

Statement of Investment Principles for the Baptist Pension Scheme

1. Introduction

This Statement of Investment Principles (“SIP”) sets out the policy of the Trustee of the Baptist Pension Scheme (“the Trustee”) on various matters governing decisions about the investments of the Baptist Pension Scheme (“the Scheme”), a Scheme with Defined Benefit (“DB”) and Defined Contribution (“DC”) sections. The DC section is known as the DC Plan. This SIP replaces the previous SIP dated 26 September 2019.

The SIP is designed to meet the requirements of Section 35 (as amended) of the Pensions Act 1995 (“the Act”), the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 (as amended), the Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) Regulations 2015 and the Pension Regulator’s guidance for defined benefit pension schemes (March 2017). The SIP also reflects the Trustee’s response to the Myners’ voluntary code of investment principles, and the DWP’s 2018 guidance on matters pertaining to ESG including Climate Change.

This SIP has been prepared after obtaining and considering written professional advice from LCP, the Scheme’s investment adviser, whom the Trustee believes to be suitably qualified and experienced to provide such advice. The advice takes account of the suitability of investments including the need for diversification given the circumstances of the Scheme and the principles contained in this SIP. The Trustee has consulted with the relevant employers (the Employers”) in producing this SIP.

The Trustee will review this SIP from time to time and, with the help of its advisers, will amend it as appropriate. These reviews will take place as soon as practicable after any significant change in investment policy or in the demographic profile of the relevant members in respect of the DC Plan, and at least once every three years.

Appendix 1 sets out details of the Scheme’s investment governance structure, including the key responsibilities of the Trustee, investment advisers and investment managers. It also contains a description of the basis of remuneration of the investment adviser and the investment managers.

Appendix 2 sets out the Trustee’s policy towards risk appetite, capacity, measurement and management.

2. Investment objectives

The primary objective for the DB Section is to ensure that the Scheme should be able to meet benefit payments as they fall due. In addition to this primary objective, the Trustee has additional objectives. These are as follows:

- that the expected return on the Scheme’s assets is maximised while maintaining investment risk at an appropriate level. What the Trustee determines to be an appropriate level of risk is set out in Appendix 2.

- that the Scheme should be fully funded on a technical provisions basis (ie the asset value should be at least that of its liabilities on this basis) as soon as possible. The Trustee is aware that there are various measures of funding, and has given due weight to those considered most relevant to the Scheme.
- that the Scheme has a long-term journey plan in place (developed with representatives from BUGB and the Employers' Group) which is designed to help it achieve full funding by 31 December 2028 on a gilts-flat basis. Progress against this long-term journey plan is regularly reviewed.

The Trustee's primary objectives for the DC Plan are to provide members with access to:

- an appropriate range of investment options, reflecting the membership profile of the DC Plan and the variety of ways that members can draw their benefits in retirement; and
- a main default investment option that the Trustee believes to be reasonable for those members that do not wish to make their own investment decisions. The objective of the main default option is to generate returns significantly above inflation whilst members are some distance from retirement, but then to switch automatically and gradually to lower risk investments as retirement approaches.

3. Investment strategy

The Trustee, with the help of its advisers and in consultation with representatives of BUGB and the Employers' Group, reviewed the investment strategy for the DB Section and DC Plan in 2018, taking into account the objectives described in Section 2 above.

The result of the review for the DB Section was that the Trustee agreed to allocate assets between equities, property, infrastructure, diversified growth funds ("DGFs"), multi-asset credit, corporate bonds, cash and liability-driven investment ("LDI") products.

From time to time the Trustee may purchase an annuity from an insurer that matches the pensions payable to a sub-section of the Scheme's members (a "buy-in"). In preparation for undertaking a buy-in, the Trustee may temporarily invest in (for example) fixed and index-linked gilts (in a portfolio that is designed to broadly match changes in buy-in pricing).

The full details of the DB Section's asset distribution are contained in a separate document called the Investment Policy Implementation Document ("IPID").

