Virgin Money Retirement Savings Scheme

Statements of Investment Principles

October 2020
Introduction

The law requires the Trustees to produce formal “Statements of Investment Principles” for the Scheme’s default arrangement and its other investment options. These Statements set out what the Trustees aim to achieve with the investment options and their investment policies which guide how members’ money is invested.

This document is a compendium of the Statements of Investment Principles for the Virgin Money Retirement Savings Scheme (the “Scheme”). These Statements must cover a number of technical points to comply with legislation as well as meet the expectations of the Pensions Regulator and needs of the Scheme’s Auditors which, as far as possible, are shown separately in “for the record” boxes.

The Trustees will publish online the Statements of Investment Principles from 1 October 2019 and a statement each year from 1 October 2020 describing how the policies and practices described in these Statements have been followed during the last year.

The contents of this document will apply from 1 October 2020 until the point at which the Scheme commences wind up, following the merger of the Scheme into the Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Defined Contribution Scheme in November 2020.

Statements of Investment Principles

The Trustees’ Statements of Investment Principles contained in this document include the:

1. Statement of the aims and objectives for the default arrangement*;
2. Statement of the aims and objectives for investment options outside the default arrangement*; and
3. Statement of investment beliefs, risks and policies**.

The Statement of Investment Principles for the Scheme** comprises items 1, 2 and 3.

The Statement of Investment Principles for the Scheme’s default arrangement*** comprises items 1 and 3.

Appendices

A. Investment implementation for the default arrangement;
B. Investment implementation for the investment options outside the default arrangement; and
C. Summary of the approach to investment governance.

For the record

* In accordance with Regulation 2A(1) of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005.
** In accordance with Regulation 2 of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 as modified by subsequent Regulations and section 35 of the 1995 Act.
*** As required by the Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) Regulations 2015.

The Trustees have taken proper written advice and consulted the Employer in the preparation of these Statements of investment Principles.

These Statements will be reviewed at least every three years or more frequently as required by the Regulations.
For and on behalf of the Trustees of the Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Signed</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sir David Chapman</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
<td>1 October 2020</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1 Statement of the aims and objectives for the default investment arrangement

Reasons for the default investment arrangement

The Trustees have decided that the Scheme should have a default investment arrangement because:

- The Scheme is a qualifying scheme for auto-enrolment purposes and so must have a default investment arrangement;
- It should be easy to become a member of the Scheme and start building retirement benefits without the need to make complex investment decisions; and
- A majority of the Scheme’s members are expected to have broadly similar investment needs.

Choosing the default investment arrangement

The Trustees believe that understanding the Scheme’s membership is essential to designing and maintaining a default investment arrangement which meets the needs of the majority of members.

The Trustees have taken into account a number of aspects of the Scheme’s membership including:

- The members’ age and salary profile;
- The likely sizes of pension pots at retirement;
- The level of income in retirement that members are likely to need; and
- Members’ likely benefit choices at and into retirement.

Objectives for the default investment arrangement

The main objective of the default investment arrangement is to provide good member outcomes at retirement. The Trustees believe that it is in the best interests of the majority of members to offer a default investment arrangement which:

- Manages the principal investment risks members’ face during their membership of the Scheme;
- Maximises investment returns relative to inflation while taking an appropriate level of risk during membership of the Scheme for the majority of members who do not make investment choices; and
- Reflects members’ likely benefit choices at retirement.

The default investment arrangement

The default investment arrangement is structured as a lifestyle strategy which:

- Gradually moves investments between different funds to manage the levels of investment returns and principal investment risks at each stage of membership of the Scheme; and
- Targets members who are expected to use Flexible Access Income Drawdown during their retirement.

The expected levels of investment returns (after the deduction of charges) and risks for the funds used are consistent with the Trustees’ objectives for the default investment arrangement. The expected investment returns and approach to managing investment risks including financially material considerations such as climate change are described in Section 3.

Full details of the current default investment arrangement are given in the document “Investment implementation for the default investment arrangement”.
2 Statement of the aims and objectives for investment options outside the default investment arrangement

Reasons for the investment options
In addition to the default investment arrangement, the Scheme offers members a choice of investment options because:

- While the default investment arrangement is intended to meet the needs of a majority of the Scheme’s members, it may not meet the needs of a wider cross-section of members;
- Attitudes to investment risks and the need for investment returns will vary from member to member and will also vary for each member over time and, in particular, as they approach retirement;
- Members have differing investment needs and these needs change during their working lives;
- Members may have different beliefs, e.g. ethical or faith-based, which they wish to reflect in their investment choice, or are vital to their participation in the Scheme; and
- Some members will want to be more closely involved in choosing where their contributions are invested.

Choosing the investment options

Membership analysis
The Trustees believe that understanding the Scheme’s membership is important to maintaining an appropriate range of investment options and have taken into account a number of aspects including:

- The members’ age and salary profile;
- The likely sizes of members’ pension pots at retirement;
- Members’ retirement dates and likely range of benefit choices at retirement;
- The levels of investment risk and return members may be willing to take;
- The degree to which members are likely to take an interest in where their contributions are invested; and
- The number of members who are likely to want responsible, ethical or faith-based investment.

