



Investment Strategy Statement

June 2023





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Introduction

The Local Government Pension Scheme (“LGPS”), of which the fund is a part, is established under the Superannuation Act 1972 and is regulated by a series of regulations made under the 1972 Act.

All LGPS funds in England and Wales are required to have an investment strategy statement (“ISS” or “statement”). Regulation 7 of The LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 governs the requirements of this statement. The Shropshire County Pension Fund (the “fund”) has complied with these requirements.

Under the regulations the Secretary of State has the power to intervene in the investment function of an administering authority if the administering authority does not have regard to the regulations, guidance or if other concerns are raised. This may include changing the ISS and, in the extreme, the transfer of investment powers to the Secretary of State or another nominated person.

Shropshire Council (the “authority”) is the administering authority for the fund.

This ISS has been prepared by the fund’s Pensions Committee (the “committee”), following advice received from the fund’s consultant, Aon Solutions UK Limited (“Aon”).

The document takes account of the fund's:

Approach to pooling

- the authority’s approach to the pooling of investments, including the use of collective investment vehicles and shared services.

Asset allocation and risk

- to ensure that asset allocation strategies are sufficiently diversified;
- to include the authority’s assessment of the suitability of asset classes;
- set out the maximum percentage of the total value of all investments that it will invest in particular asset classes.
- to include the authority’s approach to risk, the assessment of risks and how they are to be managed.



Policies regarding investments

- the authority's policy on how social, environmental and corporate governance considerations are taken into account in the selection, non-selection, retention and realisation of investments.
- the authority's policy on the exercise of the rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments.

The ISS will be reviewed every three years after the investment strategy has been reviewed and is confirmed as fit for purpose. In addition, the ISS will be reviewed following changes to the investment strategy.

A copy of this ISS will be made available on request to any interested party.

1. Governance

Shropshire Council has delegated responsibility for the management of the fund to the Pensions Committee. The Pensions Committee has responsibility for establishing investment policy and on-going implementation.

The Pensions Committee is made up of nine members comprising both elected councillors and a non-voting employee and pensioner representative.

Members of the Pensions Committee recognise that they have a fiduciary duty to safeguard, above all else, the financial interests of the fund's beneficiaries. Beneficiaries, in this context, are considered to be the fund members (pensioners, employees and employers), other stakeholders being local council taxpayers.

Decisions affecting the fund's investment strategy are taken with appropriate advice from the fund's advisers. Only persons or organisations with the necessary skills, information and resources take decisions affecting the fund. The members of the Pensions Committee will ensure they receive training as and when deemed appropriate, to enable them to critically evaluate any advice they receive.



The committee receives independent investment advice from the following sources:

- Philip Hebson - strategic and overall investment approach advice.
- Aon Investments Limited (“Aon”) (the Investment Consultant) - analysis and advice of a technical nature in relation to all investment related aspects of the fund.

The fund's LGPS Senior Officer has responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1972 and provides financial (non-investment) advice to the committee, including advice on financial management, issues of compliance with internal regulations and controls, budgeting and accounting and liaison with independent advisers.

Local Pensions Board

The role of the Local Pensions Board is to assist in the good governance of the scheme through the monitoring of adherence to statutory duties.

The board consists of three employer and three member representatives.

The Pensions Board is not a decision-making body, nor does it hold a scrutiny function; its role is to assist in the compliance with scheme rules.

Investment principles

Details to the extent to which the Pensions Committee complies with the six Myners principles and the extent to which management and investment arrangements at Shropshire comply (in accordance with the existing CIPFA guidance), and where not, what action is proposed in order to comply, are set out in Appendix A.

2. Approach to pooling

The fund is a participating member of the LGPS Central Pool. The proposed structure and basis on which the LGPS Central Pool (the “pool”) will operate was set out in the July 2016 submission to Government.

Assets to be invested in the pool

The fund's intention is to invest its assets through the LGPS Central Pool as and when suitable pool investment solutions become available. An indicative timetable for investing through the pool was set out in the July 2016 submission to Government.



The majority of the fund's liquid assets have been transferred to the pool, although it will take some time for the pool to restructure the assets into appropriate sub-funds. The majority of the sub-funds were set-up between 2018-2022 with the remainder due to go live in 2023/2024. The timing is dependent on market conditions and operational circumstances, and until such time as the appropriate sub-fund is set up the assets transferred into the pool will be overseen by LGPS Central on behalf of the fund. It is not expected that any significant decisions (e.g. replacement of a manager) will be taken on the assets transferred over to the pool without prior consultation with the fund, unless it is part of the process that leads to the setting up of a sub-fund.