The allocation between asset classes will be reviewed over time, taking into account the funding level of the Scheme and de-risking opportunities.

The Trustee monitors the asset allocation from time to time. If material deviations from the strategic allocation occur, the Trustee will consider, with its advisers, whether to rebalance the assets, taking into account factors such as market conditions and anticipated future cash flows.

The Trustee has agreed an approach to de-risk the DB section's investment strategy following improvements in the required investment return - to reach full funding on a gilts-flat basis by 31 December 2028. The objective of this approach is to identify opportunities to "lock in" funding gains following better than expected investment experience through purchasing a buy-in. The Trustee reviews the de-risking approach on a regular basis.

For the DC Plan, the Trustee has made available a range of investment funds for members. Each member is responsible for specifying one or more funds for the investment of their account, having regard to their attitude to the risks involved. If a member does not choose an investment option, their account will be invested into the main default option, which is managed as a "lifestyle" strategy (ie it automatically combines investments in proportions that vary according to the time to retirement age).

The DC Plan's main default arrangement is the Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy; this will be the default option for new joiners who do not make an active investment choice.

3.1. The DC Plan's main default arrangement

3.1.1. The Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy

The Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy has been designed to be in the best interests of the majority of the members based on the demographics of the DC Plan's membership. The default option has an initial growth phase under which investments target a return significantly above inflation. Then, in the 15 years before retirement it switches gradually into less risky assets. The asset allocation at retirement is designed to be broadly appropriate for all members however they wish to take their retirement benefits, since the Trustee believes that this represents the lowest risk option for DC Plan members.

To help manage the volatility that members' assets experience in the growth phase of the main default strategy, the Trustee has included an allocation to DGFs which over the long term are expected to generate returns above inflation, but with lower volatility than equities.

The Trustee will monitor the relevant members' behaviour to check whether assumptions made about how members will access their benefits are borne out in practice.

3.2. Other default arrangements

In addition to the main default arrangement, the DC Plan has three additional default arrangements:

- the Lump Sum Lifestyle strategy (closed to new members);
- the L&G Dynamic Diversified Fund; and
- the L&G Global Equity Market Weights (30:70) Index Fund – GBP 75% Currency Hedged

These default arrangements are considered to be defaults for governance purposes and must also meet charge cap restrictions.

3.2.1. The Lump Sum Lifestyle strategy

The Lump Sum Lifestyle strategy is the DC Plan's legacy default option and closed to new members but remains the default option for members who were within 5 years of retirement on 13 May 2019 and were able to remain in the legacy default option instead of being automatically transitioned to the Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy

The legacy default option has an initial growth phase under which investments target a return significantly above inflation. Then, in the 15 years before retirement it switches gradually into less risky assets. The asset allocation at retirement is designed to be broadly appropriate for members who wish to take their entire benefits as a cash lump sum at retirement.

To help manage the volatility that members' assets experience in the growth phase of the legacy default option, the Trustee has included an allocation to DGFs which over the long term are expected to generate returns above inflation, but with lower volatility than equities.

3.2.2. The L&G Dynamic Diversified Fund

The L&G Dynamic Diversified Fund became a default arrangement when changes to the DC Plan's investment options were carried out in May 2019. These changes were in relation to the review of the DC Plan's investment strategy which took place in May 2018. The Trustee identified the Standard Life Global Absolute Return Strategies Fund as being no longer suitable for members of the DC Plan and decided to close the fund and automatically move member's assets into the L&G Dynamic Diversified Fund. The L&G Dynamic Diversified Fund became a default arrangement for the members whose assets were automatically mapped into this fund. The Trustee believes that this fund is an appropriate default arrangement for these members, but the fund is not to be offered as a default option to the rest of the DC Plan's membership.

The L&G Dynamic Diversified Fund is designed to provide long-term investment growth through dynamic exposure to a diversified range of asset classes.

