



City of Westminster

Committee Report

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Decision Maker: | PENSION FUND COMMITTEE |
| Date: | 11 March 2020 |
| Classification: | Public |
| Title: | ShareAction Healthy Markets Coalition |
| Wards Affected: | None |
| Policy Context: | Effective control over Council Activities |
| Financial Summary: | There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. |
| Report of: | Phil Triggs <i>Tri-Borough Director of Treasury and Pensions</i> ptringgs@westminster.gov.uk 020 7641 4136 |

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper seeks approval from the Pension Fund Committee for the Pension Fund to formally join the ShareAction Healthy Markets Coalition, as well providing officers with delegated authority to co-sign letters to target retailers and manufacturers on the Committee's behalf.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Pension Fund Committee is requested to delegate authority to the Tri-Borough Director of Treasury and Pensions to co-sign ShareAction Coalition letters to the target retailers and manufactures.

3 Background

- 3.1 ShareAction is a registered charity which promotes responsible investment, working with investors to help influence how companies operate their business on a range of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors. This includes areas such as climate change, gender diversity, the living wage, decarbonisation/climate change, biomass and healthy markets.
- 3.2 Over the last year, ShareAction has been working to further the Healthy Markets coalition group. The Healthy Market Initiative aims to make food retailers and manufactures take accountability for their role and impact on people's diets amid growing concerns surrounding increasing levels of obesity. This can include interventions such as education, increased reporting, packing and labelling, pricing/offers and the development of nutrition strategies.
- 3.3 To date, ShareAction has engaged with a number of the largest food retailers and manufacturers in the UK. As part of the initiative, ShareAction maintains a dialogue with each of these companies, including signed coalition letters, which cover the criticalness of the topic, opportunities and risks and disclosure of strategies and targets. As at 31 December 2020, the Pension Fund had circa £15m exposure to those target companies, which equates to 0.88% of the total Fund's market value.
- 3.4 Of particular note is the Tesco Special Resolution, on Healthy Diets, due to be voted on at Tesco's 2021 AGM. The resolution was co-ordinated by ShareAction and is asking Tesco to report on its nutrition and health strategy, together with metrics and targets, including progress reporting within its Annual Report (Appendix 1). As shareholders of Tesco, this is a good opportunity for the Fund to engage with our equity managers and the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) on this issue and express our support for this resolution.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to delegate authority to the Tri-Borough Director of Treasury and Pensions, to co-sign any future coalition letters in respect of the Healthy Markets initiative, including letters to our equity managers and the LAPFF on the Tesco Special Resolution on Healthy Diets.

If you have any questions about this report, or wish to inspect one of the background papers, please contact the report author:

Billie Emery bemery@westminster.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: ShareAction: Tesco Special Resolution on Healthy Diets