

28 May 2019

## Alliance Trust strengthens commitment to sustainable investing

Alliance Trust PLC, the £3bn global investment trust, today announces its appointment of Hermes Equity Ownership Services (HEOS) to strengthen its commitment to sustainable investing.

Representing £450.5bn of assets, HEOS is an industry-leading provider of advice to institutional shareholders on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, engaging with companies on their behalf and providing them with advice on how to vote.

Alliance Trust's investment manager Willis Tower Watson, already incorporates ESG factors into its investment process, thoroughly vetting the sustainability credentials of all the managers it selects for the Trust's active multi-manager global equity portfolio. The appointment of HEOS will add a further layer of expertise and oversight, helping to enhance the application of ESG and sustainability principles.

**Craig Baker, Chairman of the Alliance Trust Investment Committee and Global Chief Investment Officer of Willis Towers Watson, said:** "We interrogate the Trust's managers' processes and portfolios to ensure that their ESG policies get put into practice, and that sustainability is a genuine part of their decision making."

"We expect all of the Trust's stock pickers to undertake effective engagement and voting. But we recognise they have limited resources to do this so we don't stop there. With the pending appointment of HEOS, we will be able to enhance the active stewardship applied to the Alliance Trust portfolio with HEOS's industry-leading experts."

"We believe actively engaging with companies to improve their standing on ESG and sustainability issues is a vital part of our role as investors, HEOS will help us do this effectively for the Alliance Trust portfolio."

"In addition, we have developed portfolio management tools that allow us to assess the resilience of the Alliance Trust portfolio to a range of sustainability issues, including the impact of specific climate change scenarios. We can also use this data as part of our continual monitoring of the Trust's stock pickers, challenging them on their holdings and ensuring that they are thinking about all the risks in their portfolios, as well as the potential investment opportunities out there."

"We strongly believe that all of our work on integrating sustainability will help deliver better returns for Alliance Trust investors. Crucially, it will also help shape a better world in which to enjoy those returns."

- Ends -

**Notes to Editors:**

**About Alliance Trust PLC (ATST)**

Alliance Trust PLC is an investment trust providing investors with a unique global equity portfolio at a competitive cost. Our portfolio is managed by an alliance of best-in-class managers – as rated by Willis Towers Watson – who invest only in their best ideas. We are one of the largest investment trusts and an AIC Dividend Hero with 52 years of continuous dividends.

**About Hermes Investment Management**

Hermes Investment Management, a Federated Investors company, provides world-class active investment management and stewardship services. Hermes, headquartered in London, manages £34.1 billion in assets and offers a broad range of specialist, high-conviction investment strategies spanning listed equities, credit, real estate, infrastructure, private debt and private equity.

Hermes' strategies focus not just on financial results, but also on delivering outcomes beyond performance: holistic returns that consider impacts to society, the environment and the wider world. In Hermes EOS, the company offers one of the industry's leading engagement resources, representing £450.5 billion of assets\*. For more information, visit [www.hermes-investment.com](http://www.hermes-investment.com).

\* Please note the total AUM figure includes £6.2bn of assets managed or under an advisory agreement by Hermes GPE LLP ("HGPE"), a joint venture between Hermes Fund Managers Limited ("HFM") and GPE Partner Limited. HGPE is an independent entity and not part of the Hermes group. £23.4m of total group AUM figure represents HFM mandates under advice. Source: Hermes as at 31 March 2019

With GDPR now in effect as of 25 May 2018, we will continue to manage all data responsibly and in line with new regulations. To unsubscribe, please reply with 'unsubscribe' to this email, if you would like to continue hearing from Hermes Investment Management then you do not need to do anything.