At present it is expected that the fund's low carbon transition passive equity management including currency hedging alongside options based equity protection and absolute return managers and transitory cash will be held outside the pool.

Structure and governance of the LGPS Central Pool

The eight administering authorities of LGPS Central will all be equal shareholders of the company. A Shareholders' Forum, comprising of one elected member from each administering authority, will fulfil the shareholders' role in ensuring that the company is managed efficiently and effectively and in the best interests of the funds.

A Joint Committee, also comprising one elected member from each administering authority, has been formed that will hold the company to account on all investment-related issues. The Joint Committee has no decision-making powers and all actions that are felt to be appropriate will ultimately require approval at an individual fund level.

A Practitioners' Advisory Forum, comprising of officers of the administering authorities, has been set up. The intention of this forum is to provide support and guidance to elected members on some of the practical issues, and to act as a conduit between the Joint Committee and the committees of individual funds.

3. Asset allocation and risk

Strategic asset allocation

The fund's primary long term investment objective is to achieve and maintain a funding level at, or close to, 100% of the fund's estimated liabilities; and within this, to endeavour to



maintain low and stable employers' contribution rates. Given the constraints on local authority spending, volatility in the employer's contribution rate is undesirable.

The committee regards the choice of asset allocation policy as the decision that has most influence on the likelihood of achieving their investment objective. The committee retains direct responsibility for this decision which is made on the advice of their investment consultant with input from their fund actuary and in consultation with the employers within the fund.

The investment strategy will normally be reviewed every three years. The last review was undertaken in 2023. In addition, if there is a significant change in the capital markets, in the circumstances of the fund or in governing legislation then an earlier review may be conducted.

The committee formulates the investment strategy with a view to:

- the advisability of investing money in a wide variety of investments.
- the suitability of particular investments and types of investment.
- ensuring that asset allocation strategies are sufficiently diversified.

The committee will consider a full range of investment opportunities including:

- quoted and unquoted equity.
- government and non-government bonds.
- Property, private equity and infrastructure.
- absolute return investments such as hedge funds, absolute return bond funds, insurance linked securities and other liquid alternative investments.
- derivatives, including equity options.

The committee further considers the legality of all investments for compliance with the LGPS.

Investment beliefs

The following investment beliefs are taken into account when agreeing an asset allocation policy:

- A long-term approach to investment will deliver better returns.
- The long-term nature of the fund's liabilities is well suited to a long-term approach to investment.



- Asset allocation policy is the most important driver of long-term return.
- Risk premiums exist for certain types of assets and taking advantage of these can help to improve investment returns.
- Markets can be inefficient, and sometimes 'mispriced' for long periods of time, and there is a place for both active and passive investment management.
- Diversification across investments with low correlation improves the risk/return profile, but over-diversification is both costly and adds little value.
- The fund should be flexible enough in its asset allocation policy to take advantage of opportunities that arise as a result of market inefficiencies, and also flexible enough to protect against identifiable short-term risks when this is both practical and cost-effective.
- Responsible investment can enhance long term investment performance and the fund expects responsible investment integration to be a key part of the selection criteria for appointing new managers.
- Investment management fees are important and should be minimised wherever possible, but it is ultimately the net return to investors (i.e. the return after all fees and costs) that is the most important factor.

Asset-liability study and expected returns

The committee determines the strategic asset allocation policy after considering projections of the fund's assets and liabilities which are calculated by the fund's investment adviser, in liaison with the fund actuary. This asset-liability study examines different combinations of assets to determine which combination will best meet the fund's objectives.

The asset-liability study takes into account the particular liabilities of the fund.

In addition to a full specification of the fund's benefits, the study will make important assumptions about the behaviour of various asset classes (such as their expected return over long periods of time and the variability of those returns) and the liabilities in the future. In framing these assumptions, it is assumed that:

- Equities may be expected to outperform other asset classes over the long term, but the returns are more unpredictable over the short term. Gilts in turn can be expected to outperform cash deposits but with greater variability.
- Asset classes do not perform in the same way; some may go up in value while others are going down.



