

Lancashire County Pension Fund

Statement of Investment Principles

Introduction

Lancashire County Council (“LCC”) is the administering authority of the Lancashire County Pension Fund (the “Fund”). This Statement of Investment Principles (“SIP”) sets out the principles governing its decisions about investments made by the Fund. It has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009.

The Fund has produced the SIP following consultation with the Fund’s Investment Panel, and a representative of the Fund’s Actuary.

Responsibility for Investment Management

Lancashire County Council is responsible for administering the Fund under the Pension Scheme regulations 1997 (as amended). It delegates its responsibilities to:

- ◆ The Pension Fund Committee;
- ◆ The Administration Sub Committee;
- ◆ The Fund's Investment Panel;
- ◆ The Fund's Investment Managers.
- ◆ The Fund's Custodian; and
- ◆ The Treasurer to the Fund

The division of responsibility is set out in detail in the Governance Policy Statement, which is available at www.yourpensionservice.org.uk or on request from the Fund, but in summary, responsibilities are allocated as follows:

Pension Fund Committee

The Pension Fund Committee has overall responsibility for investment policy and monitoring overall performance. The Committee meets four times a year, and currently comprises 14 elected County Councillors, 4 representatives of the District Councils and Unitary Authorities within the Fund, 2 representatives of scheme members and a representative of the Higher and Further Education Sectors in Lancashire.

Investment Panel

The Investment Panel consists of two independent advisors, the Treasurer to the Fund (as Chair), the officer of the County Council fulfilling the role of Chief Investment Officer for the Fund and an officer of the County Council identified by the Treasurer to the Fund to oversee investment compliance activities.

The Panel meets at least quarterly, or otherwise as necessary. The Panel may operate through sub groups to undertake particular tasks. It formulates recommendations to the Treasurer to the Fund and/or the Pensions Fund Committee through meetings of the full Panel.

The Panel is required to provide advice to the Treasurer of the Fund regarding:

- a. Recommendations to the Pension Fund Committee in relation to the Investment Strategy for the Fund;
- b. The broad composition of the Fund's investment portfolio, management style and types of investment;
- c. The proposed procurement process, tender award criteria and evaluation methodology for external advisers and other external assistance including investment managers, property agents and advisors, corporate governance adviser, Fund Custodian, performance measurement advisers, the Fund Actuary and the Fund's AVC Provider ("external support") to enable the Treasurer to the Fund to seek the approval of the Pension Fund Committee to commence the procurement of any required external support;
- d. The selection and appointment of any required external support (subject to the role of the Pension Fund Committee), their remit and terms of office;
- e. The allocation of ranges and thresholds within which the Investment Managers should operate;
- f. Review of the Statement of Investment Principles and compliance with investment arrangements;
- g. Recommendations on the detailed management of the investment portfolios including the selection of pooled funds; and
- h. Performance measurement.

Investment Managers

The management of the Fund's investments is structured so as to provide diversification of management style and produce an acceptable spread of risk across the portfolio whilst maximising returns.

All Fund managers are subject to investment due diligence and all the segregated fund managers are UK FSA registered. New allocations may be made from time to time and Investment Managers are added to, removed or changed as necessary.

The Fund's Investment Managers are listed in its Annual Report

Role of Lancashire County Council in-house staff in respect of the accounts and investments of the Pension Fund

Under the Lancashire County Council Scheme of delegation to Chief Officers, the Treasurer to the Fund, is responsible for carrying out, in consultation with the Investment Panel, the County Council's duties under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Fund's) Regulations 1998, (as amended) with regard to the requirement to review the investments made by the Fund Managers. She reports at each meeting of the Pension Fund Committee.

