

Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held at Templeton House on 28 January 2025 at 10.15am.

Members Present

Mark McBride (Chair), Ken Clayton, Dooley Harte, Alan Law (via MS Teams), Cathy Matthews (via MS Teams), Derek McCallan, Shane McCurdy, Heather McKinstry, Antoinette McMillen, Peter Moore, Michael Rafferty (via MS Teams) and JJ Tohill.

Invited but did not attend

Paul Francey

Gerard Murray

In Attendance

David Murphy (Secretary)
Nicola Todd (Deputy Secretary)
Denise McElrea (Head of Governance and HR)
Louise Hickland (Head of Investment Services)
Annie McElhatton (Investment Services Manager)
Catherine Whyte (Corporate Support Officer)
Jeff Glass (Department for Communities)
Robert Evans (Partners Group)
Erik Rodenwoldt (Partners Group)

1 Declaration of Member Interests

- 1.1 Antoinette McMillen declared a potential interest in two items relating to staff pay, contained within the draft proposals for action arising from the departmental review of NILGOSC. The Secretary confirmed this was not a conflict of interest at this stage.

2 Chairperson's Business and Apologies

- 2.1 The Chair informed the Committee that Ken Clayton had advised he would arrive late to the meeting and that Paul Francey intended to attend the meeting, but that he may be late. He also advised that Jeff Glass was attending the meeting in place of Gerard Murray.

Ken Clayton joined the meeting. Paul Francey did not attend.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting on 16 December 2024

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2024, having been circulated, were agreed.

4 Matters Arising

- 4.1 The Secretary advised NILGOSC had received a response to the question that the Committee had posed to PIMCO regarding investment in renewables. He informed the Committee of the response provided by PIMCO.
- 4.2 Derek McCallan advised that his Interim Chair's appraisal had been arranged for 17 February.

5 Internal Dispute Resolution Committee

- 5.1 The Chair of the IDRC informed the Committee of a training session held on 14 January.

The Head of Investment Services and the Investment Services Manager joined the meeting.

6 Appointment of Investment Advisory Services Provider

- 6.1 The Head of Investment Services presented a paper which recommended the appointment of an Investment Advisor following the termination of the current contract with NILGOSC's existing Investment Advisor, Aon Investments Limited, on 31 March 2025.
- 6.2 The Head of Investment Services gave an overview of the tender evaluation process undertaken to appoint a new provider.
- 6.3 The Head of Investment Services advised the outcome of the Investment Advisory Services tender evaluation process and recommended that the highest scoring candidate, Isio Group Limited, was appointed, subject to satisfactory terms and conditions being agreed.
- 6.4 The Committee discussed the outcome of the procurement process and agreed to approve the appointment of Isio Group Limited for the provision of Investment Advisory Services to NILGOSC for a seven-year contract period commencing on 1 April 2025.

7 Introduction to Partners Group

- 7.1 The Investment Services Manager gave a brief introduction to Partners Group, advising that the mandate was in the very early stages of

deployment and therefore it was too short a period to be able to provide any meaningful analysis on the mandate's performance.

The Partners Group Representatives joined the meeting.

- 7.2 Robert Evans and Erik Rodenwoldt introduced themselves to the Committee and outlined their roles within Partners Group.
- 7.3 Robert Evans gave an overview of the global property portfolio, highlighting the investment approach and the global team working on NILGOSC's behalf.
- 7.4 Erik Rodenwoldt gave an update on current property markets advising that Partners Group has a positive outlook for global real estate.
- 7.5 Robert Evans gave an overview of the portfolio composition to date together with a planned capital deployment schedule.
- 7.6 The Committee raised a number of questions on the investment process, position sizing, assessment of climate related risks, global real estate prices and expectations for currencies.
- 7.7 The Chair of the meeting thanked Partners Group for their presentation and the Committee noted the update.

The Head of Investment Services, the Investment Services Manager and the Partners Group representatives left the meeting. The Committee had a short comfort break. Jeff Glass left the meeting. Michael Rafferty and Heather McKinstry advised they would need to leave the meeting early.

8 Draft Proposals for action arising from the Departmental Review of NILGOSC.

- 8.1 The Secretary presented a paper setting out draft responses and actions for each of the 34 recommendations from the Independent review of NILGOSC.
- 8.2 The Secretary presented NILGOSC's proposed response and action, where required, for each recommendation.
- 8.3 The Committee discussed NILGOSC views and actions for the recommendations and agreed various amendments.

Michael Rafferty and Antoinette McMillen left the meeting.

Derek McCallan left the meeting.

- 8.4 The Committee agreed the responses and proposals for action, subject to the various changes proposed.

9 TPR General Code Compliance Analysis

- 9.1 The Deputy Secretary presented a paper outlining the outcome of the gap analysis undertaken to determine NILGOSC's compliance with the updated requirements of the General Code.
- 9.2 The Deputy Secretary highlighted the areas where further action was required advising that an action plan had been developed with a target completion date of 30 June 2025. She confirmed that progress will be monitored and reported in due course.

Alan Law left the meeting.

- 9.3 The Committee discussed two Code requirements relating to the removal of a member of a governing body and the updating of information on NILGOSC's website. The Committee agreed with the conclusion of the gap analysis that no further action was required.
- 9.4 The Committee noted the report and outcome of the gap analysis.

10 Public Sector Pensions Update

- 10.1 The Secretary presented his update on Public Sector Pensions. He advised that the Department for Communities had launched a consultation on statutory guidance for implementation of the McCloud Remedy.
- 10.2 The Committee noted the Public Sector Pensions Update.

11 Secretary's Report and Seal Log

- 11.1 The Secretary presented his report outlining important operational issues that had arisen since the last Committee Meeting.
- 11.2 The Secretary updated the Committee on the meeting held with the Department on 8 January and discussed various pertinent issues including the Committee appointment exercise. He advised that the Department hoped to have someone appointed by 30 April 2025.
- 11.3 The Secretary advised the Committee that a secure electronic database was in the process of being set up for Committee members and should be in place in the coming weeks.
- 11.4 The Secretary advised that NILGOSC had responded to the consultation by HM Revenue and Customs on Inheritance Tax on pensions.
- 11.5 The Secretary advised the Committee that NILGOSC would be celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. He advised that NILGOSC was making arrangements to mark the occasion.
- 11.6 The Secretary advised he had received a 25-year long service award from NILGOSC and he thanked the staff and Deputy Secretary for arranging this celebration.

12 Any other business

12.1 There was no further business.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Chairperson (Signature).

Date