

Implementation Statement

Period covered: 1st December 2020 – to 30th November 2021

The 2019 Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment) Regulations (“the Regulations”) require that the Trustees outline how they have ensured compliance with the policies and objectives set out in their Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) over the course of the year under review.

The Trustees Stewardship and Engagement policies are included in the Fund’s SIP, which is available on request.

Changes to the SIP during the year regarding Stewardship and Engagement

The SIP has been reviewed and revised with effect from September 2020 shown as Appendix A to this Implementation Statement.

Meetings with fund managers

The Trustee’s investments are held in the following funds;

Manager	Fund	Allocation
Aberdeen Standard Investments	Liability Aware CDI 2026-28	10.0%
	Liability Aware CDI 2029-31	10.0%
	Liability Aware CDI 2032-34	10.0%
	Liability Aware Equity Real Profile	5.0%
	Liability Aware Real Profile	15.0%
LGIM	Global Equity Fixed Weights (50:50) Index	27.5%
Investec	Diversified Growth	7.5%
Pinebridge	Global Dynamic Allocation	7.5%
Kames	Diversified Growth	7.5%

Barker Tatham provide investment monitoring services to the Fund. The Trustees also receive investment statements and reports and review performance.

The Trustees met Aberdeen Standard over the period to discuss a change in the funds the Trustees were invested in.

Reviews of fund managers

The Trustees did not formally review the provision of fund management services during the period. However, as part of the monitoring report produced by Barker Tatham, the performance of the individual managers is assessed and discussed.

The Trustees intend to review the investments held with Aberdeen Standard Investments.

Stewardship

Each manager has provided details of their ESG and Stewardship policies which can be found on the Association’s website. This includes whether or not they are signatories to the UK Stewardship code and UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI). The UN PRI are a set of global best practices that provide a framework for integrating ESG issues into financial analysis, investment decision-making and ownership practices.

Voting behaviour

Each manager has, where relevant, provided details of their voting policies which can be found on the Association's website.

The Trustees' policy is to delegate the exercise of voting rights to their managers and to disclose information on the voting decisions made by their managers. The Trustees will review the voting behaviour of the managers regularly to check that they are comfortable with the decisions taken by the managers and their approach generally.

Statement of compliance with Regulations

Over the course of the year to 30 November 2021, the Trustees are pleased to report that they have in their opinion adhered to the policies set out in their SIP and have complied with the Regulations.

Appendix A –SIP appendix

Country Land and Business Association Staff Pension Fund

Statement of Investment Principles (“SIP”)

Background

This Statement of investment Principles has been prepared to meet the requirements of Section 35 of the Pensions Act 1995 and SI 2005/3378 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations.

It has been prepared after obtaining and considering the written advice of a person who is reasonably believed by the Trustees to be qualified by his ability in and practical experience of financial matters and has the appropriate knowledge and experience of the management of investments of pension schemes.

The Statement has been prepared after consultation with the sponsoring employer.

The Statement will be reviewed at least every three years or, without delay, after any significant change in investment policy.

Purpose

This statement sets out the principles governing the Trustees' decisions to invest the assets of the Fund. The Trustees have taken the Myners Principles into consideration when making decisions about the Fund's investment arrangements.

Objectives

The Trustees invest the assets of the Fund with the aim of ensuring that all members' benefits can be paid.

The Trustees' objectives are:

- to achieve a rate of return over the long term that is equal to or greater than the return assumed in the Statement of Funding Principles for the Fund
- to manage potential deviations from the funding plan for the Fund having regard to the support available from the sponsoring employer.

Implementation

The Trustees set the broad investment strategy having regard to the objectives and following careful consideration of:

- the nature and duration of the Fund's liabilities,
- the risks of investing in the various asset classes,
- the implications of the strategy (under various scenarios) for the level of contributions required to fund the Fund,
- the strength of the sponsoring company's covenant.

The Trustees recognise that the investment strategy is subject to risk, in particular the risk of a mismatch between the performance of the assets and the calculated value of the liabilities.

The Trustees have delegated day to day investment decisions by investing in pooled funds.

The Trustees will maintain a list of the pooled funds in which they invest in Schedule A and will amend this as necessary.

