" Conference	Cardiff	June	Cllr John Wilkinson Chris King (Union Rep) Jon Clewes (Officer)
LGC Investment Summit	Celtic Manor	September	Cllr Reg Adair Cllr Sheila Place Simon Cunnington (Officer)
LAPFF Annual Conference	Bournemouth	December	Cllr Chris Barnfather Neil Robinson (Officer)
Property inspection including training on:  • What we look for when investing in property  • Overview of RPI/fixed uplift leases in the portfolio	Various	October	Cllr Reg Adair Cllr Mike Pringle Cllr Chris Barnfather Cllr Sheila Place Cllr John Wilkinson Chris King Alan Woodward Dave Forster (Officer) Simon Cunnington (Officer)
Local Government Employers LGPS Fundamentals course (3 days)	Various	October to December	Cllr Mike Pringle Cllr John Wilkinson
Presentation of Independent Review of Fund Performance State Street Global Services  Presentation on the role of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum Cllr Kieran Quinn (LAPFF Chairman)	County Hall	November	Cllr Reg Adair Cllr Mike Pringle Cllr Ken Rigby Cllr Chris Barnfather Cllr Mrs Kay Cutts MBE Cllr Sheila Place Cllr Parry Tsimbiridis Cllr John Wilkinson Cllr Anne Peach Chris King Alan Woodward Shaun Haggerty Terry Needham Dave Forster (Officer) Neil Robinson (Officer) Sarah Stevenson (Officer) Andy Durrant (Officer) Ciaran Guilfoyle (Officer) Simon Cunnington (Officer)
Training will also be given by Kames Capital in advance of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee meeting	London	March	