

21 October 2022

Columbia Threadneedle Fund Management Limited

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Dear Investor.

# Proposed scheme of arrangement for the merger of the CT Select UK Equity Fund into the CT Responsible UK Equity Fund – action required

We are writing to you as a shareholder in the CT Select UK Equity Fund to explain our proposal to merge this fund into the CT Responsible UK Equity Fund, by way of a scheme of arrangement (the "Merger"). It is important that you read this letter, as well as the enclosed Shareholder Circular, as you have the opportunity to vote on the proposed Merger which we believe to be in your best interests.

Throughout this letter, and in the enclosed Shareholder Circular, we refer to the CT Select UK Equity Fund as the "Merging Fund" and the CT Responsible UK Equity Fund as the "Receiving Fund".

#### What is changing?

We are proposing to transfer the assets of the Merging Fund into the Receiving Fund, another UK equity investment fund managed by us, on the terms set out in the scheme of arrangement. The Merging Fund is a sub-fund of Columbia Threadneedle (UK) ICVC I and the Receiving Fund is a sub-fund of Columbia Threadneedle (UK) ICVC V. Full details of the proposed scheme of arrangement can be found in the enclosed Shareholder Circular.

### Why is Columbia Threadneedle Investments proposing these changes?

The Merger will bring together two similar funds. CT Select UK Equity Fund, the smaller of the two funds, has not attracted significant new investment in recent years, and reduced in size to around £46.4m as at 31 July 2022. By merging it into the larger Receiving Fund (around £563.5m as at 31 July 2022), shareholders may benefit from economies of scale associated with the management of a larger pool of assets.

From the Effective Date of the Merger, all shareholders moving into the Receiving Fund will benefit from lower charges, as measured by the Estimated Ongoing Charges Figure or OCF, set out in the Shareholder Circular at Appendix 2.

## What do I need to do?

You are able to vote on the proposed Merger at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). It is important that you read this letter and the enclosed Shareholder Circular. Together, they form notification of the proposed Merger and the EGM and provide full details of the process and implications for you as an investor.

You can vote for or against the proposal by completing the enclosed Form of Proxy or by attending the EGM in person. Investors are invited to join the meeting if they wish to do so, and the Chair will take guestions.

If you wish to vote, you should attend the EGM in person or return the completed Form of Proxy in the pre-paid return envelope provided to Columbia Threadneedle Fund Management Limited, Pallion Trading Estate, Sunderland SR4 6ST to reach us no less than 48 hours before the time of the EGM, being held at 10 am (UK time) on 18 November 2022. The Form of Proxy can be found enclosed with this document.

When will the Merger take place?



If approved, the Merger will take place on 27 January 2023, or the soonest date thereafter, if for any reason the Merger must be postponed. However, for the Merger to proceed, at least 75% of votes cast at the EGM must be in favour of the Merger. The results of the votes will be published on our website columbiathreadneedle.com/changes following the EGM.

## How will my investment be affected by the Merger?

If the Merger is approved, we will transfer the assets of the Merging Fund into the Receiving Fund and in exchange, you will receive new shares in the Receiving Fund, on the terms set out in the scheme of arrangement. You will receive a confirmation letter with details of your new shares in the Receiving Fund.

The Receiving Fund will continue to be managed in the same way as it is currently and the Merging Fund will be terminated once the Merger has taken place.

If the Merger is not approved by shareholders, the Merging Fund will continue to be managed as it is currently and your investment will remain unchanged.

# Will there be any cost to me as an investor?

The costs of preparing and implementing the Merger under the scheme of arrangement will be paid for by Columbia Threadneedle Investments. This does not include costs incurred during the period between the EGM and the Effective Date as changes are made to the portfolio of assets held by the Merging Fund specifically to align with the Receiving Fund's portfolio which are estimated to be around 0.45% of the current AUM of the Merging Fund.

### Can I redeem or switch my holding to another fund?

If you do not wish to participate in the Merger and you do not wish for your investment to be transferred to the Receiving Fund, you have the following options:

- You may redeem your shares; or
- You may switch your investment from the Merging Fund to another UK domiciled Columbia Threadneedle Fund Management Limited fund free of charge.

Any redemption or switch made up to and including the 12 noon (UK time) valuation point on 26 January 2023 will be free of initial or redemption charges. In order to redeem your shares or switch your holding before the Merger we must receive your instructions by 12 noon (UK time) on 26 January 2023. Instructions received after this time will be deemed to apply to your shares in the Receiving Fund. If you do wish to redeem or switch your shares, please write to us at Columbia Threadneedle Fund Management Limited, PO Box 9040, Chelmsford, Essex, CM99 2XH. For assistance, please contact us on 0330 123 3798 for investors located in the UK or on +44 1268 443902 for investors located outside of the UK (calls may be recorded).

If the vote in favour of the Merger is passed and you take no action to redeem or switch your holding in the Merging Fund, you will receive shares in the Receiving Fund from the Effective Date.

# Are there any tax implications?

There may be tax implications depending on your individual circumstances should you decide to switch or sell shares in the Merging Fund. We are unable to provide tax advice and we therefore suggest that you seek advice from your tax adviser about any potential tax implications before you take any action.

#### **Further information**

If you are unclear about the contents of this letter, or have any further questions, please contact us. For UK investors please call us on 0330 123 3798\*. For investors outside the UK, please call +44 1268 443902 \*. Our team is available from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday (UK time). Please note that we are unable to provide financial or tax advice.

If you are unsure about your investment you should speak to a financial adviser. If you are based in the UK, you can find one in your area by visiting www.unbiased.co.uk – please note we do not endorse individual advisers on the site.



**David Logan** 

CEO

Chief Executive Officer Columbia Threadneedle Management Limited