

# Europe Arab Bank plc Pension Scheme

## Statement of Investment Principles

### Defined Contribution Section

August 2024

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# 1 Introduction

The Statement covers all investment matters relating to investment of the DC and AVC assets of the Scheme. A separate Statement of Investment Principles has been prepared to cover investment matters relating to the DB Section of the Scheme.

In preparing the Statement, the Trustees have:

- Obtained and considered written advice from a suitably qualified individual, employed by their investment consultants, Aon Investments Limited ("Aon"), whom they believe to have a degree of knowledge and experience that is appropriate for the management of their investments; and
- Consulted with the Sponsoring Employer, Europe Arab Bank plc, although they affirm that no aspect of their strategy is restricted by any requirement to obtain the consent of the Sponsoring Employer.

The advice and the consultation process considered the suitability of the Trustees' investment policy for the Scheme.

The Trustees will review the Statement formally at least every three years. Furthermore, the Trustees will review the Statement without delay after any significant change in investment policy or member demographics. Any changes made to the Statement will be based on written advice from a suitably qualified individual and will follow consultation with the Sponsoring Employer.

## 2 Investment Objectives

The Trustees aim to provide suitable investment options that are aligned to the needs of their members. The Trustees have taken into account members' circumstances, in particular the expected range of members' attitudes to risk and term to retirement.

The Trustees recognise that in a defined contribution arrangement, members assume the investment risks themselves. The Trustees further recognise that members are exposed to different types of risk at different stages of their working lifetimes. Broadly speaking, five main types of investment risk can be identified, as noted below:

- Opportunity cost risk – taking insufficient investment risk when the member can afford to, resulting in a lower level of retirement savings. This risk is most important when members are younger. Early career members have longer time horizons and higher levels of human capital which results in the ability to assume more investment risk in order to achieve higher expected returns.
- Inflation risk – the risk that the return on members' investments does not sufficiently exceed price inflation, resulting in a loss of purchasing power. This risk is important throughout a member's career. Investment strategies that deliver performance above or in-line with inflation are important for members.
- Capital risk – the risk that the value of invested capital may decrease significantly. This risk increases in importance as retirement savings grow. Mid-career members generally have higher pension savings and shorter investment horizons, which results in more of a focus on capital preservation than solely on maximising investment growth.
- Market-switching risk – the risk arises if there is to be switching between investment vehicles. The risk is that large investment switches are made at one point in time, thereby unnecessarily exposing members to unfavourable market pricing on a particular day.
- Mismatch risk – the risk that investments do not move in line with the change in the value of the expected approach to withdrawing retirement savings. This risk is most important when members are approaching retirement.

The Trustees have determined their investment policy in such a way as to address the above risks.

Further investment strategy details are covered in Section 4, and further risk considerations are set out in Section 5.

## 3 Investment Responsibilities

### 3.1 Trustees' Duties and Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for setting the investment objectives and determining the strategy to achieve the objectives.

They carry out their duties and fulfil their responsibilities as a single body. They have considered establishing an investment sub-committee but have decided not to do so, as each of the Trustees wishes to contribute directly to the formulation of the Scheme's investment policy and to the monitoring of the Scheme's investment managers. Moreover, the trustee body is not so large as to be unwieldy in its operations. Sub-committees may be formed from time to time to examine specific issues.

The duties and responsibilities of the Trustees include, but are not limited to, the following tasks and activities:

- The regular approval of the content of this Statement.
- The appointment and review of the investment managers and investment advisers.
- The assessment and review of the performance of each investment manager.
- The setting and review of the investment parameters within which the investment managers can operate.
- The assessment of risks at a total scheme level as well as on a manager by manager basis.
- The assessment of the suitability of investment options, including design of the default investment strategy.
- The approval and review of the asset allocation benchmarks for blended fund options.
- The compliance of the investment arrangements with the principles set out in this Statement.

### 3.2 Investment Adviser's Duties and Responsibilities

The Trustees have appointed Aon as the independent investment adviser to the Defined Contribution section of the Scheme. Aon provides advice as and when the Trustees require it, as well as raising any investment-related issues, of which it believes the Trustees should be aware. Matters on which Aon expects to provide advice to the Trustees include the following:

- Setting of investment objectives.
- Determining investment strategy and asset allocation benchmarks.
- Determining an appropriate investment structure.
- Investment manager mandates.
- Advising on the selection and replacement of investment managers and the platform provider.

