

From: Acting Business Partner – Kent Pension Fund
Corporate Director of Finance

To: Pension Board – 15 October 2020

Subject: ACCESS update

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This update provides a summary of the activities of the ACCESS pool.

Recommendation:

The Pension Board to note this report.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As members will be aware the ACCESS pool is a collaboration of 11 LGPS administering authorities that was set up in 2016 to pool their fund investments.
- 1.2 At the end of June 2020 the Kent Fund has invested in 4 sub-funds in the ACCESS authorised contractual scheme (ACS) operated by Link Financial Solutions, with a combined value of £2.7bn, and £668m invested in UBS funds, managed under pool governance. The total held in the ACCESS pool is now £3.4bn.
- 1.3 This report is to update the Board on the work being undertaken by the ACCESS pool.

2. Joint Committee

- 2.1 The Joint Committee has met since the last update for the Board and a summary report of their meeting on 7 September 2020 is attached at appendix 1. Copies of the minutes of the Joint Committee meetings held on 9 March and 17 July are attached at appendices 2 and 3.
- 2.2 The next meeting of the JC is scheduled for Monday 9 November 2020.

3. Recent activity

- 3.1 Since the last report to the Board the ACCESS support unit (ASU) staff and staff at Link, Northern Trust and investment managers have continued to work remotely and throughout the summer the officer working group (OWG) was having a one hour call every Thursday.

- 3.2 Several working groups have recently been established reporting to the OWG, and it is anticipated that officers representing the Kent Fund will be involved in each of these working groups.
- a) to progress the on-boarding within the access authorised contractual scheme (ACS) of previously agreed sub-funds. The transition of the Kent investment in a global value equity fund has now been agreed for 23 November.
 - b) to agree the implementation of pooled arrangements for alternative assets.
 - c) to develop a set of ESG / RI guidelines for the pool taking into account the policies of the individual authorities.
- 3.3 Terms of reference of these groups have been agreed and they are meeting remotely on a periodic basis.
- 3.4 The OWG will also be involved in the establishment of the ACCESS communications policy and the review of the resources of the ACCESS Support Unit.
- 3.5 Finally, it is pleasing to note that after much discussion a revised Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) has been agreed by the monitoring officers of each of the ACCESS authorities. For Kent, the County Council will be asked to approve the adoption of the agreement on 22 October. The IAA was originally agreed in 2017 and describes the operation of the ACCESS pool allowing the 11 authorities to pool their investments. It has been updated to recognise the role of section 151 officers in providing advice to the Joint Committee and to allow for multiple platforms to be established for pooling all classes of investment.

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