Costs of investment options
The investment costs are borne by members and so a balance needs to be struck between choice and costs.

Objectives for the investment options
The Scheme offers members a choice of investment options as an alternative to the default investment arrangement.

Alternative lifestyle options
The main objective of the alternative lifestyle options are to give good member outcomes appropriate to their needs.

The Trustees believe that it is in the best interests of members in the alternative lifestyle options to:

- Manage the principal investment risks members face during their membership of the Scheme;
- Maximise investment returns relative to inflation while taking an appropriate level of risk during membership of the Scheme for members who do not otherwise make investment choices; and
• Give further choice for members who feel that the Scheme’s default investment arrangement is not appropriate to their needs, but do not otherwise want to be involved in deciding where their contributions are invested.

The alternative lifestyle options give members a choice of target outcome compared to the default investment arrangement of targeting Flexible Access Income Drawdown during retirement plus cash at retirement.

**Self-select funds**
The objectives of the self-select fund range are to:

• Provide a choice of individual funds for members who want to be more closely involved in choosing where their pension pot is invested;
• Complement the objectives of the default investment arrangement and the alternative lifestyle options;
• Provide a broader choice of levels of investment risk and return;
• Provide a broader choice of investment approaches including responsible investing, ethical and faith-based funds; and
• Help members more closely tailor how their pension pot is invested to their personal needs and attitude to risk.

Nevertheless, the self-select fund range cannot be expected to cover all the investment needs of all members.

**Risk and return**
The expected levels of investment returns (after the deduction of charges) and risks for the funds used are consistent with the Trustees’ objectives for these investment options. The expected investment returns and approach to managing investment risks including financially material considerations such as climate change are described in Section 3.

Full details of the current investment options are provided in the documents “Investment implementation for investment options outside the default investment arrangement” and “Investment implementation for the default investment arrangement”.

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September 2020
3 Statement of investment beliefs, risks and policies

Introduction
This Statement sets out the investment beliefs and policies which guide the Trustees’ decision making.

For the record
This Statement of investment beliefs, risks and policies should be read in conjunction with the Statements of the aims and objectives for both the default investment arrangement and the investment options outside the default investment arrangement. Collectively, these respectively form the Statements of Investment Principles for the Scheme and the default investment arrangement.

This Statement of investment beliefs has been prepared in accordance with the Occupational Pension Scheme (Investment) Regulations 2005 as amended by the Pension Protection Fund (Pensionable Service), Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations 2018 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) Regulations 2019.

Risks

Principal investment risks
The Trustees believe that the three principal investment risks most members will face are:

1) Inflation risk – investment returns over members’ working lives may not keep pace with inflation and, as a result, diminishes the buying power of the members’ fund, resulting in inadequate retirement benefits.

Further from retirement, this risk should be countered by funds investing in equities and other growth orientated assets which are expected to produce returns well in excess of inflation over the longer term. Approaching retirement, the impact of this risk needs to be balanced against the other main risks members face.

2) Benefit conversion risk – investment conditions just prior to retirement may increase the cost of turning members’ fund values into retirement benefits.

For members taking cash at retirement, funds investing in cash deposits and other short-term interest-bearing investments provide a high degree of (but not complete) capital security. Funds investing in a mix of different assets are expected to be broadly suitable for members planning income drawdown during retirement. For members buying an annuity at retirement, the value of funds investing in longer-dated bonds may be expected to broadly follow changes in annuity rates caused by long-term interest rates.

3) Volatility/Market risk – falls in fund values prior to retirement lead to a reduction in retirement benefits.

For the record
For members taking cash at retirement, funds investing in cash deposits and other short-term interest-bearing investments provide a high degree of (but not complete) capital security. Funds investing in a mix of different assets are expected to be broadly suitable for members planning income drawdown during retirement. For members buying an annuity at retirement, the value of funds investing in longer-dated bonds may be expected to broadly follow changes in annuity rates caused by long-term interest rates.

Other investment risks
The Trustees believe that other investment risks members may face include:

Active management risk – a fund manager’s selection of holdings may not lead to investment returns in line with the fund’s objectives and investment markets generally.

Currency risk – changes in exchange rates will impact the values of investments outside the UK when they are being bought or sold.

Interest rate risk – the value of funds which invest in bonds will be affected by changes in interest rates.
Default risk – for bond funds (where money is lent in return for the payment of interest), the company or government borrowing money fails to pay the interest due or repay the loan.

Liquidity risk – funds which invest in assets which cannot be easily bought or sold (such as property) may at times not be able to accept new investments or disinvestments of existing holdings.

Counterparty risk – the financial institutions holding a fund’s assets may get into financial difficulties leading to a reduction in a fund’s value.

Market risks - Shifts in market sentiment (for example, in response to economic news or geopolitical events) or momentum in general market trading can lead to widespread changes and/or volatility in asset values over the short-term.