The Trustees may seek advice from Aon with regard to investment decisions; however, they recognise that they retain responsibility for all such decisions.

The Trustees, with advice from Aon, monitor the performance of the Scheme's investment managers against their benchmarks.

Aon is remunerated primarily on a capped fixed fee basis, where the Trustees will look to agree the scope and budget for any project work in advance. Aon does not receive commission or any other payments in respect of the Scheme that might affect the impartiality of their advice. The Trustees believe that this is the most appropriate adviser remuneration structure for the Scheme.

Aon is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”).

### **3.3 Investment Managers’ Duties and Responsibilities**

The Trustees, after considering appropriate investment advice, have appointed professional, authorised investment managers to manage the assets of the Scheme.

The investment managers are responsible for all decisions concerning the selection of individual securities within the portfolios they manage.

In the case of multi-asset mandates, the investment managers are responsible for all decisions concerning the allocation to individual asset classes and changes in the allocations to individual asset classes.

All of the investment managers engaged by the Trustees are authorised and regulated by the FCA.

The investment managers are remunerated by percentage charges that apply to the value of the assets that they manage on behalf of the Scheme. The Trustees believe that this is the most appropriate basis for remunerating managers.

### **3.4 Summary of Responsibilities**

A summary of the responsibilities of all relevant parties in so far as they relate to the Scheme’s investments is set out in Appendix 2.

## 4 Investment Strategy

### 4.1 Setting Investment Strategy

The Trustees, with advice from Aon and in consultation with the Sponsoring Employer, completed a formal review of the investment strategy during 2023, including the suitability of the default investment strategy and self-select funds available. A full strategic review is carried out at least every three years, or immediately following any significant change to the Scheme's membership. The funds used within the strategy are also reviewed in detail at least annually in addition to quarterly performance monitoring.

The Trustees have taken advice to ensure that the lifestyle strategies and self-select fund options are suitable for the Scheme, taking into account:

- Members' circumstances, in particular the expected range of members' attitudes to risk and term to retirement
- Liquidity requirements
- The ongoing costs to members
- Any legal requirements and regulatory guidance
- Any restrictions in the Trust Deed.

In particular, the current investment strategy, including the default investment strategy, was designed following analysis of the membership profile of the Scheme. This analysis took into account factors such as age, accumulated fund values and term to retirement, to identify different types of members and to compare projected outcomes under alternative investment strategies. The Scheme's membership is reviewed as part of each triennial investment strategy review.

The Trustees' policies in relation to the default investment strategy in respect of matters set out in Regulation 2(3) of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005, as amended, are those set out elsewhere in this document.

### 4.2 Expected return on investments

Over the long-term the Trustees' expectations are:

- For units representing "growth" assets (UK equities, overseas equities and multi-asset funds), to achieve a real return in excess of inflation over the long term. The Trustees consider short-term volatility in equity prices to be acceptable, given the general expectation that over the long-term equities will outperform the other major asset classes.
- For units representing monetary assets (UK fixed interest bonds), to achieve a rate of return which is expected to be approximately in line with changes in the cost of providing fixed income annuities.
- For units representing inflation linked assets (UK index-linked bonds), to achieve a rate of return which is expected to be approximately in line with changes in the cost of providing real annuities that increase in line with inflation;
- For units representing cash, to protect the capital value of the investment and achieve a rate of return in line with money market interest rates.

## 4.3 Investment options

The Trustees offer members a choice of two lifestyle strategies, which take into account the various options open to members regarding the way in which they choose to draw their benefits in retirement. Members are also free to choose from a range of self-select fund options. The Trustees have chosen one of the lifestyle strategies, the 'Flexible Income Lifestyle', as the default investment strategy for members.