3.2.3. The L&G Global Equity Market Weights (30:70) Index Fund – GBP 75% Currency Hedged

The L&G Global Equity Market Weights (30:70) Index Fund (75% currency hedged) became a default arrangement when changes to the DC Plan's investment options were carried out in May 2019. These changes were in relation to the review of the DC Plan's investment strategy which took place in May 2018. The Trustee identified the L&G Global Equity Fixed Weights (50:50) Index Fund as being no longer suitable for members of the DC Plan and decided to close the fund and automatically moved member's assets into the L&G Global Equity Market Weights (30:70) Index Fund. The L&G Global Equity Market Weights (30:70) Index Fund became a default arrangement for the members whose assets were automatically mapped into this fund. The Trustee believes that this fund is an appropriate default arrangement for these members, but the fund is not to be offered as a default option to the rest of the DC Plan's membership.

The L&G Global Equity Market Weights (30:70) Index Fund is designed to provide diversified exposure to UK and overseas equity markets while reducing foreign currency exposure of 75% of the overseas assets.

4. Considerations in setting the investment arrangements

When deciding how to invest the Scheme's assets, the Trustee considers a number of risks, including, but not limited to, those set out in Appendix 2. Some of these risks are more quantifiable than others, but the Trustee has tried to allow for the relative importance and magnitude of each risk.

The Trustee considered a wide range of asset classes for investment, taking account of the expected returns and key individual risks associated with those asset classes as well as how these risks can be mitigated where appropriate. The key financial assumptions made by the Trustee in determining the investment arrangements are that over the long term they will outperform gilts by the following amounts pa:

- equity-type investments: 5.0%;
- UK property: 3.3%;
- DGFs: 3.0%;
- UK corporate bonds: 0.9%;
- multi asset credit: 2.3%;
- global Infrastructure 3.9%; and
- dynamic LDI funds 0%.

In setting the strategy for the DB Section the Trustee took into account:

- the Scheme's investment objectives, including the target return required to meet the Trustee's investment objectives;
- the Scheme's cash flow requirements in order to meet benefit payments in the near to medium term;
- the best interests of all members and beneficiaries;
- the circumstances of the Scheme, including the profile of the benefit cash flows (and the ability to meet these in the near to medium term), the funding level and assumptions, and the strength of the employer covenant;
- the risks, rewards and suitability of a number of possible asset classes and investment strategies and whether the return expected for taking any given investment risk is considered sufficient given the risk being taken;
- the need for appropriate diversification between different asset classes to ensure that both the Scheme's overall level of investment risk and the balance of individual asset risks are appropriate;
- any other considerations which the Trustee considers financially material over the time horizon that the Trustee considers is needed for the funding of future benefits by the investments of the Scheme (such as those detailed in Section 7);

- the Trustee's ethical policy, which the Trustee believes reflects the wishes of the Scheme's members and is not expected to undermine the long-term objectives of the Scheme; and
- the Trustee's investment beliefs about how investment markets work, and which factors are most likely to impact investment outcomes.

In determining the investment arrangements for the DC Plan the Trustee took into account:

- the best interests of all members and beneficiaries;
- the profile of the membership and what this is likely to mean for the choices members might make upon reaching retirement;
- the risks, rewards and suitability of a number of possible asset classes and lifestyle strategies and whether the return expected for taking any given investment risk is considered sufficient given the risk being taken;
- the need for appropriate diversification within the main default strategy to ensure that both the overall level of investment risk and the balance of individual asset risks are appropriate;
- the need for appropriate diversification within the other investment options offered to members;
- any other considerations which the Trustee considers financially material over the periods until members' retirement, or any other timeframe which the Trustee believes to be appropriate (such as those detailed in Section 7);
- the Trustee's ethical policy, which the Trustee believes reflects the wishes of the Scheme's members and is not expected to undermine the long-term objectives of the members; and
- the Trustee's investment beliefs about how investment markets work, and which factors are most likely to impact investment outcomes.