This can include short-term changes in the normally expected correlations of the behaviour of risks and returns seen between different asset classes, when standard approaches to mitigating risks such as diversification are temporarily ineffective.

Factor based investing – equity investments may show several factors (supported by academic research) that may be expected to deliver stronger returns over the longer-term, but which may show increased risks (including timing) in the shorter-term.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks – the extent to which ESG issues are not reflected in asset prices and/or not considered in investment decision making leading to underperformance relative to expectations.

Climate risk - The extent to which climate change causes a material deterioration in asset values as a consequence of factors including, but not limited to: policy change, physical impacts and the expected transition to a low-carbon economy.

Legislative/Regulatory - Changes in government policy or taxation may have a long-term positive or negative impact on certain sectors of a country’s economy or one country relative to its neighbours over the medium to longer-term. Changes in Regulations can also affect the operational costs, tax efficiency and security of one investment vehicle relative to other vehicles over the shorter-term.

Managing risks
The Trustees have developed and maintain a framework for assessing the impact of all investment risks on long-term investment returns.

Time horizon
The Trustees monitor the age profile of the Scheme’s membership to arrive at an appropriate investment horizon when considering all investment risks:

- The Scheme is open to new entrants;
- As a result, investment risks need to be considered over a 30 to 40 year time horizon.

Principal investment risks
The lifestyle options manage the three main investment risks as members grow older by automatically switching from funds which are expected to give long-term growth relative to inflation into funds whose values should fluctuate less in the short-term relative to the benefits members are expected to take at retirement.

The self-select fund range provides members with a choice of funds with differing risk and return characteristics which are expected to meet the investment needs of a majority of members.
Ability to invest/disinvest promptly
The Trustees recognise that it is important that members’ contributions can be invested promptly in selected investment funds, and that these can be sold promptly for example when members wish to change where they are invested, transfer to another arrangement or if they wish to draw on their pension pot. The Trustees manage this risk by selecting pooled investment funds which can be dealt on a daily basis. The platform provider is responsible for monitoring the ability for members to invest and disinvest promptly and is expected to notify the Trustees if a situation develops whereby there is any restriction on the ability for members to do so. For example, this situation could occur in the event of significant economic uncertainty impacting on the ability for fund managers to value the underlying assets.

Other investment risks
The Trustees manage the other investment risks as part of the process for selecting and ongoing monitoring of the funds used by the Scheme.

The funds used give a good spread of investments which will help manage risks associated with market conditions, fund manager actions and default.

At this time, the Trustees have accounted for climate change within the development or implementation of its investment strategy alongside broader ESG factors by investing in a sustainable multi factor equity fund. The Trustees do discuss the potential impact of climate risks with its adviser and managers on a periodic basis and monitor developments in this area.

Financially material considerations
The Trustees recognise that the consideration of financially material considerations, including ESG factors and climate risk, are relevant to the development, selection and monitoring of the Scheme’s investment options. Financial factors are any factors which are relevant to trustees’ primary investment duty of balancing returns against risks.

The Trustees recognise that the consideration of financially material factors over the appropriate time horizon of the investments, including ESG factors, is relevant at different stages of the investment process. The Trustees further recognise that the financial materiality of any factor, including ESG factors, is context specific and that whilst some factors may be relevant to certain stocks/assets, they may not be relevant to others. The Trustees will consider such factors in the development and implementation of their investment arrangements, for the purposes of determining the selection, retention and realisation of investments, where there is sufficient data or evidence to allow them to systematically do so. Where there is not sufficient data or evidence, they will engage with their investment managers to ensure they take such considerations into account within their decision making. The Trustee has explicitly acknowledged the relevance of ESG factors in framing their investment beliefs and these beliefs are reflected in the principles set out below and the broader implementation of strategy.

Implementation
The Scheme uses standard pooled funds offered by investment platform providers and fund managers. This gives access to a range of funds while keeping down costs to members, but means that the Trustees cannot adopt an alternative approach to managing financially material considerations which is specific to the Scheme. The Trustees nevertheless seek to manage financially material considerations to protect long-term returns by:

• Choosing fund managers who have clearly articulated policies for managing financially material considerations including climate change;

• Considering the extent to which ESG issues including climate risk, where relevant, are integrated into the fund managers’ investment processes and are satisfied that the fund managers follow an approach which takes account of financially material factors;
• For actively managed funds (where the fund manager decides where to invest), expect the fund managers to take financially material considerations into account when selecting which companies and markets to invest in;
• For passively managed funds, the Trustee recognises that the funds’ objectives are to deliver returns in line with its benchmark (which may or may not take into account ESG factors), which the Trustees believe will deliver appropriate risk adjusted returns.
• For all funds, expect fund managers to engage with companies in which the fund invests to encourage business strategies which should improve or protect the value of those investments; and
• Prefer fund managers who are signatories to the Financial Reporting Council’s Stewardship Code in the UK and the United Nations supported Principles for Responsible Investment.

