**Leicester Area Meeting**

**Investments policy**

1. **Introduction**
   1. Leicester Area Meeting is the regional meeting for the Religious Society of Friends and is part of Britain Yearly Meeting. At the time of writing it comprises Leicester, Loughborough, Oakham and Rugby Local Quaker Meetings.
   2. The Area Meeting is a charitable unit for legal and financial purposes. Operationally, each local meeting holds regular business meetings and manages its own accounts. Area Meeting also holds funds collectively on behalf of all the local meetings. The funds from the four local meetings and Area Meeting are consolidated into one financial report each year by the Area Meeting treasurer.
   3. The Area Meeting uses the address of Leicester Local Meeting as its location for legal purposes. Area Meeting for business takes place six times each year, rotating between the four meeting houses in the area.
   4. The governance of Leicester Area meeting is stated in the governing document, agreed by Area Meeting. The trustees are responsible for ensuring that Area Meeting (including the four component meetings) fulfils the duties and spirit of the governing document. This includes the implementation of the investments policy.
   5. The Area Meeting is responsible for Leicester, Oakham and Rugby Meeting Houses. These buildings are held in the name of Friends Trust Ltd. Loughborough meeting rents a room in a community centre and does not have a meeting house.
   6. Financial and investment decisions are made by Area Meeting, informed by recommendations from trustees.
2. **Investment objectives**
   1. The Area Meeting seeks the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.
   2. The investment objective for long term reserves is to generate a return in excess of inflation, whilst achieving a balance between income and growth.
   3. The investment objective for short term deposits is to preserve the capital value. Assets held in short term funds must be easily accessible in the case of an unexpected need.
3. **Ethical investments**

3.1 The Area Meeting wishes to invest ethically, in line with Quaker values. Rathbone Greenbank has been chosen as the manager for the long term investments as they specialise in ethical investments. Our investments should exclude arms, tobacco, alcohol, gambling and payday lending, and, as far as possible, fossil fuels. Any investments in fossil fuels should be kept to an absolute minimum.

1. **Liquidity requirements for funds held solely in the name of Area Meeting**
   1. The Area Meeting has decided to invest in the long and short term as follows:

Long term investments Approximately 50% Managed by Rathbone Greenbank

Short term savings Approximately 45% 3 months’ notice

Cash at bank Approximately 5% Immediate access

* 1. The Area Meeting has agreed that the long term investments will be invested for a minimum of 5 years from 2017.
  2. The Area Meeting is aware that the long term investments could be needed to contribute to the purchase of an additional meeting house within the area, should an opportunity arise and such a decision be made. If this occurs, it may be necessary to liquefy the long term investments. However, the likelihood of this opportunity arising within the next five years is considered low.

1. **Risk**
   1. The key risk to both long and short term reserves is inflation and investments should seek to minimise this risk.
   2. The Area Meeting wishes to maintain a medium to low attitude to risk in long term ethical investments.
2. **Management, reporting and monitoring**
   1. Rathbone Greenbank will provide a valuation and performance report quarterly. Trustees will monitor each report as it is produced.
   2. Trustees will update Area Meeting on the performance of long and short term investments each year in their annual report.
3. **Approval and review**
   1. This investment policy was prepared by Trustees and approved by Area Meeting.

It will be reviewed each year.

Agreed by trustees

March 2nd 2017

Approved by Area Meeting

March 12th 2017