The Trustee's key investment beliefs, which influenced the setting of the investment arrangements for both DB Section and DC Plan, are as follows:

- asset allocation is the primary driver of long-term returns;
- risk-taking is necessary to achieve return, but not all risks are rewarded;
- equity, credit and illiquidity are the primary rewarded risks;
- risks that do not have an expected reward should generally be avoided, hedged or diversified;
- investment markets are not always efficient and there may be opportunities for good active managers to add value;
- environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are likely to be one area of market inefficiency and so managers may be able to improve risk-adjusted returns by taking account of ESG factors including factors relating to Climate Change;

- investment managers who can consistently spot and profitably exploit market opportunities are difficult to find and therefore passive management, where available, is usually better value; and
- costs have a significant impact on long-term performance and therefore obtaining value for money from the investments is important.
- The Trustee's key investment beliefs and understanding of the Scheme's membership are reflected in the design of the Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy and in the range of other funds made available to members.

5. Implementation of the investment arrangements

Before investing in any manner, the Trustee obtains and considers proper written advice from its investment adviser on the question of whether the investment is satisfactory, having regard to the need for suitable and appropriately diversified investments.

Details of the investment managers for the DB Section and the DC Section are set out in the IPID.

In respect of the DC Plan, the Trustee has entered into a contract with L&G as its platform provider, who makes available the range of investment options to members. There is a direct relationship between the Trustee and L&G but not with third party underlying investment managers of the DC investment funds.

The Trustee, and investment managers to whom discretion has been delegated, exercise their powers to giving effect to the principles in this Statement of Investment Principles, so far as is reasonably practicable.

The Trustee has limited influence over managers' investment practices where a majority of the Scheme's assets are held in pooled funds, but it encourages its managers to improve their practices where appropriate.

The Trustee's view is that the fees paid to the investment managers, and the possibility of their mandate being terminated, ensure they are incentivised to provide a high quality service that meets the stated objectives, guidelines and restrictions of the fund. However, in practice managers cannot fully align their strategy and decisions to the (potentially conflicting) policies of all their pooled fund investors in relation to strategy, long-term performance of debt/equity issuers, engagement and portfolio turnover.

It is the Trustee's responsibility to ensure that the managers' investment approaches are consistent with its policies before any new appointment, and to monitor and to consider terminating any existing arrangements that appear to be investing contrary to those policies. The Trustee expects investment managers, where appropriate, to make decisions based on assessments of the longer term financial and non-financial performance of debt/equity issuers, and to engage with issuers to improve their performance. It assesses this when selecting and monitoring managers.

The Trustee evaluates investment manager performance by considering performance over both shorter and longer-term periods as available. Except in closed-ended funds where the duration of the investment is determined by the fund's terms, the duration of a manager's appointment will depend on strategic considerations and the outlook for future performance. Generally, the Trustee would be unlikely to terminate a mandate on short-term performance grounds alone.

The Trustee's policy is to evaluate each of its investment managers by reference to the manager's individual performance as well as the role it plays in helping the Scheme meet its overall long-term objectives, taking account of risk, the need for diversification and liquidity. Each manager's remuneration, and the value for money it provides, is assessed in light of these considerations.

The Trustee recognises that portfolio turnover and associated transaction costs are a necessary part of investment management and that the impact of portfolio turnover costs is reflected in performance figures provided by the investment managers. The Trustee expects its investment consultant to incorporate portfolio turnover and resulting transaction costs as appropriate in its advice on the Scheme's investment mandates.

6. Realisation of investments

The investment managers have discretion over the timing of realisation of investments of the Scheme within the portfolios that they manage, and in considerations relating to the liquidity of investments.

For the DB Section, when appropriate, the Trustee, on the administrators' recommendation, decides on the amount of cash required for benefit payments and other outgoings and informs the investment managers of any liquidity requirements. The Trustee's preference is for investments that are readily realisable, but recognises that achieving a well-diversified portfolio may mean holding some investments that are less liquid (eg property and infrastructure).

In general, the Trustee's policy is to use cash flows to rebalance the Scheme's assets towards the strategic asset allocation, and also receive income from some of the portfolios where appropriate.

For the DC Plan the Trustee's policy is to invest in funds that offer daily dealing to enable members to readily realise and change their investments.