Expected returns on investments

The Trustees believe that it is important to balance investment risks with the likely long-term returns from different types of assets used in funds (taking the funds’ costs and charges into account).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset class</th>
<th>Expected long-term investment returns relative to inflation</th>
<th>Expected shorter-term volatility in fund values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equities (i.e. company shares)</td>
<td>Strong return relative to inflation</td>
<td>Most volatile in the short-term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property (e.g. offices, shops and warehouses)</td>
<td>Positive, but lower than equities</td>
<td>Lower than equities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Bonds (i.e. loan stocks issued by companies)</td>
<td>Positive, but lower than equities and property</td>
<td>Lower than equities or property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Interest Government Bonds (e.g. UK Gilts)</td>
<td>Positive, but lower than equities, property or corporate bonds</td>
<td>Lower than equities, property or corporate bonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index-Linked Government Bonds (e.g. UK Index-Linked Gilts)</td>
<td>In line with inflation</td>
<td>Lower than equities, property or corporate bonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash (and other short-term interest-bearing investments)</td>
<td>Return may not keep pace with inflation</td>
<td>Minimal with high degree (but not complete) of capital security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Long-dated Bonds** (e.g. UK Gilts and Corporate Bonds with a duration of 15 years or more) – should give fund values which move broadly in line with the financial factors influencing annuity rates.

**Multi-asset funds** (i.e. investing in a varying mix of asset classes) - should deliver positive returns relative to inflation over the longer-term, with lower short-term volatility than equities.

**Derivatives** (e.g. currency hedging) - typically to reduce shorter-term investment risks or to facilitate changing where funds are invested, should help achieve a fund’s expected levels of risk and return.

**Market beta** (i.e. funds investing in assets with certain characteristics) – the strategy of these funds is intended to give a better return over the long-term than the broader market for the type of assets involved (e.g. equities).

**Responsible Investment** (i.e. funds selecting assets to mitigate ESG and/or climate change risks and also funds selecting assets positively demonstrating strong ESG and or climate change credentials) – the strategy of
these funds is expected to give a better risk adjusted return over the long-term than the broader market for the type of assets involved (e.g. equities).

**Investment beliefs**

The Trustees have developed a separate Statement of Investment Beliefs document in 2017 and updated it in 2019.

Furthermore, the Trustees’ investment decisions are made in the context of their investment beliefs that:

- Managing the principal investment risks is the most important driver of good long-term member outcomes;
- As the Scheme invests for members over the long-term, financially material considerations including the impact of climate change will have a bearing on funds’ expected levels of risk and return;
- Investment markets may not always behave in line with long-term expectations during the shorter-term;
- Taking investment risk is usually rewarded in the long term;
- Investment risks can be reduced by spreading investments both within and across asset classes;
- Actively managed funds, where the manager chooses where to invest, may not always deliver the expected investment returns in the shorter-term;
- Passively managed funds, whose returns are intended to track a market index, may produce investment returns more efficiently than actively managed funds in some markets.
- Charges and costs (levied by fund managers and platform providers) can have a material effect on net returns.

**Types of funds used**

**Structure of the investment arrangements**

The Scheme invests contributions for members through the provider’s investment platform. Contributions buy units in the provider’s funds. The provider in turn backs the value of its funds by buying units in funds from a selection of fund managers where investments are pooled with other investors. This enables the Scheme to invest in a range of funds giving a good spread of investments in a cost-effective manner.

The Scheme’s asset, and the Trustees’ contract with the provider, is the policy of insurance issued by the provider. As a result, the Trustees do not have any contractual arrangement with the investment managers or title to the underlying funds’ assets.

**Delegation of investment decisions**

The Scheme uses funds provided through an investment platform. This investment platform in turn invest its funds in funds provided by a selection of fund managers where investments are pooled with other investors. This enables the Scheme to invest in a range of funds giving a good spread of investments in a cost-effective manner. It does mean that the Trustees have delegated day to day investment decisions including the management of financially material considerations to the fund managers.

**Selection of funds**

The Trustees will invest in funds on the provider’s platform which in turn invest in the investment managers’ pooled funds. The objectives of the funds and the policies of the investment managers will be evaluated by the Trustees to ensure that they are appropriate for the needs of the Scheme.

The Trustees’ choice of funds, and hence choice of approaches to aspects such as responsible investment and shareholder engagement, are constrained by the choice of funds available on the provider’s platform. While the
Trustees will endeavour as far as possible to select a platform provider and funds on that provider’s platform which are consistent with the Scheme’s investment objectives and the Trustees’ investment beliefs, this needs to be balanced against the wider benefits of access to the other funds on the platform and the other services from the platform provider as well as taking into consideration the costs of change to the Scheme and its members.

The Trustees will seek to engage with the platform provider to obtain funds which meet the Trustees’ investment beliefs, and are expected to improve outcomes for members, but this is subject to being commercially viable for the provider and consistent with the charge cap for the default arrangements. The Trustees expect the provider to encourage the investment managers to adopt appropriate practices for responsible investment and shareholder engagement.