Expected annualised returns are formulated for each asset class based on long term capital market assumptions, using ten year expected returns and volatilities. The returns and volatilities used for each asset class are shown in the table below and represent the ten-year annualised nominal return assumptions from Aon as at 31 December 2020. These assumptions are consistent with the assumptions used for the 2023 investment strategy review.

Asset class	Absolute expected return %	Relative volatility %
Equities	7.5	17.2
Absolute return	5.7	5.4
Property	5.8	12.6
Private credit	7.5	8.7
Investment grade corporate bonds	5.4	6.8
Private equity	9.7	28.4
Infrastructure	7.3	18.7

Table 1 Asset classes with expected return and relative volatility.

Investment strategy and control ranges

The fund's strategic asset allocation was agreed by the Pensions Committee in June 2023 as follows:

Asset class	Allocation (%)	Control ranges
Equities*	55.0	50.0-60.0
Private equity	7.5	3.5-11.5
Infrastructure	7.5	3.5-11.5
Illiquid credit	7.5	3.5-11.5
Property	5.0	3.0-7.0
Absolute return	7.5	5.5-9.5
Investment grade corporate bonds	10.0	8.0-12.0

Table 2 Asset classes with allocation and control ranges

* The fund has implemented an equity derivatives programme with Legal & General Investment Management in order to manage the SCPF's exposure to equity markets over the short to medium term.



Note, allocations to private markets such as private equity, private credit and infrastructure will vary and can take time to build up due to their illiquid nature.

Rebalancing policy

Officers will review the position of the fund quarterly to ensure the assets are within the control ranges listed above and will rebalance as appropriate. Noting that for illiquid asset classes such as property, infrastructure, private equity and illiquid credit this will take some time.

Risk

The committee regards 'risk' as the likelihood that it fails to achieve the objectives set out above and has taken several measures, to minimise this risk as far as is possible. The fund's risk register has more information.

In particular, in arriving at the investment strategy and the production of this statement, the committee have considered the following key risks:

- asset-liability mismatch risk (asset allocation risk).
- the need to pay benefits when due (cash-flow risk).
- actions by the investment managers (investment risk).
- the failure of some investments (concentration risk).
- currency and counterparty risk.
- custody risk.

Asset allocation mismatch

The LGPS (the "scheme") is a defined benefit pension scheme which provides benefits related to the salary of members. The scheme is a contributory defined benefit arrangement, with active members and employing authorities contributing to the scheme.

The value of the fund's ongoing liabilities is sensitive to various demographic (principally longevity) and financial factors. The financial factors relevant to the fund's investment policy are:

- the rate of return on assets.
- salary escalation and price inflation for active members.
- price inflation for deferred members.



- price inflation for pensioners.

In terms of magnitude, the committee considers asset-liability mismatch risk to be one of the most important to control. Therefore, following each actuarial valuation, the committee conducts an asset-liability review, which focuses on the impact of asset allocation on expected future funding levels. The committee considers the results using advanced modelling techniques and, with the assistance of expert advisers, are able to measure and quantify them in terms of their definitions of risk. This allows the committee to assess the probabilities of critical funding points associated with different investment strategies. Consideration is given to the volatility of a number of parameters (e.g. items associated with accounting measures, contributions etc.), to further assess the potential risks associated with a particular investment strategy.

Cash-flow risk

The fund remains open to new members and new accruals. Contributions are received from both active members and employers within the fund. Active members contribute on a tiered system. Contributions from employers within the fund are determined based on advice from the fund actuary based on the triennial valuation.

The majority of investments held within the fund are quoted on major markets and may be realised quickly, if required. Certain asset classes, private credit, private equity, infrastructure and property are relatively illiquid and may take longer to realise, if required. The fund also receives income from many of its investments.

Investment risk

The committee believe the use of active management within the fund will increase the likelihood that the fund will meet its objectives. The decision as to whether to pursue active management is evaluated separately for each asset class, with regard to the potential reward within that asset class for taking on active manager risk.

Active manager risk is then diversified through the use of different investment managers and pooled funds.

The committee also avails of passive management where they believe the extra risk and costs of active management would not benefit the fund and to manage overall risk.



The fund's assets are invested in portfolios managed by external investment managers shown in appendix B. They are benchmarked against the indicated indices. Based on expert advice (unless the assets are invested in the LGPS Central Pool in which case this will be delegated to the pool), investment managers may be replaced at any time and this list may not always be current.