7. Consideration of financially material and non-financial matters

The Trustee has considered how environmental, social and governance ("ESG") factors should be taken into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments, given the time horizon of the Scheme and its members.

The Trustee expects its investment managers to take account of financially material considerations (including climate change and other ESG considerations). The Trustee seeks to appoint managers that have appropriate skills and processes to do this, and from time to time reviews how its managers are taking account of these issues in practice. The Trustee

has limited influence over managers' investment practices where assets are held in pooled funds, but it encourages its managers to improve their practices where appropriate.

The Trustee has decided that, in the investment of the DB Section's assets, the investment managers should adopt ethical guidelines where possible. The current guidelines are those set out in the Trustee's Ethical Investment Policy document. The Trustee believes that this stance should not undermine the long-term objectives of the Scheme.

The Trustee will take its ethical guidelines into account when appointing and reviewing the DB Section's investment managers. The Trustee cannot usually directly influence investment managers' policies on ethical factors where assets are held in pooled funds due to the collective nature of these investments.

Within the DC Plan, the Trustee has chosen to invest the equity allocation of the Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy in a passively managed fund that tracks an index that has reduced exposure to ESG and ethical risks and increased exposure to ESG and ethical opportunities. Outside of the Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy, the DC Plan offers actively managed equity funds which invest in ESG and ethically screened equities. At this time, it does not believe there are any ESG-focused investment options available that meet its needs in other asset classes but will keep this under review.

8. Stewardship

The Trustee recognises its responsibility as the owner of capital, and believes that good stewardship practices, including monitoring and engaging with investee companies, and exercising voting rights attaching to investments, protect and enhance the long-term value of investments. The Trustee has delegated to its investment managers the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, and engagement with issuers of debt and equity and other relevant persons about relevant matters such as performance, strategy, risks and ESG considerations.

The Trustee does not monitor or engage directly with issuers or other holders of debt or equity. It expects the investment managers to exercise ownership rights and undertake monitoring and engagement in line with the managers' general policies on stewardship, as provided to the Trustee from time to time, taking into account the long-term financial interests of the beneficiaries. The Trustee seeks to appoint managers that have strong stewardship policies and processes, reflecting where relevant the recommendations of the UK Stewardship Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and from time to time the Trustee reviews how these are implemented in practice.

SIP signed for and on behalf of the Trustee of the Baptist Pension Scheme:



Signed:

Christopher Maggs

In broad terms the Trustee has decided on the following division of responsibilities and decision-making for the Scheme. This is based upon the Trustee's understanding of the various legal requirements placed upon it, and its view that the division of responsibility allows for efficient operation and governance of the Scheme overall. The Trustee's investment powers are set out within the Scheme's governing documentation.

1. Trustee

The Trustee is responsible in respect of investment matters for:

- developing a mutual understanding of investment and risk issues with the employers;
- setting the investment strategy, in consultation with the employers;
- formulating a policy in relation to financially material considerations, such as those relating to ESG considerations (including but not limited to climate change);
- formulating a policy on taking account of non-financial matters, including ethical considerations, in the selection, retention and realisation of investments;
- setting the policy for rebalancing between asset classes;
- setting a policy on the exercise of rights (including voting rights) and undertaking engagement activities in respect of the investments;
- putting effective governance arrangements in place and documenting these arrangements in a suitable form;
- appointing (and, when necessary, dismissing) investment managers, investment advisers, actuary and other service providers;
- monitoring the exercise of the investment powers that it has delegated to the investment managers and monitoring compliance with Section 36 of the Act;
- communicating with members as appropriate on investment matters, such as the Trustee's assessment of its effectiveness as a decision-making body, the policies regarding responsible ownership and how such responsibilities have been discharged;
- reviewing the investment policy as part of any review of the investment strategy;
- reviewing the content of this SIP from time to time and modifying it if deemed appropriate; and
- consulting with the employers when reviewing the SIP.

The Trustee has delegated consideration of certain investment matters to an investment sub-committee ("ISC"), and the Trustee and ISC understand the different areas where

each party makes decisions, provides oversight or recommendations. The terms of reference for the ISC detail clearly its responsibilities.