The Trustees will periodically review the choice of platform provider, at which time the suitability of the provider’s fund range and effectiveness of its governance of the investment managers on its platform will be key criteria.

Manager incentives
The basis of remuneration of the investment managers by the platform provider may be subject to commercial confidentiality, however, the Trustees will seek transparency of all costs and charges borne by members. Nevertheless, the Trustees expect that it will be in the interests of both the platform provider and the investment managers on the provider’s platform to produce growth in asset values in line with the funds’ investment objectives. For passively managed funds this should be within an acceptable margin of the index the fund tracks. For actively managed funds the investment return should be commensurate with the level of investment risk implied by the fund’s objectives.

When selecting funds, the Trustees will ask their investment advisor to consider the investment managers’ remuneration strategies and appropriateness of each fund’s investment guidelines to ensure that there is no inducement or scope to take an undue level of risk and that the investment managers will act in line with the interests of the Scheme’s members.

In accordance with the 2015 Regulations, the Trustees conduct an annual Value for Members assessment and will take action should the provider be found to be giving poor value. In addition, in accordance with guidance from the Pensions Regulator, the Trustees will periodically review the Scheme’s choice of provider to ensure their charges and services remain competitive. The Trustees believe that these steps are the most effective way of incentivising the provider to deliver Value for Members, of which investment management charges and investment performance are key considerations.

The Trustees also undertake a review at least every three years in which the appropriateness of the investment options at which time the suitability of the Scheme’s investment management arrangements are also considered.

The Trustees monitor the investment managers against a series of metrics on a quarterly basis over a long-term time horizon (at least over a three-year investment cycle) including:

- Performance of their funds’ respective benchmarks;
- Relative tracking error where appropriate;
- The exercise of stewardship responsibilities (including engagement with issuers); and
- The management of risks.
The platform provider or investment managers are expected to provide explanations for any significant divergence from a fund’s objectives. A material deviation from performance and risk targets or approach to portfolio management is likely to result in the fund being formally reviewed.

**Portfolio turnover**

The Trustees do not expect investment managers to take excessive short-term risk and will monitor the investment manager’s performance against the benchmarks and objectives on a short, medium and long term basis.

For passively managed funds the turnover of holdings is driven by changes in the index a fund seeks to track and hence is outside the control of the investment manager except where a fund’s total assets under management are relatively small where the investment manager does not fully replicate the index or where a fund invests in less liquid stocks.

When selecting actively managed funds, the Trustees will consider, with the help of their investment advisers, the expected level of turnover commensurate with a fund’s investment objectives, the investment manager’s investment processes and the nature of the fund’s assets.

Whilst the Trustees expect performance to be delivered net of costs, including the costs of trading within the portfolio, the Trustees will ask the investment platform provider or investment managers on the platform to report on at least an annual basis on the underlying assets held within fund with details of any transactions and turnover costs incurred over the Scheme’s reporting year.

Where a fund has significantly under or outperformed its benchmark, the Trustees will seek to ascertain whether necessary whether higher or lower than normal turnover has been a contributory factor. The Trustees will challenge the platform provider and/or investment managers if there is a sudden change in portfolio turnover or if the level of turnover seems excessive.

**Portfolio duration**

The Trustees recognise the long-term nature of defined contribution pension investments and chooses funds which are expected to deliver sustainable returns over the Scheme members’ investment horizon. The Trustees will carry out necessary due diligence on the underlying investment decision making process, to ensure the manager makes investment decisions over an appropriate time horizon aligned with the objectives for the related investment option.

The Trustees expect that each fund will be used for at least three years, this being the period over which performance of the fund can be appropriately evaluated and the costs of change amortised, although all funds are subject to ongoing review against various financial and non-financial metrics in addition to their continued appropriateness within the investment strategy.

**Security of assets**

The funds are provided through a policy of insurance issued to the Trustees by the platform provider. As a result, the value of the funds may be affected in the event of the provider getting into financial difficulties.

The underlying funds used by the provider’s platform are accessed through reassurance agreements/unit purchase agreements/segregated investment mandates. In the event of a fund manager getting into financial difficulties, the values in these underlying funds will depend upon the nature of the contract with the platform provider and the fund vehicles used by the fund managers’ funds.

The Trustees periodically review the position of their investment to understand the risks that they are exposed to and minimise them as far as possible.
Realisation of investments

The Trustees expect that the investment platform provider and the fund managers will normally be able to sell the funds within a reasonable timescale. There may, however, be occasions where the investment platform or fund managers need to impose restrictions on the timing of sales and purchases of funds (most notably for funds investing in property) in some market conditions to protect the interests of all investors in that fund.

Nevertheless, the Trustees recognise that most members’ pension pots have a long investment timeframe, during which assets which are less easily traded (such as property or infrastructure) can be managed to deliver good long-term returns while avoiding the impact of liquidity issues at retirement.

Balance of investments

Overall, the Trustees believe that the Scheme’s investment options:

- Provide a balance of investments; and
- Are appropriate for managing the risks typically faced by members.

