

	<h2>Pension Fund Committee</h2> <h3>19 July 2016</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Barnet Council Pension Fund Performance for Quarter January to March 2016</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chief Operating Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A – Pension Fund Market Value of Investments as at 31 March 2016                  Appendix B – Hymans Robinson Performance Report to 31 March 2016                  Appendix C – WM Local Authority Universe Comparison to 31 March 2016</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Iain Millar, Head of Treasury Services                  0208 359 7126</p>

<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>This report summarises Pension Fund investment manager performance for the January to March quarter 2016 based on the performance monitoring report provided by Hymans Robertson. An update on fund performance to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 will be tabled at the Committee meeting</p>

<h2>Recommendations</h2>
<p><b>1. That having considered the performance of the Pension Fund for the quarter to 31 March 2016, the Committee instruct the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Finance Officer to address any issues that it considers necessary.</b></p>

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 To ensure that the pension fund is being invested prudently and in accordance with the investment strategy.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Pension Fund Committee require the Committee to review and challenge the Fund Managers' quarterly investment performance against benchmarks and targets.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 None

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The Chief Operating Officer and Chief Finance Officer will carry out any actions considered necessary.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 To ensure that the pension fund is being invested prudently and to the best advantage in order to achieve the required funding level. Effective monitoring of the Pension Fund will provide support towards the Council's corporate priorities.

### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The Pension Fund appointed external fund managers to maximise pension fund assets in accordance with the fund investment strategy. The Pension Fund is a long term investor and volatility of investment return is expected. though in the longer term, the appointed fund managers are expected to deliver positive returns in accordance with the fund benchmarks. The global diversification of the portfolio gives some protection against the extreme market volatility experienced in June 2016. The Scheme benchmark is a liability driven benchmark and is dependent on the movement in gilt yields
- 5.2.2 On 22 October 2015, (Item 11), Pension Fund Committee reviewed and revised the pension fund asset allocation and agreed to adopt an investment strategy based on 36% overseas equity, 21.5% diversified growth, 12% corporate bonds, 0.5% cash; 20% 'multi asset credit; and 10% illiquid alternatives. Pension Fund Committee agreed to fund the asset re-allocation by reducing the weighted

allocation in diversified growth funds and corporate bonds .This included selling the Newton Corporate Bond fund to re-invest in the Schroder Strategic Bond Fund

- 5.2.3 On 15 March 2016, the Pension Fund Committee considered proposals for allocating funds to illiquid credit and multi asset liquid credit. The Committee resolved to make an allocation of 8% of the fund to illiquid credit strategies through investing with new fund managers, 4% to Partnership Group and 4% to Alcentra. The Committee also agreed an allocation of 7% to multi-asset credit strategies through investing 3.5% with Babson Capital and 3.5% with Alcentra. Officers were instructed to implement the re-allocation. See Appendix D for re-allocation as at 10 June 2016. All of the May funding target dates with the new credit managers were met. The asset re-allocation was met from the sale of Corporate Bonds.
- 5.2.4 The total value of the pension fund's investments including internally managed cash was £907.3 million as at 31 March 2016 compared to £882.6 million as at 31 December 2015. The total market value of externally managed investments rose by £18.9 million over the quarter from £882.0 million to £900.9 million. The graph in Appendix A shows how the market value of the fund has grown since 2008. The total value of the fund's external investments as at 31 May was £912.9 million. There has been significant market volatility in recent weeks and the total market value of the fund as at 30 June 2016 was £942.750 million.
- 5.2.6 **Performance Summary:** Over the quarter, at a total scheme level, the Fund's externally managed investments returned 2.3% (net of fees), underperforming the combined benchmark for the period by 0.4%. See performance summary page 8, of the attached Hymans Robertson draft performance for Quarter 1, 2016.

### 5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Membership of the Pension Fund ensures the long term financial health of contributing employees on retirement.

### 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 This report is based on the provisions of Regulation 10 Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 made under the powers conferred by section 7 and Schedule 3 of the Superannuation Act 1972.
- 5.4.2 Constitution- Under Part 15, Annex A Responsibility for Functions one of the terms of reference of the Pension Fund Committee is 'To review and challenge at least quarterly the Pension Fund investment managers' performance against the Statement of Investment Principles in general and investment performance benchmarks and targets in particular.'

## **5.5 Risk Management**

5.5.1 A key risk is that of poor investment performance. The performance of Fund managers is monitored by the committee every quarter with reference to reports from Hymans Robertson, the Pension Fund investment adviser, and the WM Company Ltd, a company that measures the performance of pension funds. If fund manager performance is considered inadequate, the fund manager can be replaced.

5.5.2 Risks around safeguarding of pension fund assets are highlighted in the current economic climate following the Brexit crisis in the UK. Fund managers need to have due regard to longer term investment success, in the context of significant market volatility.

## **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 Pursuant to the Equalities Act 2010, the Council is under an obligation to have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share it; and fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and persons who do not share it. The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

5.6.2 The rules governing admission to and participation in the Pension Fund are in keeping with the public sector equality duty. Good governance arrangements and monitoring of the pension fund managers will benefit everyone who contributes to the fund.

## **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 Not applicable

## **5.8 Insight**

5.8.1 Not applicable

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None