2. Platform provider

The investment platform provider for the DC Plan, L&G, will be responsible for:

- providing access to a range of funds managed by various investment managers; and
- providing the Trustee with regular information concerning the management and performance of the assets.

3. Investment managers

The investment managers will be responsible for:

- managing the portfolios of assets according to their stated objectives, and within the guidelines and restrictions set out in their respective investment manager agreements and/or other relevant governing documentation;
- taking account of financially material considerations (including climate change and other ESG considerations) as appropriate when managing the portfolios of assets;
- exercising rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments and undertaking engagement activities in respect of investments;
- providing the Trustee / investment platform provider with regular information concerning the management and performance of their respective portfolios; and
- having regard to the provisions of Section 36 of the Act insofar as it is necessary to do so.

The custodians of the portfolios (whether there is a direct relationship between the custodian and the Trustee or not) are responsible for safe keeping of the assets and facilitating all transactions within the portfolios.

4. Investment adviser

The investment adviser will be responsible, in respect of investment matters, as requested by the Trustee, for:

- in relation to the DB Section, advising on how material changes within the Scheme's benefits, membership, and funding position may affect the manner in which the assets should be invested and the asset allocation policy;
- in relation to the DC Plan, advising on a suitable fund range and default strategy, and how material changes to legislation or within the DC Plan's benefits and membership may impact this;
- advising on the selection, and review, of the investment managers; and
- participating with the Trustee in reviews of this SIP.

The Trustee recognises that the provision of investment management and advisory services to the Scheme results in a range of charges to be met, directly or indirectly, by deduction from the Scheme's assets.

The Trustee has agreed Terms of Business with the Scheme's actuarial and investment advisers, under which work undertaken is charged for by an agreed fixed fee or on a "time-cost" basis.

The investment managers receive fees calculated by reference to the market value of assets under management and also in some cases a performance related fee. The fee rates are believed to be consistent with the managers' general terms for institutional clients and are considered by the Trustee to be reasonable when compared with those of other similar providers.

The fee structure used in each case has been selected with regard to existing custom and practice, and the Trustee's view as to the most appropriate arrangements for the Scheme. However, the Trustee will consider revising any given structure if and when it is considered appropriate to do so.

6. Performance assessment

The Trustee is satisfied, taking into account the external expertise available, that there are sufficient resources to support its investment responsibilities. The Trustee believes that it has sufficient expertise and appropriate training to carry out its role effectively.

It is the Trustee's policy to assess the performance of the Scheme's investments, investment providers and professional advisers from time to time. The Trustee will also periodically assess the effectiveness of its decision-making and investment governance processes and will decide how this may then be reported to members.

7. Working with the Scheme's employers

When reviewing matters regarding the Scheme's investment arrangements, such as the SIP, the Trustee seeks to give due consideration to the employers' perspective. While the requirement to consult does not mean that the Trustee needs to reach agreement with the employers, the Trustee believes that better outcomes will generally be achieved if the Trustee and employers work together collaboratively. Primarily this is achieved through discussion with representatives of BUGB and the Employers' Group.

9. Risk appetite and risk capacity

Risk appetite is a measure of how much risk the Trustee is willing to bear within the Scheme in order to meet its investment objectives. Taking more risk is expected to mean that those objectives can be achieved more quickly, but it also means that there is a greater likelihood that the objectives are missed, in the absence of remedial action. Risk capacity is a measure of the extent to which the Trustee can tolerate deviation from its long term objectives before attainment of those objectives is seriously impaired. The Trustee aims to strike the right balance between risk appetite and risk capacity.

When assessing the risk appetite and risk capacity, the Trustee considered a range of qualitative and quantitative factors, including:

- the strength of the employers' covenant and how this may change in the near/medium future;
- the agreed journey plan and employers' contributions;
- the Scheme's long-term and shorter-term funding targets;
- the Scheme's liability profile, its interest rate and inflation sensitivities, and the extent to which these are hedged;
- the Scheme's cash flow and target return requirements; and
- the level of expected return and expected level of risk (as measured by Value at Risk ("VaR")), now and as the strategy evolves.

