

TEESSIDE PENSION FUND

Administered by Middlesbrough Council

AGENDA ITEM 5

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

17 JUNE 2020

STRATEGIC DIRECTOR: FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT, JAMES BROMILEY

EXTERNAL MANAGERS' REPORTS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with quarterly investment reports in respect of funds invested externally with Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Limited ('Border to Coast') and with State Street Global Advisers ('State Street').

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members note the report and pass any comments.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Any decisions taken by Members, in light of information contained within this report, will have an impact on the performance of the Fund.

4. PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 As at 31 March 2020 the Fund had investments in the following two Border to Coast listed equity sub-funds:

- The Border to Coast UK Listed Equity Fund, which has an active UK equity portfolio aiming to produce long term returns of at least 1% above the FTSE All Share index.
- The Border to Coast Overseas Developed Markets Equity Fund, which has an active overseas equity portfolio aiming to produce total returns of at least 1% above the total return of the benchmark (40% S&P 500, 30% FTSE Developed Europe ex UK, 20% FTSE Developed Asia Pacific ex Japan, 10% FTSE Japan).

For both sub-funds the return target is an annual amount, expected to be delivered over rolling 3 year periods, before calculation of the management fee.

The Fund also has investments in the Border to Coast Private Equity sub-fund and the Border to Coast Infrastructure sub-fund. Total commitments of £100 million were made to each of these sub-funds for 2019/20, although up to 31 March 2020 only around 12.5% of this total had been invested. These investments are not reflected within the Border to Coast report (at Appendix A).

- 4.2 The Border to Coast report (at Appendix A) shows the market value of the portfolio as at 31 March 2020 and the investment performance over the preceding quarter, year, and since the Fund's investments began. Border to Coast has also provided additional information within an appendix to that report in relation to the Overseas Developed Markets Equity Fund, giving a breakdown of key drivers of and detractors from performance in relation to each of its four regional elements. Market background information and an update of some news items related to Border to Coast are also included.
- 4.3 State Street has a passive global equity portfolio invested across four different region tracking indices appropriate to each region. The State Street report (at Appendix B) shows the market value of the State Street passive equity portfolio and the proportions invested in each region as at 31 March 2020. Performance figures are also shown in the report: for Japan and Asia Pacific ex Japan these figures date over 10 years, as the Fund has been investing a small proportion of its assets in these regions passively for since 2001; for North America and Europe ex UK the figures only cover just over one year as this represents a comparatively new investment for the Fund. The nature of passive investment – where an index is closely tracked in an automated or semi-automated way – means deviation from the index should always be low.
- 4.4 State Street has added additional information to their report this quarter, giving details of how the portfolio compares to the benchmark in terms of environmental, social and governance factors including separate sections on climate and stewardship issues. As the State Street investments are passive and closely track the appropriate regional equity indices, the portfolio's rating in these terms closely matches the benchmark indices ratings. However, State Street's approach to assessing and reporting on these environmental, social and governance issues is interesting and further information on their approach is included at Appendix C.
- 4.3 Members will be aware that the Fund holds equity investments over the long term, and performance can only realistic be judged over a significantly longer time-frame than a single quarter. However, it is important to monitor investment performance regularly and to understand the reasons behind any under of over performance against benchmarks and targets.

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