The Treasury and Investment, Financial Accounting and Taxation and Investment Compliance Teams within the County Treasurer's Directorate support the Treasurer in respect of her Pension Fund investment and accounting responsibilities and provide the following services:

- a. Investment management services;
- b. Production of the Pension Fund Annual Report;
- c. Preparation and maintenance of the accounts and balance sheet of the Pension Fund;
- d. Verification and monitoring of the investment data produced by the Fund managers to independent custodian records;
- e. Production of Pension Fund Business Plan;
- f. Completion of various statistical questionnaires;
- g. Preparation of agenda, working papers and reports for the Investment Panel meetings, Pension Fund Committee meetings and other miscellaneous investment meetings;
- h. Maintenance of Pension Fund internal cash account and investment of Pension Fund Cash not held by the investment managers;
- i. Provision of accounting data for IAS19 calculations;
- j. Monitoring compliance with policy laid down by the Investment Panel and Pension Fund Committee;
- k. Maintenance of regular dialogue with investment managers and custodians;
- l. The provision of data for performance monitoring and interpretation of performance results;
- m. The conducting of procurement exercises to secure the services of Investment Managers and other service providers on behalf of the Fund.
- n. The identifying of and conducting of due diligence on individual investment opportunities for consideration by the Investment Panel.
- o. Monitoring voting action by the managers;
- p. Advice to the Treasurer on Pension Fund Investment issues;
- q. Verification, monitoring and payment of Pension Fund fee invoices;
- r. Monitoring the receipt of income due to the Fund;
- s. Representing the Treasurer at the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum meetings and other relevant Pension Fund Investment meetings;
- t. Interpretation and implementation of the requirements of new legislation relating to Pension Fund accounting and investments;
- u. Attendance at various seminars covering new developments in respect of Pension Fund Investment issues; and
- v. Research initiatives

Investment Objective

The Fund has two objectives in terms of its investment activities:

1. To ensure that resources are available to meet the Fund's liabilities through achieving investment performance at least in line with actuarial assumptions.
2. To achieve full funding (i.e. no funding deficit) over a period no longer than the current recovery period.

The current funding target assumptions include an assumed investment return (discount rate) of a yield based on market returns on UK Government gilt stocks and other instruments which reflect a market consistent discount rate for the profile and duration of the Fund's liabilities, plus an Asset Out-performance Assumption ("AOA") of 2.5% p.a. for the period pre-retirement and 1.0% p.a. post-retirement.

The asset out-performance assumption represents the allowance made for the long term additional investment performance on the assets of the Fund relative to the yields available on long dated gilt stocks as at the valuation date.

The allowance for this out-performance is based on the liability profile of the Fund, with a higher assumption in respect of the “pre-retirement” (i.e. active and deferred Pensioner) liabilities than for the “post-retirement” (i.e. pensioner) liabilities. This approach allows for a gradual shift in the overall equity/bond weighting of the fund as the liability profile of the membership matures over time.

Types of Investment

The Investment Panel ("the Panel") will provide expert professional advice to the Pension Fund Committee in relation to investment activities that fall within its approved strategy, including the following categories of investment:

Equities;

Fixed interest and index linked securities;

Property;

Cash; and

Commodities

Advice will include the management of foreign exchange risk and the use of financial derivatives where appropriate.

Advice on equities will involve the use of active and passive management styles, the use of public and private markets, and the choice of Investment Managers and pooled funds.

Advice on fixed interest and index linked securities will involve the use of investment grade and non-investment grade credit, and the choice of Investment Managers, pooled funds and direct investment opportunities.

Property advice will include the direct acquisition of land and premises, the development of such land, and improvements and refurbishment of such premises. It will also include the use of indirect pooled property investments.

Investments in infrastructure may be separately grouped, but they fall within the above categories.

Balance between Different Types of Investment

The investment strategy sets out a balance between different asset classes as follows:

Asset Class	Range %
Global Equities – Active and Passive, Physical and Index. Private and Publicly Quoted	40-60
Diversified Property –UK and Overseas. Direct and indirect.	10-20
Lower Volatility Strategies - (including but not exclusively, Fixed Income, PFI, Credit strategies, Infrastructure, Currency, Commodities, Absolute Return, Cash, funds and index, Local development/PPP type allocations)	20-40

The Active Public Equity and Fixed Interest Managers have full discretion to invest within each investment category subject to statutory limits and any asset allocation ranges around the benchmark, agreed between the Investment Panel and the Managers. The Property Manager's mandate is advisory with final decisions being taken by the Treasurer to the Fund based upon that advice.

With pooled funds, the manager of the investment fund operates within the constraints imposed by the constitution of the pooled fund, as reviewed and approved by the Investment Panel.