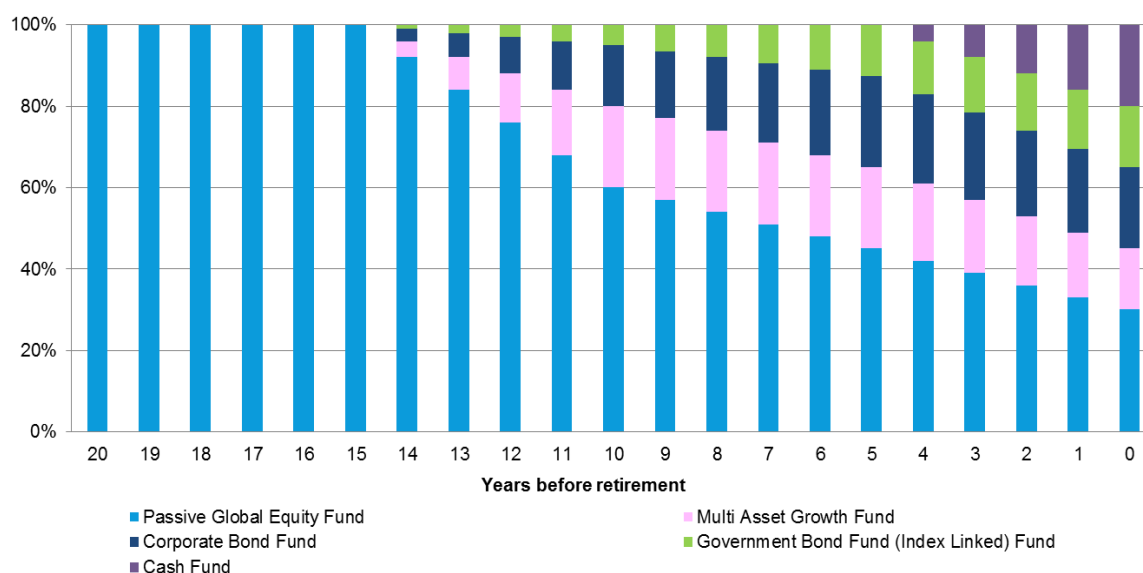
The funds that are utilised in the lifestyle and self-select range have been designed by the Trustees and "white labelled" to reduce disruption to members should a change need to be made at manager or strategy level.

### 4.3.1 Flexible Income Lifestyle (default investment strategy)

The Flexible Income Lifestyle strategy aims to be suitable for members who plan to access their retirement benefits via flexible drawdown, which could be through a maximum of five cash lump sum withdrawals while remaining invested in the Scheme, or by transferring their savings to a specialist income drawdown arrangement outside of the Scheme.

Up until 15 years before target retirement date, members' savings are invested in funds which aim to deliver long-term growth (i.e. equities). After that time, members' assets are gradually moved into a mix of bonds and multi asset growth funds, with a portion remaining in equities, aiming to retain some growth potential whilst also providing some protection of the capital value of members' savings. This transition is undertaken over a 15-year period of time to avoid placing reliance on asset values on any one particular transition date.

The following chart illustrates how members' funds will be invested under the Flexible Income Lifestyle option:



Note that switches between funds are carried out on a monthly basis. A summary of the underlying funds used in the Flexible Income Lifestyle strategy and their charges is included in Appendix 1.