The performance targets for the investment manager(s) are shown in appendix B. Shropshire Council recognises that these targets will not be met in all periods under consideration but expects that they will be met in the vast majority of long-term periods under consideration. In addition, the return generated on the passive equities is constrained by the equity protection strategy the fund has in place with Legal & General.

Each investment manager appointed by the committee (unless the assets are invested in the LGPS Central Pool in which case this will be delegated to the pool) is bound by the terms and conditions of an Investment Management Agreement where restrictions and targets are clearly documented, including a measure of risk. The pooled fund investments and direct investments are governed by the terms and conditions of the fund and or policy documents.

Frequent monitoring of portfolio performance and exposure characteristics also aids in the ongoing risk management for the fund (unless the assets are invested in the LGPS Central Pool in which case this will be delegated to the pool).

Concentration risk

The split between asset classes has been set to ensure there is not excessive exposure to any particular asset class or specific risk such as equities or credit risk.

To ensure that asset allocation is sufficiently diversified the committee considers a full range of investment opportunities including those available through the LGPS Central Pool. In addition, investment opportunities outside the pooling arrangements will be considered if they are not already or likely to be available through the pool, and there are suitable resources to invest in and monitor the investment.

Appropriate advice will be sought on alternative asset classes when setting the strategy and as opportunities arise.

Currency and counterparty risk

Passive equity investments are fully currency hedged by the investment manager.



Some investment managers may take active currency positions based on their mandates.

The committee has delegated responsibility for the counterparty risk to the investment manager(s) (unless the assets are invested in LGPS pooled arrangements in which case this will be delegated to the pool who may further delegate to investment managers).

Legal & General shall manage the fund's margin or payment requirements arising in respect of the equity protection strategy.

Custody risk

The committee regards the safekeeping of the fund's assets as of paramount importance and has appointed Northern Trust company as global custodian and record-keeper of the fund's assets.

Stock lending

The fund reactivated its security lending policy with Northern Trust in February 2011, having temporarily paused the lending activity in the period after the collapse of Lehman Brothers. The collateral arrangements for the lending programme have been tightened on advice from Aon, and the programme restarted.

The manager(s) of pooled funds may undertake a certain amount of stock lending on behalf of unitholders. Where a pooled fund engages in this activity the extent is fully disclosed by the manager (unless the assets are invested in LGPS pooled arrangements in which case this will be delegated to the pool).

Monitoring

The committee monitors the strategy and its implementation as follows:

- The committee receives, on a quarterly basis, a written report on the returns of the fund and asset classes together with supporting analysis.
- The performance of the total fund is also measured against the strategic benchmark, which is comprised of the asset class benchmarks weighted by the strategic allocations, and against agreed outperformance targets.
- The performance of the fund in each asset class is measured against the relevant benchmark. A comparison against a universe of portfolios with similar mandates will also be made from time to time.



The officers, in conjunction with the investment consultant, will regularly review the allocation of assets between the different asset classes.

Service provider monitoring

The committee reviews from time to time the services provided by the investment consultant and independent investment adviser and other service providers as necessary to ensure that the services provided remain appropriate for the fund.

Investment manager fees

Investment management fees comprise an ad valorem or fixed base fee element and in some cases a performance-based element. The ad valorem fee is calculated as a percentage of assets under management. Where applicable, the performance-based element is calculated as a percentage of outperformance. The assessment period ranges from one to three years depending on the investment manager and the mandate. The exact details of the fee arrangements are specific to the investment manager and are as agreed in the respective investment manager agreements or pooled fund documentation (unless the assets are invested in the LGPS Central Pool in which case this will be delegated to the pool).

4. Policies regarding investments

Social, environmental and corporate governance considerations

The committee believes that acting as a responsible investor of the fund's assets should be fully integrated into investment decision-making. The committee therefore seeks to ensure that the fund considers all aspects of responsible investment. This includes investment manager appointments and monitoring, through to discharging the rights and responsibilities of asset ownership, in order to encourage and promote high standards of governance and corporate responsibility, in the underlying companies and assets in which the fund invests. The committee believes that ultimately, high standards of governance and corporate responsibility creates long-term value for the fund and its beneficiaries.

The committee has developed a climate change strategy and stewardship plan. The committee also reports in line with the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) on an annual basis, outlining climate related metrics, risks and opportunities.



