PE33. Engagement and Voting Activity

The Committee and Board considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on recent fund engagement and voting activity. These included:-

- Responsible Investment managing assets ensuring investors take account of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues in making investment decisions and being consistent with the Fund's fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of stakeholders;
- Local Authority Pension Funds Forum (LAPFF):-
 - engagement with defence companies in their role in supplying weapons to Middle Eastern countries and working with companies on corruption allegations, executive pay and climate factors, the 2050 target on low-to-no carbon emissions, carbon neutrality, hydrogen in industrial processes and the relaxation in US Federal emissions rules;
 - signing up as partner to the 'Powering Past Coal Alliance', part of the UK Government's new Green Finance Strategy;
 - company engagement on exiting fracking operations and making customers more energy efficient; and
 - voting against the company boards, as appropriate, on policy practice and staff relations; and
- Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) cosignatory calling for EU Leaders to support a net zero emissions target for the EU by 2050 and to align all relevant legislation to the temperature reduction goals within the Paris Agreement as well as urging decisive action by world government on the Agreement's goals; and
- Climate Action 100+

Decision

The Committee and Board noted the report.