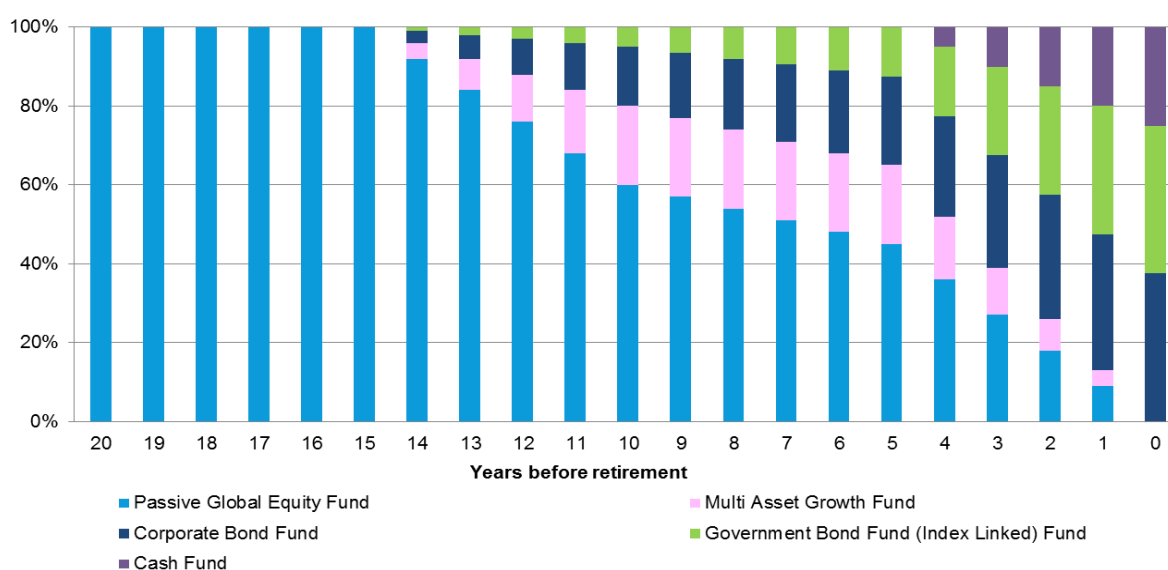


### 4.3.2 Annuity Lifestyle

The Annuity Lifestyle strategy is designed to be suitable for members who, at retirement, will take the maximum tax-free cash sum (25% of the value of a member's savings under current laws) and use the rest to buy an annuity.

Up until 15 years before target retirement date, members' savings are invested in funds which aim to deliver long-term growth (i.e. equities). After that time, members' savings are gradually moved into a mix of bonds and multi asset growth funds, aiming to retain some growth potential whilst also providing some protection of the capital value of members' savings. Then, from five years up until target retirement date, members' savings are switched into a mix of bonds and cash, to broadly match annuity prices and protect the value of savings which may be taken as tax-free cash.

The following chart illustrates how members' funds will be invested under the Annuity Lifestyle option:



Note that switches between funds are carried out on a monthly basis. A summary of the underlying funds used in the Annuity Lifestyle strategy and their charges is included in Appendix 1.

### 4.3.3 Self-select options

The following table outlines the range available to members. Each fund consists of one or more investments in pooled investment vehicles operated by underlying investment managers.

A summary of the underlying managers and charges is included in Appendix 1. Further details are also available in the fund factsheets produced by the fund provider.

Fund	Self-Select	Flexible Income Lifestyle (Default investment strategy)	Annuity Lifestyle
Passive Global Equity Fund	✓	✓	✓
Passive UK Equity	✓	✗	✗
Ethical Global Equity Fund	✓	✗	✗

Shariah Compliant Global Equity Fund	✓	✗	✗
Responsible Investment Global Equity Fund	✓	✗	✗
Multi Asset Growth Fund	✓	✓	✓
Government Bond Fund (Index Linked)	✓	✓	✓
Corporate Bond Fund	✓	✓	✓
Cash Fund	✓	✓	✓

#### 4.3.4 AVCs

Any member opting to pay Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) may choose to invest contributions in any of the options described above.

### 4.4 Investment Decisions

The Trustees distinguish between three types of decisions: strategic, tactical and security-level.

#### Strategic Investment Decisions

These decisions are long-term in nature and driven by an understanding of the objectives and needs of the membership of the Scheme.

The Trustees take all such decisions themselves. They do so after receiving written advice from their investment adviser and consulting with the Sponsoring Employer. Examples of such decisions and of tasks relating to the implementation of these decisions include:

- Setting investment objectives
- Determining the range of options available to members
- Designing the default investment strategy and alternative lifestyle option
- Determining the asset allocation benchmarks and rebalancing policy for blended fund options

#### Tactical Investment Decisions

These decisions are shorter-term and based on expectations of near-term market movements. Such decisions may involve deviating temporarily from the strategic asset allocation and may require the timing of entry into, or exit from, an investment market or asset class.

These decisions are the responsibility of the Trustees. However, where such decisions are made within a pooled fund, they are the responsibility of the investment manager of the fund.

#### Stock Selection Decisions

All such decisions are the responsibility of the investment managers of the pooled funds in which the Scheme is invested.

