

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**AllenbridgeEPIC Investment Advisers Announces
New Investment Panel Member – Philip Read**

AllenbridgeEPIC Investment Advisers ('AEIA') is pleased to announce that ***Philip Read*** has joined the Investment Panel at AEIA.

AEIA provides independent investment experts, who have all held senior positions in the investment industry, to advise LGPS and corporate pension schemes, charity trustees, investment committees, pension managers and sponsors on investment related issues. Each adviser provides their client with practical, in-depth knowledge and experience of all aspects of the management of pension or charity assets. Clients have the reassurance of knowing that their adviser is FSA regulated, has professional indemnity insurance and is dedicated to their fund. Because our focus is purely on investment related issues and the provision of investment advice - we offer no other service or function - our work for clients is uncompromised by conflicts of interest. Each adviser shares their knowledge with AEIA colleagues and to ensure that they continue developing their expertise all AEIA's advisers meet regularly as a formal Investment Panel. This means that each client benefits from the total experience of the group as well as that of their individual adviser.

Philip Read retired last year from his appointment as the in-house UK Pensions Manager, responsible for investment strategy and day-to-day administration of The Metal Box Pension Scheme, which has 23,000 members and assets amounting to some £1.3 billion.

Philip is also the non-executive Chairman of the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme, which currently has 73,000 members and assets of some £8.5 billion. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries and a Fellow of the Pensions Management Institute. Philip has served as a member of Council, and as a Vice-President, of the Pensions Management Institute.

Commenting on ***Philip Read's*** appointment to AEIA's Investment Panel, ***Christopher Edge, Vice-Chairman, said***, "Following his long and distinguished career as a consulting actuary as well as in pensions management and investment strategy, Philip Read brings considerable and invaluable experience of significant pension schemes to AEIA and its members."

Philip Read said, "By joining AEIA, I shall be putting the knowledge and experience I have gained of pension scheme investment issues, and long-term financial planning, into practical use as an independent adviser. Together with my fellow AEIA Panel members, we seek to improve best practice in the provision of independent investment advice to UK pension funds."

AEIA now has a growing list of pension fund clients in both the private and public sectors, and has been joined by an impressive group of Investment Panel and Associate members. For details of all of our Panel members and Associates, please see: <http://www.allenbridgeepic.com>

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Notes to Editors:

AllenbridgeEPIC Investment Advisers ('AEIA') is based in London's Mayfair, with representative offices in Glasgow and Lancaster. AEIA provides independent investment experts, who have all held senior positions in the pensions and investment industry, to advise LGPS and corporate pension schemes, charity trustees, investment committees, pension managers and sponsors on investment related issues.

The core services which we provide to pension fund clients in both the public and private sector include:

- o Developing and reviewing investment policy
- o Assisting with long term strategy and benchmarking (including input from the actuary and sponsor)
- o Informed discussion and assistance with technical concepts
- o Improved market timing
- o Constructive monitoring and review of investment managers
- o Improved trustee governance
- o Reviewing and monitoring the scheme's Statement of Investment Principles
- o LGPS governance and compliance advice
- o Constructive challenge to Fiduciary Managers and Implemented Consulting relationships
- o General or tailored trustee training

AEIA's fourteen senior investment advisers and six specialist associate members pool a combined practical experience of many years derived from the pension fund management, pension fund consultancy and investment communities. Through its panel of investment experts, AEIA provides each client with an experienced adviser to act as their 'knowledge bridge' between trustees and company management, and their actuarial consultants and investment managers.

AEIA is a division of the Allenbridge Group plc, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

Allenbridge Group plc, founded in 1985, is a specialist research company which analyses investment manager performance across a wide range of funds: Unit Trusts, Pension Funds, Charity Funds, Hedge Funds, Funds of Hedge Funds and Venture Capital Trusts.

It provides comprehensive analysis and strategic investment advice to leading banks and institutions. It also offers advice to private individuals on investment products and tax shelter vehicles.

Institutional funds under advisement total over £25 billion, while Allenbridge's private investor division has some 14,000 clients, with £400 million under advisement

<http://www.allenbridge.co.uk>