Climate change strategy

The fund's climate change strategy aims to identify, understand and assess climate change risks and opportunities across regions and sectors that are material to the fund. This includes relevant climate-related transition and physical risks and opportunities that are likely to impact the fund's investment and funding strategy. Strategic actions include but are not limited to:

- Measuring climate-related risks and opportunities through triennial economic assessment of the fund's asset allocation against plausible climate-related scenarios.
- Assessing material climate-related risks and opportunities, alongside the manager's approach to mitigating these risks as part of the selection and due diligence of new funds.
- Joining collaborations of like-minded institutional investors to collectively lobby for Paris-aligned climate policies and promote engagement through LGPS Central.

This climate change strategy has been established to run for three years from September 2021 to September 2024 but will be reviewed annually.

Climate stewardship plan

Whilst the pooling company, LGPS Central, will report to the fund on engagement activity, the fund itself plays an active role in monitoring engagements and engaging with LGPS Central for further information if needed. As a result, the committee focuses on identifying specific investee companies and portfolio managers in which stewardship techniques can be leveraged to further understand and manage climate-related risks within the fund. In addition, CTI provides a responsible engagement overlay on the fund's global equity portfolios. CTI enters into constructive discussions with companies on the fund's behalf to propose better management of the negative impacts they might have on the environment and society in general, in order to improve financial returns.

Throughout the engagement activities carried out by and on behalf of the fund, coupled with the climate risk analysis as part of TCFD reporting, the fund has identified investment managers to ensure climate-related risk is fully integrated into their investment processes. The fund will engage its managers on the following issues:



Asset class	Topic
Equities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewardship activities with companies identified in the climate risk report.• The influence of climate factors on sector positioning
Fixed income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approach to assessing climate risk in the absence of reported GHG emissions data.• Engagement with the most intensive carbon issuers• Extent of investment in green bonds
Real assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical risk resilience• GRESB participation

Table 3 Asset classes and topics

The fund will report on progress annually on its stewardship objectives through its public facing climate risk report. During the annual refresh of the carbon risk metrics analysis as part of the TCFD reporting, the focus list of investee companies and fund managers will be reviewed and amended if required.

Industry initiatives

Shropshire Council has signed, as a tier 1 signatory, to the previous UK Stewardship Code and submitted its application to become a signatory of the new UK Stewardship Code ("the code") in May 2023.

The principles of the UK Stewardship Code are included in appendix C for information.

In addition, the fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum. This is a special interest group of the Local Government Association that exists to promote the investment interests of local authority pension funds. The forum aims to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate social responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest. The forum issues research and guidance relating to climate change and employment standards and promotes best investment practice for the Local Government Pension Scheme nationally. The forum regularly engages directly with large companies in this regard and has been effective in improving companies understanding of the requirements of investors.

The exercise of the rights attaching to investments

The committee has delegated responsibility for the selection, retention and realisation of investments to the investment manager(s) (unless the assets are invested in LGPS pooled arrangements in which case this will be delegated to the pool who may further delegate to investment managers).



The committee expects the investment managers to take steps to ensure that environmental, social and governance factors are adequately addressed in the selection, retention and realisation of investments as far as such factors may affect investment performance (unless the assets are invested in LGPS pooled arrangements in which case this will be delegated to the pool who may further delegate to investment managers).

The committee supports the principle of good corporate governance. It has reviewed and accepted the corporate governance policies of its investment manager(s) who exercise its voting rights. Votes are cast by proxy. Investment manager(s) provide reports when any voting rights are exercised (unless the assets are invested in LGPS pooled arrangements in which case this will be delegated to the pool). Only direct investments in traded equity shares carry such voting rights.



