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For immediate release

LAPFF welcomes BSkyB board changes

The decision of James Murdoch to relinquish the chair of BSkyB is a sensible one, according to the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum.

Ahead of BSkyB's 2011 AGM the Forum issued a statement that it was advising its members to oppose James Murdoch's re-election, but to vote for the re-election of deputy chair Nicholas Ferguson.

Reacting to today's news, Forum chairman Ian Greenwood said: "I think everybody recognises that James Murdoch's ongoing chairmanship of the company was problematic. BSkyB needs to put some distance between itself and the events at News International, and these board changes go some way to achieving that. James Murdoch's decision is the right one, and will be welcomed by shareholders interested in the company's long-term success."

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About LAPFF:

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF, www.lapfforum.org), which was set up in 1991, is a voluntary association of 55 public sector pension funds based in the UK. It exists 'to promote the long-term investment interests of local authority pension funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.' The Forum's members currently have combined assets of over £100 billion. PIRC is the Research and Engagement partner of the Forum.

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