## 4.5 Custody of assets

The Scheme's assets are invested wholly via pooled vehicles. Investment in pooled funds gives the Trustees rights to the cash value of the units rather than to the underlying assets. The underlying investment manager of each of the pooled funds is ultimately responsible for the appointment and monitoring of the custodian of the fund's assets.

## 4.6 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Considerations

In setting the Scheme's default investment strategy, the Trustees' primary concern is to act in the best financial interests of the Scheme and its members, seeking the best return that is consistent with an appropriate level of risk. This includes the risk that environmental, social and governance ('ESG') factors, including climate change, negatively impact the value of investments held if not understood and evaluated properly. The Trustees take account of financially material risks, including climate change, by taking advice from their investment adviser when setting the Scheme's asset allocation, when selecting managers and when monitoring manager performance.

As part of ongoing monitoring of the Scheme's investment managers, the Trustees will use ESG rating information provided by Aon, where relevant and available, to monitor the level of the Scheme's investment managers' integration of ESG on a quarterly basis.

### Members' Views and Non-Financial Factors

The Trustees recognise the importance of offering a suitable range of investment options for members, and where applicable will consider any member feedback received when taking decisions in relation to the default investment strategy and range of funds.

The Trustees have made the Ethical, Shariah Compliant and Responsible Investment global equity funds available to members who would like to invest in funds with these specific considerations.

The Passive Global Equity Fund (used within the self-select range and the lifestyle strategies, including the default investment strategy) incorporates explicit consideration of ESG factors. 90% of the underlying funds within the Passive Global Equity are designed to consider ESG factors in their investment design, for example by tilting towards better ESG-scoring companies and away from poorly ESG-scoring companies, as well as excluding companies that may be considered as 'harmful'.

The Trustees have however not imposed any restrictions on how their investment managers allocate assets with regard to ESG considerations.

## 4.7 Corporate Governance and Stewardship Policy

The Trustees invest in pooled funds through a platform provider, and as such have delegated responsibility for the selection, retention and realisation of investments to the Scheme's investment managers in whose funds they invest.

The Trustees recognise the importance of their role as a steward of capital and the need to ensure the highest standards of governance and promotion of corporate responsibility in the underlying companies and assets in which the Scheme invests, as this ultimately creates long-term financial value for the Scheme and its members. The Trustees also recognise that these issues may be of particular interest to Scheme members.

As part of their delegated responsibilities, the Trustees expect the Scheme's investment managers to:

- Where appropriate, engage with investee companies with the aim of protecting and enhancing the value of assets; and

- exercise the Trustees' voting rights in relation to the Scheme's assets, while disclosing and managing any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

In particular, the Trustees expect their managers to engage and vote appropriately to ensure good corporate governance and management of climate-related risks. These have been adopted as the Trustees' stewardship priorities from a wider spectrum of ESG factors which the Trustees believe have the potential to negatively impact the value of investments if not understood and evaluated properly. Therefore, it is in members' best interests for these issues and their associated risks to be properly understood and where possible mitigated by the Scheme's appointed investment managers through their stewardship activities.

The Trustees accept responsibility for how managers engage and vote on their behalf in line with their respective stewardship policies.

#### **Ongoing review of investment manager stewardship**

The Trustees review the suitability of the Scheme's appointed investment managers at least annually, particularly those used within the Scheme's default investment strategy, and take advice from Aon with regard to any changes. Where appropriate, this advice includes stewardship matters and the exercise of voting rights by the appointed managers. If an incumbent manager is found to be falling short of the standards the Trustees expect (set out above) the Trustees undertake to engage with the manager and seek a more sustainable position (where possible, and with the assistance of their advisers, Aon) but may also look to replace the manager.

The Trustees review the stewardship activities of their investment managers on an annual basis, covering both engagement and voting actions. The Trustees ensure their managers, or other third parties, use their influence as major institutional investors to carry out the Trustees' rights and duties as a responsible shareholder and asset owner. This will include voting, along with – where relevant and appropriate – engaging with underlying investee companies and assets to promote good corporate governance, accountability, and positive change.

As part of this annual review, the Trustees expect managers to provide aggregate voting information at a fund level and voting rationale for significant votes (defined as where votes were cast against management or where voting differed from the standard voting policy of the manager). This information will be included in the Trustees' annual Implementation Statement, which will be included in the Trustees' report and accounts and made available to members in a publicly accessible web location.

