

The logo for UKSIF, consisting of the letters 'UKSIF' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark grey rectangular background.

PRESS RELEASE

Survey Launched to Shed Light on Responsible Investment Policies of UK Corporate Pension Funds

London, 3 February 2009 — UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association, has today launched the 2009 “Responsible Business: Sustainable Pension” survey to help leading corporate pension funds learn more about best practice in Responsible Investment (RI) and so respond to today’s investment challenges.

Pension funds are being invited to participate based on their plan sponsor’s reputation as a Corporate Responsibility leader. The survey is being sent to the pensions managers of all UK listed companies in the prestigious FTSE4Good and Carbon Disclosure Leadership Indexes.

Sponsored by leading investment managers Hermes Fund Managers and KBC Asset Management, this is the second bi-annual survey of the pension funds of companies highly regarded for their Corporate Responsibility. The survey was developed by independent pension fund industry leaders to give an RI framework specifically tailored to the needs of this group.

The inaugural survey in 2007 found that nearly two thirds of funds gave “great” or “some” significance to alignment with their plan sponsor’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and/or Sustainability policy.

The survey is sponsored by:



The 2009 results, to be published later in the year, will give a picture of developments since then. At that point, participants will be offered confidential feedback comparing their approach with the group as a whole.

Michael Deakin, Chair of the UKSIF Sustainable Pensions Advisory Board said: “We have designed this survey to provide trustees with a better understanding of Responsible Investment (RI) policies. This will offer the opportunity to address the challenges of long-term sustainability that many funds are facing.”

Colin Melvin, Chief Executive Officer of Hermes Equity Ownership Services said: “We are pleased to support this timely survey which we hope will assist corporate pension fund trustees and officers in developing value-enhancing responsible investment strategies. Many of our largest companies have been successful in addressing corporate responsibility from a business perspective. Working together, we have an excellent opportunity to take a similar approach to the management of our pension funds.”

Steve Falci, Vice President - Sustainable Investment, KBC Asset Management Ltd said: “We are delighted to be involved with the UKSIF survey ‘Responsible Business: Sustainable Pensions’. Pension fund trustees are realising that ignoring sustainable development is not an option, a trend which is leading to growing interest in Responsible Investment. Also the link between sustainable investing and long term investment returns cannot be denied, these are strong sectors supported by strong long term drivers of secular growth.”

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Notes to Editors

About UKSIF

UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association, promotes responsible investment and other forms of finance that support sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. It also seeks to ensure that individual and institutional investors can reflect their values in their investments. Its more than 200 members include pension funds, banks, asset managers, investment consultants, research providers, financial advisers and non-governmental organisations. For more info, visit www.uksif.org.

About the 2009 “Responsible Business: Sustainable Pension” survey

The 2009 “Responsible Business: Sustainable Pension” survey is being sent to the corporate pension funds of UK listed companies in the FTSE4Good UK Index and in the Carbon Disclosure Project’s Climate Disclosure Leadership Index. The survey was first run in 2007. Responses are treated confidentially – specific funds are only named as exemplars and with their permission. The survey is sponsored by Hermes Fund Managers and KBC Asset Management, and supported by the FTSE Group.

See www.uksif.org/sustainablepensions to read the 2007 report.

About the UKSIF Sustainable Pensions Project (SPP)

The UKSIF Sustainable Pensions Project (www.uksif.org/sustainablepensions) assists UK occupational pension funds to adopt more sustainable and responsible investment strategies. It seeks to encourage pension schemes to consider environmental and social and governance issues in their investment decisions, with the goal of protecting and enhancing long-term shareholder value and financial returns for the scheme beneficiaries.

The project is overseen by an independent Sustainable Pensions Advisory Board, chaired by Michael Deakin. The members of the Sustainable Pensions Advisory Board are:

Sally Bridgeland, BP Pension Trustee Ltd
Tim Currell, Hewitt Associates
Duncan Exley, FairPensions
Jane Goodland, Watson Wyatt
Emma Hunt, Mercer
Peter Montagnon, Association of British Insurers (ABI)
Will Oulton, FTSE Group
David Paterson, NAPF
Andrew Parker, BT Pension Scheme
Mike Taylor, London Pension Fund Authority

About Michael Deakin

Michael Deakin is Director of Michael Deakin Consultancy Ltd and has over 25 years investment experience. He is currently trustee of the HBOS pension fund and a member of the board of the London Pension Fund Authority and of the Pension Protection Fund. He retired as Chief Investment Officer for Insight Investment, the investment management business of the HBOS Group, at the end of September 2003.

About Hermes Fund Managers

Hermes is a multi boutique asset manager with a truly long-term and responsible approach to delivering investment returns. As a multi boutique it offers its clients the best combination of specialist investment teams and products along with a robust operating platform from which to run them.

Hermes offers investment solutions which range from alternative strategies such as fund of hedge funds, commodities and our engagement focus funds to real estate, private equity and specialist equity products. Hermes invests assets on behalf of 205* clients across these product areas and has £31.2bn* under management. Additionally, it helps pension funds meet the highest standards of responsible long term ownership through its innovative Equity Ownership Service, which has over £50 billion* of assets under stewardship.

Hermes is the advisor and principle investment manager for the BT Pension Scheme (BTPS) and BTPS is also the 100% owner of Hermes. This unique relationship gives Hermes a long term parent whose requirement for investment excellence is perfectly aligned with that of all of its other clients and provides a privileged insight which informs its product development.

* As at 30 September 2008

About KBC Asset Management Ltd

KBC Asset Management believes that a wave of investment and innovation is underway in response to key mega-trends that are shaping the way we live. Dramatic population growth, increased urbanisation and industrialisation, together with global warming are creating tremendous pressure on our eco system and the ability to sustainably supply precious resources such as water, energy and arable land.

KBC Asset Management has been one of the earliest pioneers in managing environmental thematic strategies focused on investing in companies providing solutions to these global sustainability challenges.

KBC Asset Management launched its first Environmental Strategies in 2000 and has a long term strategic commitment to environmental thematic and sustainable

strategies. The commitment was fortified in 2008 with the addition of three new members to our specialist Environmental Team and with the creation of our dedicated Sustainable Strategies Group, lead by Steve Falci.

KBC Asset Management Ltd is part of the Belgian based KBC Asset Management Group, which manages over EUR162.2bn* in assets. It has been delivering competitive products and services for over 25 years.

* As at 31 December 2008