10. Approach to managing and monitoring investment risks

The Trustee considers that there are a number of different types of investment risk that are important to manage and monitor. These include, but are not limited to:

10.1. Risk of inadequate returns

For the DB Section, a key objective of the Trustee is that, over the long-term, the Scheme should generate its target return so that it has adequate assets to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The Trustee therefore invests the assets of the Scheme to produce a sufficient long-term return in excess of the liabilities. There is also a risk that the performance of the Scheme's assets and liabilities diverges in certain financial and economic conditions in the short term. This risk has been taken into account in setting the investment strategy and is monitored by the Trustee on a regular basis.

In the DC Plan, as members' benefits are dependent on the investment returns achieved, it is important that investment options are available which can be expected to produce adequate real returns over the longer term. Accordingly,

equity and equity-based funds, which are expected to provide positive returns above inflation over the long term, have been made available to members and feature in the growth phase of the Ethical Default Lifestyle strategy. To reduce the chance of a sharp deterioration in members' benefits close to retirement, the Trustee has made the main default option a "lifestyle" strategy.

10.2. Risk from lack of diversification

This is the risk that failure of a particular investment, or the general poor performance of a given investment type, could materially adversely affect the Scheme's assets. The Trustee believes that the Scheme's DB assets and main DC default strategy are adequately diversified between different asset classes and within each asset class and the DC options provide a suitably diversified range for members to choose from. This was a key consideration when determining the Scheme's investment arrangements and is monitored by the Trustee on a regular basis.

10.3. Investment manager risk

This is the risk that an investment manager fails to meet its investment objectives. Prior to appointing an investment manager, the Trustee receives written advice from a suitably qualified individual and will typically undertake an investment manager selection exercise. The Trustee monitors the investment managers on a regular basis to ensure they remain appropriate for their selected mandates.

10.4. Liquidity/marketability risk

For the DB Section, this is the risk that the Scheme is unable to realise assets to meet benefit cash flows as they fall due, or that the Scheme will become a forced seller of assets in order to meet benefit payments. The Trustee is aware of the Scheme's cash flow requirements and believes that this risk is managed by maintaining an appropriate degree of liquidity across the Scheme's investments and by investing in income generating assets, where appropriate.

For the DC Plan, this is the risk that core financial transactions, such as investing members' contributions, are not processed promptly due to lack of liquidity in the investments. The Trustee manages this risk by only using pooled funds with daily dealing within the main default strategy and diversifying the strategy across different types of investment.

10.5. Environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks

Environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors are sources of risk to the Scheme's investments, some of which could be financially material, over both the short and longer term. These potentially include risks relating to factors such as climate change, unsustainable business practices, and

unsound corporate governance. The Trustee seeks to appoint investment managers who will manage these risks appropriately on their behalf and from time to time reviews how these risks are being managed in practice.

10.6. Collateral adequacy risk

The Scheme is invested in leveraged Liability Driven Investment (“LDI”) arrangements to provide protection (“hedging”) against adverse changes in interest rates and inflation expectations. The LDI manager may from time to time call for additional cash to be paid to the LDI portfolio in order to support a given level of leverage.

Collateral adequacy risk is the risk that the Trustee, when requested to do so, will not be able to post additional cash to the LDI fund within the required timeframe. A potential consequence of this risk is that the Scheme’s interest rate and inflation hedging could be reduced and that the Scheme’s funding level could suffer subsequently as a result. To manage this risk, the Trustee ensures that the Scheme has a sufficient allocation to cash and other highly liquid assets which can be readily realised, so that cash can be posted to the LDI manager at short notice.

10.7. Risk from excessive charges

Within the DC Plan, if the investment management charges together with other charges levied on, for example, transfer or early retirement are excessive, then the value of a member’s account will be reduced unnecessarily. The Trustee is comfortable that the charges applicable to the Scheme are in line with market practice and assess regularly whether these represent good value for members.