Stewardship

The Trustees recognise that stewardship encompasses the exercise of voting rights, engagement by and with investment platform and fund managers and the monitoring of compliance with agreed policies.

The Scheme offers members the default arrangement, a choice of alternative lifestyle options and self-select funds. The Trustees’ stewardship activities will consider all funds used by members.

Members’ financial interests

The Trustees expect that the investment platform provider and fund managers will have the members’ financial interests as their first priority when choosing investments.

Conflicts of interest

When appointing platform providers and choosing investment managers’ funds on the provider’s platform, the Trustees will seek to establish that the platform provider and each investment manager has an appropriate conflicts of interest policy in place.

When given notice the Trustees will consider the impact of any conflicts of interest arising in the management of the funds used by the Scheme.

Responsibility for investment decisions has been delegated to the investment managers which includes consideration of the capital structure of investments and the appropriateness of any investment made. Where managers are investing in new issuance, the Trustees expect the investment manager to engage with the issuer about the terms on which capital is issued and the potential impact on the rights of new and existing investors.

The Trustees will consider any conflicts of interest arising in the management of the funds used by the Scheme and will ensure that the platform provider and each investment manager has an appropriate conflicts of interest policy in place.

Voting and engagement

The Trustees believe that engagement with the companies in which the Scheme invests, including the proactive use of shareholder voting rights, can improve the longer-term returns on the Scheme’s investments.

The Scheme invests via an investment platform provider, who in turn invests in funds which are pooled with other investors to keep costs down and ensure adequate diversification. As a result, the Trustees have adopted a policy of delegating voting decisions on stocks to the underlying fund managers on the basis that voting power
will be exercised by them with the objective of preserving and enhancing long term shareholder value. The fund managers are expected to exercise the voting rights attached to individual investments in accordance with their own house policy.

The Trustees will periodically review the voting and engagement policies of the fund managers as well as the approach to governance of the investment platform provider to determine that these policies are appropriate. On an annual basis, the Trustee will request that the investment platform provider and fund managers provide details of any change in their house policy.

Where appropriate, the Trustees will engage with and may seek further information from the investment platform provider and fund managers on how portfolios may be affected by a particular issue.

While the Trustees are not in a position to engage directly, the Trustees believe it is appropriate for the fund managers directly or through the platform provider to engage with key stakeholders which may include corporate management, regulators and governance bodies, relating to their investments in order to improve corporate behaviours, improve performance and mitigate financial risks. The Trustees will request, where appropriate and practicable, that the platform provider or investment managers notify the Trustees of any issue on which it may be beneficial for the Trustees to undertake further engagement. The Trustees will review engagement activity undertaken by the managers as part of its broader monitoring activity.

The Trustees expect the investment platform provider to adopt similar practices with regards to the inclusion and ongoing oversight of fund managers on their platform. The Trustees also expect the platform provider to be able to evidence their own governance practices on request.

Monitoring
The Trustees expect the platform provider to monitor adherence of their investment managers to stated voting and engagement policies, engage with managers where concerns are identified and to report on these issues. The Trustees receive reports from the investment platform provider on the fund managers voting activity on a periodic basis. The Trustees review the fund managers’ voting activity on an annual basis in conjunction with their investment adviser and use this information as a basis for discussion with the investment platform provider and fund managers.

The Trustees aim to meet with all fund managers on a periodic basis. The Trustees will provide the fund managers with an agenda for discussion, including issues relating to individual holdings and, where appropriate, ESG issues. Managers are challenged both directly by the Trustees and by their investment advisers on the impact of any significant issues including, where appropriate, ESG issues that may affect the prospects for return from the portfolio.

Non-financial factors
The Trustees recognise that some members will have strong personal views or religious convictions that influence where they believe their savings should, or should not, be invested.

Nevertheless, while the Trustees will bear members’ views in mind when reviewing the suitability of the Scheme’s investment options and choice of funds used, the Trustees will not be bound by the members’ views (for instance where it is uneconomic or impracticable to do so).

The Trustees note that a large number of members have not made active investment choices and so the Trustees believe that most members are unlikely to have strong views which differ from those of the Trustees and the Scheme’s investment advisors on where their savings are invested. At this time, the Trustees will gather member views through current engagement approaches (including member forums) and review this regularly. If there is a consensus view or demand for specific action, the Trustees will consider this appropriately.
The Scheme offers a choice of ethical, environmental and faith based funds for members who are likely to hold stronger views in these areas than the majority of members.

The Trustees note that non-financial factors can affect various investment risks which are borne by members and may under-perform other funds with broader-based investment approaches.

Fund managers are otherwise only expected to take non-financial factors into account when these do not conflict with the financial interests of members and the Scheme’s investment objectives.

For the record

The Trustees obtain and consider proper advice from suitably experienced and qualified persons when choosing investments and preparing the Statements of Investment Principles.

Funds are chosen by the Trustees to give an expected level of return with an appropriate level of investment risk which meets the objectives of each default arrangement and other investment options.

