

West Midlands Pension Fund's Mark Chaloner, Assistant Director - Investments, elected to UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment's Advisory Council

The West Midlands Pension Fund is a signatory to the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). The PRI's Advisory Council determines the strategic direction of the PRI and provides oversight of the initiative. Mark Chaloner was elected to the Council effective 1 January 2015. He was shortlisted in recognition of his years of experience in this area.

In his pre-election candidate statement, Mr. Chaloner stated that "I would particularly like to champion signatories who are in an earlier to middle stage of their responsible investment journey, as I feel that they represent the majority of the PRI's signatory base. Where the RI leaders are faced with the practical challenges of how to implement responsible investment across asset classes, investment styles and so on, the remaining signatories may be faced with particular behavioural/cultural ("buy-in") challenges where the PRI could offer significant support".

Councillor Bert Turner, Chair of the West Midlands Pension Fund's Pension Committee, said of the appointment, "The PRI represents one of the most influential stakeholder bodies for the responsible investment agenda in the world. With his extensive experience in this area, I am pleased that Mark will have a chance to positively influence the direction of the PRI from which the Fund, as well as other PRI signatories, can only benefit".

Martin Skancke, Chair of the PRI Advisory Council, said: "I am delighted to welcome Mark to the Advisory Council and look forward to working with him and all of our new and existing Council members over the next few years, as the PRI continues to implement new initiatives that will benefit our signatories across the globe."

Before his appointment at West Midlands Pension Fund, Mark Chaloner had a twenty four year career at the Church Commissioners, twelve as Chief Investment Officer responsible for a highly-diversified investment portfolio. He has extensive experience of ethical and socially responsible investment, including membership of the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group for more than ten years and also being Vice Chair of the Ecumenical Church Investors Group. He had an early career in banking, prior to which he graduated from Cambridge University with a history degree.

Ends

Notes for Editors:

The West Midlands Pension Fund provides pension services to over 275,000 current and former employees of the seven West Midlands district councils and over 450 employers participating in the Fund. It is one of the largest funds in England and Wales, employing 115 FTE members of staff and as at 31st December 2014 was valued at over £11 billion. The West Midlands Pension Fund strives to be a best practice organisation, delivering a customer-focused service, while providing value for money to its stakeholders.

The PRI is an international network of investors representing approximately 29 trillion GBP assets under management, working together to put the six Principles for Responsible Investment into practice. Its goal is to understand the implications of sustainability for investors and support signatories to incorporate these issues into their investment decision making and ownership practices. More information about the PRI can be found at <http://www.unpri.org> or in the RI section of the West Midland Pension Fund's website: <http://www.wmpfonline.com/article/5691/Codes-and-Principles>

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