Given the pooled nature of the investment, the Trustees do not have a direct relationship with investee companies. However, from time to time, the Trustees will consider the methods by which, and the circumstances under which, they would monitor and engage with an investment manager on matters concerning an issuer of debt or equity, an investment manager or another holder of debt or equity, and other stakeholders. The Trustees may engage on matters concerning an issuer of debt or equity, including their performance, strategy, risks, social and environmental impact and corporate governance, the capital structure, and management of actual or potential conflicts of interest.

## **4.8 Illiquid investments**

"Illiquid investments" means assets which cannot easily or quickly be sold or exchanged for cash. This includes investments in direct property, infrastructure, private equity and private credit.

Illiquid investments are currently held on behalf of members who are invested in the default investment strategy, the Flexible Income Lifestyle.

These are held within wider pooled funds which are mainly invested in liquid holdings. Specifically, the Multi-Asset Growth Fund allocates a small proportion to underlying illiquid holdings (e.g. real assets). This allocation to illiquid holdings is at the discretion of the underlying investment managers, and the allocations may increase or decrease over time.

The Multi-Asset Growth Fund is held by members who are within 15 years of retirement (i.e., age 40 or older for a retirement age of 65). As the underlying illiquid investments within the Multi-Asset Growth Fund are held in a small proportion, the Trustees believe this provides diversification from other key return drivers held by members.

Whilst the Trustees recognise that illiquid investments may be associated with higher costs, and illiquidity risks, they nevertheless believe that the benefits of diversification and access to an illiquidity premium should benefit members in the long term. The Trustees believe that the underlying investment managers of the Multi-Asset Growth Fund are best placed to use their discretion as to the appropriateness of holding illiquid investments in the fund at any particular time, and to use the liquid portions of the fund to ensure that members have sufficient access to liquidity.

The Trustees are willing to consider the use of illiquid investments in the future within the default investment strategy and ensure they keep up to date with market developments in the illiquid investment space with the support of their investment advisers. The use of illiquid investments in the default investment strategy is a consideration that will form part of future reviews of the investment strategy.

## **4.9 Realisation of investments**

The investment managers have discretion in the timing of realisation of investments and in considerations relating to the liquidity of those investments within parameters stipulated in the relevant appointment documentation.

The Trustees aim to ensure that all investments in funds made available to members are sufficiently liquid to ensure daily pricing of the funds.

## **4.10 Arrangements with investment managers**

The Trustees recognise that members have differing investment needs and that these may change during the course of members' working lives. The Trustees also recognise that members have different attitudes to risk, and also that different members may wish to target different forms of benefit at retirement.

The Trustees believe that members should be able to make their own investment decisions based on their individual circumstances. The Trustees regard their duty as making available a range of investment options sufficient to enable members to tailor their investment strategy to their own needs, allowing members to build their own bespoke diversified investment portfolio if they so wish.

The Trustees monitor the investment options made available to Scheme members, including the default investment strategy, to consider the extent to which the investment strategy and decisions of the appointed investment managers are aligned with the Trustees' policies, as set out in this statement. This includes monitoring the extent to which investment managers:

- make decisions based on assessments about medium- to long-term financial performance of an issuer of debt or equity; and
- engage with issuers of debt or equity in order to improve their performance in the medium- to long-term.

The Trustees are supported in this monitoring activity by Aon. The Trustees receive quarterly reporting updates from Aon and also carry out an in-depth annual review of various items including the investment strategy, performance, and longer-term positioning of the strategy. The Trustees focus on longer-term performance when considering the ongoing suitability of the investment strategy in relation to the Scheme's objectives and assess the investment managers over the long-term.

If and when a new investment manager is appointed, the Trustees endeavour to review any required governing documentation associated with the investment and consider the extent to which it aligns with the Trustees' policies. Where necessary, the Trustees will seek to express their expectations to the investment managers to try to achieve greater alignment.

The Trustees believe that having appropriate governing documentation, setting clear expectations to the investment managers (e.g. verbally or in writing at time of appointment), and regular monitoring of investment managers' performance and investment strategy, is in most cases sufficient to incentivise the managers to make decisions that align with the Trustees' policies and are based on assessments of medium- and long-term financial performance.