The funds used at each stage of the default arrangement are intended to deliver good member outcomes at retirement from an appropriate balance of investment growth relative to inflation and the then pertinent investment risks.

The investment platform uses a life insurance company based legal vehicle for its funds. The fund managers used by the platform use a variety of different legal vehicles for their funds. The funds may invest in quoted and unquoted securities traded in regulated UK and overseas markets:

- Equities (company shares);
- Fixed interest and index-linked bonds issued by governments and companies;
- Cash and other short-term interest bearing deposits;
- Commercial and residential property;
- Illiquid assets including infrastructure, forestry, private equity and private debt;
- Commodities through collective investment vehicles; and
- Derivatives to facilitate changes in where funds are invested or to help control investment risks.

Funds provided through a life insurance company must comply with the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") “Permitted Links” rules, which place limits on the degree of leverage a fund can use. Fund managers using other fund vehicles subject to the European “UCITS IV” and the FCA’s “Non-UCITS” regulations have to meet requirements on the security and concentrations of assets. Exchange Traded Funds may be used directly or indirectly to gain access to less easily traded and illiquid asset classes.

Subject to the funds’ benchmarks and guidelines, the fund managers are given full discretion over the choice of securities and, for multi-asset funds, choice of asset classes. Fund managers are expected to maintain well-diversified and suitably liquid portfolios of investments.

The Trustees consider that these types of investments are suitable for the Scheme. The Trustees are satisfied that the funds used by the Scheme provide adequate diversification both within and across different asset classes.
Appendix A

Investment implementation for the default investment arrangement

Default investment arrangement

The default investment arrangement is a lifestyle strategy which targets income drawdown at retirement.

Members are invested in funds expected to give higher returns relative to inflation up to 20 years before their selected retirement date.

Members are gradually switched into funds which are expected to give good returns relative to inflation while consolidating past investment gains between 20 and 10 years before their selected retirement date.

Finally, members are automatically switched into funds aligned to their expected benefit choices at retirement during the last 2 years up to their selected retirement date.

Fund allocation

The allocation to each fund in the default investment arrangement at yearly intervals up to a member’s selected retirement date is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years to retirement</th>
<th>Global Equity fund (%)</th>
<th>Diversified fund (%)</th>
<th>Retirement Income fund (%)</th>
<th>Sterling Liquidity fund (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 or more</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rebalancing between these funds takes place on a quarterly basis.

**Funds and charges**

The funds used by the default investment arrangement and their Total Expense Ratio ("TER") as at 31 March 2020 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform Fund</th>
<th>Underlying fund</th>
<th>TER % (p.a.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Equity</td>
<td>50% Schroders Sustainable Multi-Factor Equity Fund</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% LGIM (30:70) Global Equity (75% Hedged) Index</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversified</td>
<td>100% LGIM Diversified Fund</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Income</td>
<td>100% LGIM Retirement Income Multi-Asset Fund</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Liquidity</td>
<td>100% LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members in the default investment arrangement will see TERs range from 0.20% to 0.32%.

**Investment costs**

**Fund charges**

The investment platform provider’s and fund managers’ charges for the investment options are borne by the members.

The Scheme is a “qualifying scheme” for auto-enrolment purposes, which means that the default investment arrangement is subject to the charge cap introduced by the government from April 2015.

**Transaction costs**

Transaction costs arise when the fund managers buy and sell the assets held by each fund. Costs may also be incurred when units in the funds are bought and sold. These costs are taken into account when calculating the funds’ unit prices and members’ fund values.

**Review**

The present default investment arrangement was introduced in December 2018.
Appendix B

Investment implementation for investment options outside the default investment arrangement

Lifestyle options
The Scheme offers members a choice of two alternative lifestyle options as an alternative to the default investment arrangement.

Objective
While the default investment arrangement’s lifestyle strategy targets income drawdown at retirement, the alternative lifestyles options target cash and annuity purchase at retirement.

Approach
In both lifestyles, members are invested in funds expected to give higher returns relative to inflation up to 20 years before their selected retirement date.

Members are gradually switched into funds which are expected to give good returns relative to inflation while consolidating past investment gains between 20 and 10 years before their selected retirement date.

Cash Lifestyle:

![Chart]

Finally, in the cash lifestyle members are automatically switched into funds that align to their expected retirement choices during the last 3 years up to their selected retirement date.
Annuity Lifestyle:

Finally, in the annuity lifestyle members are automatically switched into funds that align to their expected retirement choices during the last 10 years up to their selected retirement date.

**Fund allocation**

The allocation to each fund in the alternative lifestyle options at yearly intervals up to a member’s selected retirement date are:

**Cash lifestyle option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years to retirement</th>
<th>Global Equity fund (%)</th>
<th>Diversified fund (%)</th>
<th>Sterling Liquidity fund (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 or more</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annuity lifestyle option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years to retirement</th>
<th>Global Equity fund (%)</th>
<th>Diversified fund (%)</th>
<th>Pre Retirement fund (%)</th>
<th>Sterling Liquidity fund (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 or more</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rebalancing between these funds takes place on a quarterly basis.