10.8. Credit risk

This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

The Scheme invests in pooled funds and is therefore directly exposed to credit risk in relation to the solvency of the investment manager and custodian of those funds. Direct credit risk arising from pooled funds is mitigated by the underlying assets of the pooled funds being ring-fenced from the investment managers, the regulatory environments in which the pooled fund managers operate and diversification of the Scheme’s investments across a number of pooled funds. The Trustee, with the help of its advisors, carries out due diligence checks prior to the appointment of any new investment manager or fund, and monitors for changes in the operating environment of the existing investments.

The Scheme is directly exposed to credit risk through its segregated diversified growth fund mandate managed by Ruffer. As the Ruffer portfolio forms part of the return-seeking assets of the Scheme, credit risk exposure of investments is actively managed in order to optimise the risk / return profile of the portfolio.

The Scheme is indirectly exposed to credit risks arising from the underlying investments held by the pooled funds where they invest in bonds and other assets of a contractual nature (eg multi asset credit, property, LDI, etc)

The managers of these pooled funds manage credit risk by having a diversified exposure to bond issuers, tenants and derivative counterparties, conducting thorough research on the probability of default of those entities, and having a controlled and carefully considered exposure to counterparties rated below investment grade. The magnitude of credit risk within each fund will vary over time as the managers change the underlying investments in line with their views on markets, asset classes and specific securities.

Under its de-risking policy, the Trustee may from time to time insure member benefits by purchasing annuity policies (ie buy-ins). Any buy-in would be subject to credit risk, due to the potential for the counterparty to default on its contractual payments. There are a number of mitigating factors that protect against this, including but not limited to the insurance regime, regulatory scrutiny and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

10.9. Currency risk

Whilst the majority of the currency exposure of the Scheme's assets is to Sterling, the Scheme is subject to currency risk because some of the Scheme's investments are held in overseas markets. The Trustee considers the overseas currency exposure in the context of the overall investment strategy, and believes that the currency exposure that exists diversifies the strategy and is appropriate.

10.10. Interest rate and inflation risk

The DB Section's assets are subject to interest rate and inflation risk because some of the assets are held (directly and indirectly) in bonds, inflation linked bonds, and other assets of a contractual nature where payments are linked to interest rates or inflation. However, the interest rate and inflation exposure of the DB Section's assets hedges part of the corresponding risks associated with the DB Section's liabilities.

The Trustee considers interest rate and inflation and risks to be generally unrewarded investment risks.

As a result, the Trustee aims to partially hedge the DB Section's exposure to interest rate and inflation risk. In practice, this involves hedging the portion of interest rate and inflation risk that corresponds to the Scheme's funding level, by investing in a mixture of bonds as well as leveraged LDI arrangements. The Trustee reviews the interest rate and inflation hedge on a regular basis and will amend the hedge to reflect improvement the Scheme's funding position.

The net effect of the Trustee's approach to interest and inflation risk will be to reduce the volatility of the funding level, and so the Trustee believes that it is appropriate to manage exposures to these risks in this manner.

10.11. Other non-investment risks

The Trustee recognises that there are other, non-investment, risks faced by the Scheme, and takes these into consideration as far as practical in setting the Scheme's investment arrangements as part of its assessment of the other aspects of the Scheme's Integrated Risk Management framework.

Examples for the DB Section include:

- longevity risk (the risk that members live, on average, longer than expected); and
- sponsor covenant risk (the risk that, for whatever reason, the sponsoring employers are unable to support the Scheme as anticipated).

Together, the investment and non-investment risks give rise generally to funding risk. This is the risk that the Scheme's funding position falls below what is considered an appropriate level. The Trustee regularly reviews progress towards the Scheme's funding target, both in the longer-term as well as against short-term milestones, comparing the actual versus the expected funding level.

By understanding, considering and monitoring the key risks that contribute to funding risk, the Trustee believes that it has appropriately addressed and is positioned to manage this general risk.