Investment Limits imposed under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Fund's) (Amendment) Regulations 2003

The limits shown in Column 1 below are those laid down under the 1998 Regulations. The limits in Column 2 are those allowed under the 2003 and 2005 Regulations and may be used by Local Authority Pension Funds if, following proper advice, they have sought approval by their Pension Fund Committees for the increases and the reasons for adopting the increases are detailed in the Statement of Investment Principles.

The Fund's Investment Panel and Pension Fund Committee have reviewed the 1998 Regulations limits and have adopted the increased limits for any single insurance contract and also for all contributions to partnerships.

	Column (1) Limits under regulation 14 (2)	Column (2) Limits under regulation 14 (3)
1. Any single sub-underwriting contract.	1%	5%
2. All contributions to any single partnership.	2%	5%
3. All contributions to partnerships.	5%	15%
4. with the sum of - (a) all loans; and (b) and deposits with - (i) any local authority, or (ii) any body with power to issue a precept of requisition to a local authority, or to the expenses of which a local authority can be required to contribute, which is an exempt person (within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000(a)) in respect of accepting deposits as a result of an order made under section 38(1) of that Act, and all loans.	10%	-
5. All investments in unlisted securities of companies.	10%	15%
6. Any single holding.	10%	-
7. All deposits with any single bank, institution or person (other than the National Savings Bank).	10%	-
8. All sub-underwriting contracts.	15%	-
9. All investments in units or other shares of the investments subject to the trusts of unit trust schemes managed by any one body.	25%	35%
9a. All investments in open-ended investment companies where the collective investment schemes constituted by the companies are managed by any one body.	25%	35%
9b. All investments in units or other shares of the investments subject to the trusts of unit trust schemes and all investments in open-ended investment companies where the unit trust schemes and the collective investment schemes constituted by those companies are managed by any one body	25%	35%
10. Any single insurance contract.	25%	35%
11. All securities transferred under stock lending arrangements.	25%	35%

Stock Lending

Stock lending is undertaken up to the 35% limit above. The programme is run by the Fund's Custodian, which monitors performance, limit and counterparty credit adherence, and voting requirements

Policy on Risk

The overriding objective of the Fund in respect of its investments is to minimise risk and maximise return while reducing volatility. The structure of the investment management arrangements has been implemented in order to produce a balanced spread of risk for the portfolio.

Operational risk is minimised by having custody of the Fund's financial assets provided by a regulated, external, third party, professional custodian.

The Fund's Global Custodian is Northern Trust. All public market investments are held in nominee accounts of Northern Trust.

All private market investments, including interests in private equity, property and other pooled funds are held directly in the name of Lancashire County Council as administering authority of the Lancashire County Pension Fund. Northern Trust provides detailed investment accounting and reconciliation services for all private market investments.

The title deeds in respect of the Fund's property holdings are held by Lancashire County Council and its property solicitors

The expected return on investments

Each manager is expected to achieve an excess return on the assets under their management greater than the relevant benchmark. In assessing performance of each manager the Investment Panel takes in to account the long-term nature of the investment process and returns are judged primarily on an annualised basis over a rolling three-year period. The Investment Panel reviews the appointment of each manager at least every three years or such shorter period as may be necessary. The targets and benchmarks in place are as follows:

- ◆ The Global Equity specialist managers have a target to outperform the MSCI All World index by 2.5% (net of fees) on a rolling three year basis. They are benchmarked against the MSCI All World index
- ◆ The Government Bonds manager is expected to outperform the FTSE All Stocks benchmark performance return by 0.75% (net of fees) on a rolling three year basis
- ◆ The Corporate Bonds manager is expected to outperform the IBOXX sterling Non Gilts benchmark on a rolling three year basis.
- ◆ Bonds and cash held for treasury management purposes are expected to outperform the FT 7 day LIBID

- ◆ The Private Equity Manager has a target to outperform the median return in the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) survey of Private Equity returns by 3%. The Private Equity benchmark is FTSE All Share
- ◆ The Infrastructure managers are expected to outperform an 8% absolute benchmark on a rolling three year basis.
- ◆ The Non Investment grade bond mandate is expected to outperform the Credit Suisse leveraged loan BB & B Benchmark on a rolling three year basis.
- ◆ The property manager is expected to outperform the IPD All Property Index Benchmark return on a rolling three year basis.