**Funds and charges**

The funds used by the alternative lifestyle options and their Total Expense Ratios (“TER”) as at 31 March 2020 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform Fund</th>
<th>Underlying fund</th>
<th>TER % (p.a.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Equity</td>
<td>50% Schroders Sustainable Multi-Factor Equity Fund</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% LGIM (30:70) Global Equity (75% Hedged) Index</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversified</td>
<td>100% LGIM Diversified Fund</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre Retirement</td>
<td>100% LGIM Pre Retirement fund</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Liquidity</td>
<td>100% LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members in the alternative lifestyle options will see TERs at a point in time in the range from 0.13% to 0.30% for the lifestyle options targeting cash at retirement and annuity at retirement.

**Self-select fund range**

The Scheme offers members a choice of self-select funds options as an alternative to the default investment arrangement and alternative lifestyle options.

**Fund range**

The choice of self-select funds and their Total Expense Ratios (“TER”) as at 31 March 2020 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform Fund</th>
<th>Underlying fund</th>
<th>TER* % (p.a.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Equity</td>
<td>50% Schroders Sustainable Multi-Factor Equity Fund</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% LGIM (30:70) Global Equity (75% Hedged) Index</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversified</td>
<td>LGIM Diversified Fund</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre Retirement</td>
<td>LGIM Pre Retirement Fund</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Liquidity</td>
<td>LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Income</td>
<td>LGIM Retirement Income Multi-Asset Fund</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**UK Equity** | **LGIM UK Equity Index** | **0.07**
---|---|---
**Over 15yr Gilts** | **LGIM Over 15 Year Gilts Index** | **0.07**
**Over 15yr Corporate Bond** | **LGIM AAA-AA-A Corporate Bond Over 15 Year Index** | **0.10**
**Over 5yr Index-Linked Gilts** | **LGIM Over 5 Year Index-Linked Gilts Index** | **0.07**
**Sharia-Compliant** | **HSBC Islamic Global Equity Index fund** | **0.35**
**Managed Property** | **LGIM Managed Property Fund** | **0.72**

*rounded to 2 decimal places, provided by LGIM

**Investment costs**

The investment platform provider’s and fund managers’ charges for the investment options are borne by the members.

Transaction costs arise when the fund managers buy and sell the assets held by each fund. Costs may also be incurred when units in the funds are bought and sold. These costs are taken into account when calculating the funds’ unit prices and members’ fund values and are borne by members.

**Review**

The current alternative lifestyle options and self-select fund range were updated in December 2018.
Appendix C

Summary of the approach to investment governance

For the record
The Trustees’ approach to investment governance complies with the provisions of the Scheme’s Trust Deed and Rules as well as legislative requirements.

The Scheme’s investment governance is also intended to meet the expectations set out in the Pensions Regulator’s 2016 Code of Practice 13.

Exercising the Trustees’ Powers
The Trustees will always aim to act in the best interests of the members.

The Trustees have delegated day-to-day work on the Scheme’s investments.

Conflicts of interest
In the event of a conflict of interests, the Trustees will ensure that contributions are invested in the sole interests of members and beneficiaries.

Monitoring
The Trustees regularly monitor and review:

Investment Performance - The performance of the funds in which the Scheme invests against both the funds’ stated performance objectives and the investment objectives of the Scheme.

This will also include monitoring the levels of portfolio turnover in the event that significant under or out-performance occurs.

Value for members - The member borne charges for the default investment arrangement against the charge cap for auto-enrolment purposes and the funds’ charges and transaction costs to ensure that they represent value for members.

Suitability - The suitability of the default investment arrangement and investment options outside the default investment arrangement at least every three years and without delay after any significant change in investment policy or the demographic profile of the Scheme’s membership.

The Statements of Investment Principles - at least every three years and without delay after any significant change in investment policy or the demographic profile of the Scheme’s membership. The Trustees will consult the Employer on any changes.

Compliance with Statement of Investment Principles
The Trustees will monitor compliance with the Statement of Investment Principles annually and publish a report to members with effect from the Scheme year ending after 1 October 2020.

Investment process - The processes for investing contributions and taking money from the investment options to pay benefits to ensure that they are carried out promptly and accurately.

Security of assets - The security of funds’ assets when choosing a fund provider/manager and thereafter.
**Voting** – The fund managers’ records of exercising shareholder voting rights and engaging with equity and bond issuers on matters which may materially affect the value of investments.

**Conflicts of Interest** – Instances where the actions of the platform provider or fund managers may be in conflict with the best interests of the Scheme’s members.

**Reporting**

The Trustees arrange for the preparation of:

- The Scheme’s audited Annual Report and Accounts (which includes the Annual Governance Statement);
- The Annual Governance Statement by the Chair of Trustees describing the Scheme’s investment costs, value for members and governance during the previous year;
- An extract from the Annual Governance Statement by the Chair of Trustees, Statement of Investment Principles and Implementation Statement in a publicly searchable location on-line; and
- An annual return to the Pensions Regulator.