

Swaffham Relief in Need Charity (1072912)

Investment Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Swaffham Relief in Need Charity (RiN) is governed by a Scheme dated 23rd February 1998. The Charity was created in the 19th century, and was formerly known as the Charity for Allotment Land.
- 1.2. The Trust recognises that continuing to invest in cash will not provide sufficient returns to continue to achieve objectives, and wish to adopt a new investment strategy.
- 1.3. The objective of RiN is the relief of persons resident in the area of benefit who are in need, hardship or distress.
- 1.4. The trustees are governed by the Trustee Act 2000 which sets out the general power of investment.

2. Investment Objectives

- 2.1. The Trust seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.
- 2.2. The Trust's investment objective is to for capital growth in excess of inflation (RPI) and a stable, growing income stream, in the region of £8k per annum in 2021.

3. Risk

- 3.1. The Trust is largely risk averse, preferring to invest around 2/3 of the proceeds of sale in low risk, and 1/3 in medium risk securities
- 3.2. Investment in funds, rather than directly in individual securities is preferred.
- 3.3. Funds invested in diversified asset classes, including shares and investment grade bonds is considered acceptable.
- 3.4. No individual investment in cash should exceed the amount guaranteed under FSCS (currently £85k)

4. Liquidity Requirements

- 4.1. To service the average level of grants over the past 5 years, and to cover the administrative expenses of the Trust, annual income of around £9k is required
- 4.2. To allow for variability in demand, a minimum of £25k should be held in accounts which can be liquidated within 90 days.

5. Time Horizon

- 5.1. The Trust can adopt a medium term investment horizon

6. Ethical Considerations

- 6.1. The Trust wishes to engage with partners and invest in funds which have a robust Environmental, Social and corporate Governance (ESG) policy.
- 6.2. The Trust wishes to avoid funds which invest in the tobacco industry or in companies involved in animal testing, **other than for pharmaceutical reasons**

7. Management, Reporting and Monitoring

- 7.1. An Investment Committee will take investment decisions on behalf of the Trust
- 7.2. Advice will be taken on creating an Investment Portfolio from a Financial Adviser with experience of Charities Investments.. Benchmarks will be appropriate to the nature of the fund (eg FTSE, MSCI)
- 7.3. The Trust's asset value and income is monitored quarterly by the Trust Administrator
- 7.4. The Trust will review the investment performance against peers relevant Market Indices and the investment objective on an annual basis.


8. For charities using investment managers, the investment policy must cover

- 8.1. Responsibility and remit of the investment manager;
- 8.2. Principles that any investment manager must follow when taking investment decisions on behalf of the charity.

9. Approval and Review

- 9.1. This Investment Policy Statement was prepared to provide a framework for the management of RiN's assets. It will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure continuing appropriateness.

Approved by the Trustee Board: 27th January 2022

Signed: 

Name: Cllr Paul Darby

Position: Chairman