Where investment managers are considered to be making decisions that are not in line with the Trustees' policies, expectations, or the other considerations set out above, the Trustees will endeavour to first engage with the manager and, in the event of a material misalignment, could ultimately replace the manager if deemed necessary.

There is typically no set duration for arrangements with investment managers, although the continued appointment for all managers is reviewed on an annual basis.

The Trustees do not currently monitor the underlying investments made by the investment managers on their behalf against non-financial criteria.

#### **4.11 Monitoring of investment adviser**

The Trustees continually assess and review the performance of their adviser in a qualitative way and conduct a formal review at least every three years.

#### **4.12 Monitoring of investment managers**

It is the Trustees' view that long-term performance, net of fees, is the most important metric on which to evaluate its investment managers.

Investment managers are remunerated by the deduction of set percentages of assets under management. This is in-line with market practice and avoids a short-term approach to investment performance that may be the result of any performance-related fees. The Trustees therefore believe it is important to understand all the different costs and charges, which are paid by members (through a deduction from the unit price). These include:

- explicit charges, such as the annual management charge, and additional expenses that are disclosed by fund managers as part of the Total Expense Ratio ('TER');
- implicit charges, such as the portfolio turnover costs (transaction costs) borne within a fund. The Trustees define portfolio turnover costs as the costs incurred in buying and selling underlying securities held within the fund's portfolio. These are incurred on an ongoing basis and are implicit within the performance of each fund.

The Trustees collect information on these member-borne costs and charges on an annual basis, where available, and sets these out in the Scheme's annual Governance Statements which are made available to members in a publicly accessible web-location.

No specific ranges are set for acceptable costs and charges, particularly in relation to portfolio turnover costs. However, the Trustees expect Aon to highlight if these costs and charges appear unreasonable when they are collected as part of the annual Governance Statement exercise.

## 5 Risk

The Trustees are aware, and seek to take account, of a number of risks in relation to the Scheme's investments including, but not limited to, the risks listed below, and those outlined in Section 2.

The Trustees and their investment advisors carry out periodic reviews to ensure the Trustees understand the extent to which these represent risks to members. Should there be a material change in the Scheme's circumstances, the Trustees will review whether and to what extent the investment arrangements should be altered and in particular whether the current risk profile remains appropriate.

Under the requirements of the Pensions Act, the Trustees are required to state their policy regarding the ways in which risks are to be measured and managed. These are set out below.

### Manager Risk

- This is assessed as the expected deviation of the prospective risk and return, as set out in the managers' objectives, relative to the investment policy.
- It is measured by monitoring the actual deviation of returns relative to the objective and factors supporting the managers' investment process, and is managed through regular monitoring and review. The Trustees provide primarily passive options to reduce the risk of active manager underperformance.

### Liquidity Risk

- This is the risk of either being forced to sell investments to pay benefits in unfavourable financial market conditions, or being unable to sell investments at all due to restrictions.
- It is managed by investing unitised pooled funds which are easily redeemable.

### Political Risk

- This is measured by the level of concentration in any one market leading to the risk of adverse influence on investment values arising from political intervention.
- It is managed by regular reviews of the investments and through regular assessment of the levels of diversification within the investment policy.

### Corporate Governance Risk

- This is assessed by reviewing the Scheme's investment managers' policies regarding corporate governance.
- It is managed by delegating the exercise of voting rights to the managers, who exercise this right in accordance with their published corporate governance policies. Summaries of these policies are provided to the Trustees from time to time and take into account the financial interests of the shareholders, which should ultimately be to the Scheme's advantage.

Due to the complex and interrelated nature of these risks, the Trustees consider these risks in a qualitative rather than quantitative manner as part of each formal strategy review. The Trustees' policy is to review the range of funds offered and the suitability of the default investment strategy periodically.

In addition, the Trustees measure risk in terms of the performance of the assets compared to the benchmarks on a regular basis as part of each quarterly reporting cycle.

## 6 Compliance

Copies of the Scheme's Annual Report and Accounts are available to members on request.

A copy of the Statement of Investment Principles and the annual Governance Statement is available to members in a publicly accessible web-location.