The proportion of the assets held within each fund is approximate and will vary from time to time as a result of changes in the value of each fund.

There will be no automatic rebalancing of the overall portfolio.

Disinvestment

Where cash is required to meet benefit payments or for general purposes of the Fund, the Trustees will disinvest in accordance with the provision set out in Appendix B, unless the Trustees decide otherwise.

Policies

Use of Pooled Funds

The Trustees do not make decisions regarding the investments held within each pooled fund.

When choosing a pooled fund, the Trustees will have regard to the investments held, the risks associated with investing in that fund and any constraints on the type of assets that may be held within the fund.

The balance between investment classes will be determined by the manager of the pooled fund.

The Trustees review performance of the fund managers at regular intervals and also consider the performance of the overall strategy against their objectives.

Environment, Social and Governance Issues

The Trustees believe that good stewardship and environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) issues may have a financially material impact on investment risk and return outcomes, and that good stewardship can create and preserve value for companies and markets as a whole. The Trustees also recognise that long-term sustainability issues, particularly climate change, present risks and potential opportunities that increasingly may require explicit consideration.

The Trustees have given the pooled fund managers full discretion when evaluating ESG issues, including climate change considerations, exercising voting rights and stewardship obligations attached to the Fund’s investments. The Trustees expect managers to have integrated ESG into their risk analysis and investment process. Similarly, the Fund’s voting rights are exercised by its investment managers in accordance with their own corporate governance policies, and taking account of current best practice including the UK Corporate Governance Code and the UK Stewardship Code.

The Fund’s investment advisors will keep the Trustees informed on ESG issues. The Trustees consider how ESG, climate change and stewardship are integrated within investment processes when appointing new managers and the Trustees monitor their existing managers’ ESG approach on a periodic basis, and discuss ESG considerations as part of ongoing reviews.

Non-Financial Matters

Non-financial matters are not taken into account when determining the Fund’s investment policy. Member views are not actively sought but the Trustees make a copy of the Statement of Investment Principles available to members on request and publish a copy of the Statement on a publicly accessible website.

Direct Investment

The Trustees will not hold investments directly and hence cannot exercise voting rights nor undertake investment engagement activities.

Incentivising investment Managers

As investments are made in pooled funds with defined charges and expenses, it is not possible directly to incentivise fund managers to align investments with the Trustees' policies, improve engagement or monitor transaction costs. Ultimately, the Trustees' remedy is likely to be to move to an alternative pooled fund.

Monitoring Turnover

The nature of the Fund's investments makes it impractical for the Trustees to monitor turnover or turnover costs directly. The performance figures that the Trustees and their investment consultant analyse are net of transactions costs, so this is taken into account indirectly.

Term of Manager Appointments

The investment in any particular pooled fund managers does not have a fixed term but can be terminated in the event of consistent underperformance or misalignment with the Trustees' objectives.

Employer-Related Investments

The policy of the Trustees is not to hold any employer-related investments as defined in the Pensions Act 1995 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 except where the Fund invests in collective investment schemes that may hold employer-related investments. In this case, the total exposure to employer-related investments will not exceed 5% of the Fund's total value. The Trustees will monitor this on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance.

Reporting

A report on the Fund's overall performance, and the Trustees' satisfaction with the management of the Fund's investments by its Investment Advisers and Managers, including in relation to Environmental, Social and Governance issues, are included in the Trustees' annual report.

APPENDIX A

Allocation of Assets between Funds

Manager	Fund	Allocation
Aberdeen Standard Investments	Liability Aware CDI 2026-28	10.0%
	Liability Aware CDI 2029-31	10.0%
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Pinebridge	Global Dynamic Allocation	7.5%
Kames	Diversified Growth	7.5%

APPENDIX B

Disinvestment of Assets

Where assets need to be disinvested, moneys will be drawn from the LGIM Global Equity Fixed Weights (50:50) Index Fund, unless the Trustees decide otherwise.

The Chief Financial Officer of the Association will determine the dealing date on which any disinvestments will be made after taking into account the Fund's need for cash from time to time and obtaining the approval of the Trustees.