

MEETING: PENSIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: 9 FEBRUARY 2026

TITLE: WALES PENSION PARTNERSHIP RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT UPDATE

PURPOSE: To accept the information presented in the report.

RECOMMENDATION: ACCEPT THE INFORMATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) Responsible Investment (RI) updates for quarter ending 30 June 2025 have been prepared by WPP's Oversight Advisor (Hymans Robertson) in conjunction with WPP.
- 1.2 This quarterly WPP Responsible Investment (RI) Update sets out recent RI activity and information on the following Sub-Funds that Gwynedd Pension Fund are invested in: Global Growth; Global Opportunities; Emerging Markets; Sustainable Active Equity; Global Credit; Multi-Asset Credit; Absolute-Return Bond.

2. RECENT ACTIVITY

- 2.1 **Passive Mandates Evolution:** all seven of the partner funds invested in the BlackRock ACS Low Carbon gave sign-off for the Aquila Life WPP World ESG Insights Equity Fund, which has now launched. Robeco and BlackRock have been liaising to ensure the appropriate set-up for voting choice to be applied on the bespoke solution.
- 2.2 **Stewardship Code:** WPP submitted its fifth report in line with the FRC UK Stewardship Code, in line with the end-October 2025 deadline
- 2.3 **All-Wales Climate Report (AWCR):** the AWCR is in the process of being finalised.
- 2.4 **Impact reporting:** The Good Economy is undertaking an all-of-Wales impact report, covering the period as at end-March 2025; WPP has partnered with The Good Economy to carry out the reporting on an annual basis going forward.
- 2.5 **Stewardship themes:** initial results of the WPP's stewardship-themes questionnaire, which was shared with Constituent Authorities for comment, were presented to the RIWG, for the Robeco client panels. Further information will be provided next quarter.

3. REPORT OVERVIEW

- 3.1 **Stewardship Summary-** WPP employs Robeco as its Voting and Engagement Provider, with Robeco voting on resolutions across WPP's five active-equity Sub-Funds, while also providing the engagement function with issuers across all active Sub-Funds, as well as the passive mandates. Voting will be applied to the new bespoke *Aquila Life WPP World ESG Insights Equity Fund* from Q4 25.

A summary of the stewardship activity is provided in the report with work also undertaken by LAPFF.

3.2 Sub- Fund reviews

A review is carried out on the sub- funds with the following areas:

- Key Characteristics
- Climate Metrics
- ESG Metrics
- Voting Summary
- Key Votes
- Engagement Summary
- Closed Effective Engagements
- Closed Non- Effective Engagements
- Case Studies

The report demonstrates that a significant amount of work has been undertaken within these sub- funds to report it's ESG credentials and stewardship reporting. This report will be a useful benchmark for future reports.

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note the report.