A copy of the Scheme's current Statement plus Appendices is also supplied to the Sponsoring Employer, the Scheme's investment managers, and the Scheme's auditors.

This Statement of Investment Principles, taken as a whole with the Appendices, supersedes all others.

The effective date of this Statement is: 29 August 2024

### **Signed on behalf of the Trustees by**

<b>On</b>	<b>29 August 2024</b>
<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Roger Mattingly</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>Trustee Director</b>



# Appendix 1: Investment funds

Section 4 sets out information on the Scheme's default investment strategy, additional lifestyle strategy and range of self-select funds. This Appendix sets out further detail on the underlying investments and charges.

White label fund options	Fund	Total expense ratio* (% p.a.)
Passive Global Equity Fund	15% LGIM Future World Global Equity Index	0.280
	15% LGIM Future World Global Equity Index (currency-hedged)	
	15% LGIM RAFI Global Reduced Carbon Pathway Equity Index	
	15% LGIM RAFI Global Reduced Carbon Pathway Equity Index (currency-hedged)	
	30% LGIM Future World Developed Minimum Volatility Index 10% LGIM World Emerging Markets Equity Index	
Passive UK Equity	LGIM UK Equity Index	0.100
Ethical Global Equity Fund	LGIM Ethical Global Equity Index	0.300
Shariah Compliant Global Equity Fund	HSBC Islamic Global Equity Index	0.350
Responsible Investment Global Equity Fund	50% LGIM Future World Global Equity Index	0.238
	50% LGIM Future World Global Equity Index (currency-hedged)	
Multi Asset Growth Fund	50% Schroder Dynamic Multi Asset Fund	0.375
	50% LGIM Diversified Fund	
Government Bond Fund (Index Linked)	LGIM Over 5 Year Index-Linked Gilt Index	0.100
Corporate Bond Fund	LGIM Investment Grade Over 15 Year	0.150
Cash Fund	LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund	0.125

\* As at July 2024. Note total expense ratios may change over time. The latest figures are available on the fund factsheets.

Further information on the above funds is available from the employer.

# Appendix 2: Responsibilities of Parties

## Trustees

The Trustees' responsibilities include the following: -

- Reviewing at least triennially, and more frequently if necessary, the content of this Statement in consultation with the Investment Adviser and modifying it if deemed appropriate.
- Appointing the Investment Managers.
- Assessing the quality of the performance and processes of the Investment Managers by means of regular reviews of investment returns and other relevant information, in consultation with the Investment Adviser.
- Consulting with the sponsoring employer regarding any proposed amendments to this Statement.
- Monitoring compliance of the investment arrangements with this Statement on a continuing basis.

## Investment Adviser

The Investment Adviser's responsibilities include the following: -

- Participating with the Trustees in reviews of this Statement.
- Production of independent performance monitoring reports.
- Advising the Trustees, at their request, on the following matters:
  - » How any changes in the Investment Managers organisation could affect the interests of the Scheme.
  - » How any changes in the investment environment could present either opportunities or problems for the Scheme.
- Undertaking project work, as requested, including:
  - » Reviews of the fund range offered to members.
  - » Research into and reviews of Investment Managers.
- Advising on the selection of new managers and/or fund providers.

## Investment Managers

The Investment managers' responsibilities include the following:

- Providing the Trustees on a quarterly basis (or as frequently as required) with a statement and valuation of the assets and a report on their actions and future intentions, and any changes to the processes applied to their portfolios.
- Informing the Trustees of any changes in the internal performance objectives and guidelines of any pooled fund used by the Scheme as and when they occur.
- Having regard to the need for diversification of investments, so far as appropriate for the mandate, and to the suitability of investments.

- Where appropriate, engaging with investee companies and exercising the Trustees' voting rights in relation to the Scheme's assets.
- Providing the Trustees with aggregate voting information and voting rationale for significant votes.
- Giving effect to the principles contained in the Statement as far as is reasonably practicable.

## **Administrator**

The Administrator's responsibilities include the following:

- Ensuring members' contributions are invested / disinvested appropriately, including ensuring that the Lifestyle Strategies are implemented in accordance with the Trustee's instructions.
- Processing switches at members' requests.
- Paying benefits and making transfer payments.