Monitoring and Review

The investment activities of the Fund's Investment Managers are reviewed at each Panel meeting and reported on to the Pension Fund Committee. At these meetings, asset allocation and investment performance of the Investment Managers is reviewed.

The WM survey of Local Authority Pension Fund returns is also used by the Fund for comparative information purposes.

The Fund's Actuary carries out a triennial review of the Fund and sets the employers' contribution rates for each three year period. Details of investment strategy and activity are an important element of the actuarial review.

The Annual Report is produced by the Treasurer for all employing bodies within the Fund, and this report, together with various information bulletins produced in respect of the Pension Scheme, provides details of Investment Policy and performance relating to the Investment Managers. Extracts from the Report are circulated to all members with the Fund's newsletter and are posted on the Fund's web site (www.yourpensionservice.org.uk).

Policy on Realisation of Investments

As the Fund is cash flow positive after including investment income, there is no need to realise investments in order to pay for benefits.

The Fund Managers realise investments as and when they consider appropriate in accordance with their management discretion. The Treasurer having received advice from the Investment Panel approves the realisation of pooled funds and properties.

Where investments are held in portfolios with a discretionary investment mandate, the funds realised are held to the account of the Investment Manager for reinvestment. In all other cases, the funds realised are as cash and managed through the Fund's usual treasury management processes.

Social, Environmental and Ethical Considerations

The Fund takes an active stance on corporate governance issues. It uses Pensions Investment Research Consultants (“PIRC”) to vote on its behalf at shareholder meetings. PIRC advises on Socially Responsible Investment issues and issues voting guidance and commentary for shareholder meetings. PIRC is instructed to vote the Fund's shares in accordance with its guidelines unless an Investment Manager requests a different vote for investment management reasons. In the latter case, the Treasurer to the Fund will decide how best to cast the vote in the long-term financial interest of the Fund.

The Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (“LAPFF”), which is a group of like-minded local authority pension funds that meet to discuss and act / engage in respect of Socially Responsible Investment and Corporate Governance issues.

Principles of Investment Practice

The Fund's compliance with the six principles of investment practice laid out in Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of funds) regulations 2009 is described below:

Principle 1: Effective Decision Making

Fully compliant: The decision making process is fully outlined in the Governance Policy Statement, Governance Compliance Statement and Statement of Investment Principles. A Pension Fund Business Plan is approved by the Pension Fund Committee on an annual basis.

Principle 2: Clear Objectives

Fully compliant: The overall objective for the Fund is outlined in the Statement of Investment Principles. The Investment Panel sets benchmarks for measuring the performance of each investment and an overall benchmark for the Fund as a whole in order to monitor the attainment of the objectives.

Principle 3: Risk and liabilities

Fully compliant: The Investment Panel and Pension Fund Committee have considered the appropriate assets for the Fund following Asset/Liability studies and decided upon an investment strategy involving a diversification of investments amongst equities, property and investments offering the prospect of acceptable returns with lower volatility.

Principle 4: Performance assessment

Fully compliant Investment performance reports are produced by the Custodian monthly and by WM Company quarterly for consideration by the Investment Panel and the Pension Fund Committee.

Principle 5: Responsible ownership

Fully compliant: PIRC has been appointed the Fund's proxy to vote the Fund's shares at shareholder meetings. PIRC votes in accordance with its voting guidelines unless an Investment Manager requests differently, in which case the Treasurer to the Fund would decide how the vote should be cast in the best interests of the Fund. The Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, which is primarily concerned with Corporate Governance issues and shareholder activism. Voting action is monitored on a quarterly basis.

Principle 6: Transparency and reporting

Fully compliant: The Statement of Investment Principles outlines who is responsible for strategic and asset allocation decisions for the Fund and the reasons behind this Structure. It contains the current investment objective and details of the operational aspects of the Fund's investments.

The Fund provides all of its Members with regular information bulletins. The Annual Report and the Fund's statutory statements are made available to all the Fund's employers and members through the web site www.yourpensionservice.org.uk.