Appendix A

Myners Principles for Institutional Investment Decision Making

Principle	Comply or explain	Comment/examples
<p>1. Effective decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrating authorities should ensure that: decisions are taken by persons or organisations with the skills, knowledge, advice and resources necessary to make them effectively and monitor their implementation Those persons or organisations have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate and challenge the advice they receive and manage conflicts of interest 	Comply	<p>Pensions Committee takes decisions relating to setting investment objectives and strategic asset allocation, appointment of investment managers. Pensions Committee members, substitute members and officers participate in regular training, attend educational seminars and receive papers and presentations at committee meetings. The training requirements of new Pensions Committee members are addressed and appropriate training programmes made available, with a formal training programme being submitted to the committee for consideration on an annual basis.</p>
<p>2. Clear objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall investment objective should be set out for the fund that takes account of the scheme’s liabilities, the potential impact on local taxpayers, the strength of the covenant for non-local authority employers and the attitude to risk of both the administrating authority and scheme employers, and these should be clearly communicated to advisors and investment managers 	Comply	<p>A fund specific investment objective is set to maintain a funding level at, or close to 100% and within this, to endeavor to maintain low and stable employers’ contribution rates. As set out in the funding strategy statement, the actuary takes account of a range of factors on the fund’s liabilities in setting contribution rates as part of the valuation process.</p> <p>Performance and risk parameters are specified in relation to relevant indices and appropriate time periods and are set out in investment mandates.</p>
<p>3. Risk and liabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In setting and reviewing their investment strategy administrating authorities should take account of the form and structure of liabilities. These include the implications for local taxpayers, the strength of the covenant for participating employers, the risk of their default and longevity risk 	Comply	<p>Asset/liability review is carried out every three years and the actuary take account of a range of factors on the fund’s liabilities as set out in the fund’s funding strategy statement which addresses the issues of financial assumptions, longevity and strength of covenant. If required, the actuarial funding position can be reported to the Pensions Committee on a quarterly basis, using information provided by Aon.</p>



4. Performance assessment

- Arrangements should be in place for formal measurement of performance of the investments, investment managers and advisors
- Administrating authorities should also periodically make a formal assessment of their own effectiveness as a decision-making body and report on this to scheme members

Comply

The officers have an independent performance measurer in place. They also receive regular updates from Aon regarding managers and the officers meet regularly with their managers and advisors to review their performance. The fund has assessed its effectiveness as a decision-making body and aims to spend more time on strategic level and asset allocation decisions compared to meeting managers going forwards.

5. Responsible ownership

- Administrating authorities should
- Adopt or ensure their investment managers adopt, the Institutional Shareholders' Committee Statement of Principles on the responsibilities of shareholders and agents
- Include a statement of their policy on responsible ownership in the statement of investment principles
- Report periodically to scheme members on the discharge of such responsibilities

Comply

The investment strategy statement includes a statement on responsible ownership.

Specialist external companies are appointed to engage with companies on socially responsible issues and voting at company meetings is affected through the fund's investment managers/LGPS Central.

6. Transparency and reporting

- Administrating authorities should
- Act in a transparent manner, communicating with stakeholders on issues relating to their management of investment, its governance and risks, including performance against stated objectives
- Provide regular communication to scheme members in the form they consider most appropriate

Comply

A range of documents are published relating to the fund's investment management and governance including the governance compliance statement, funding strategy statement, investment strategy statement, communication policy statement, climate strategy & stewardship plan, TCFD reports and annual report and accounts. These documents are available in full on the fund's website and any amendments are published.



Appendix B

Investment manager mandates

Active portfolios

Investment manager	Asset class	Benchmark	Target
PIMCO Europe Ltd	Absolute return (bonds)	1 month Sterling SONIA	+2% p.a.
BlackRock	Absolute return (bonds)	3 month US Govt T-Bills hedged to GBP	+4% p.a.
T. Rowe Price	Absolute return (bonds)	3 month Sterling SONIA	+3% p.a.
LGPS Central	Global equities	MSCI All Country World NDR	+1.5% p.a. over rolling 3 year periods
LGPS Central Global Sustainable Equities	Global equities	FTSE All World	Excess return
Harbour Vest Partners Limited	Illiquid growth – private equity	Broad public equities index	+3% p.a.
LGPS Central	Private equity	FTSE All World Index	Excess return
Global Infrastructure Management	Illiquid growth - infrastructure	CPI	+5% p.a.
LGPS Central	Illiquid growth - infrastructure	n/a	+3.5%
Abrdn PLC	Property	MSCI IPD UK All Property Index	Match benchmark
BlackRock	Absolute return (hedge funds)	3 month Sterling SONIA	+4% p.a.
DRC Capital	Illiquid credit	n/a	Absolute 6.0% p.a.
LGPS Central	Illiquid credit	n/a	Absolute 6.0% p.a.
Securis	Absolute return (insurance linked securities)	3 month US Govt T-Bills hedged to GBP	+5.0% p.a.

Indexed (passive) portfolios

Investment manager	Asset class	Benchmark	Target
Legal & General Investment Management	Global equity	Low Carbon Index – GBP Currency Hedged	Match benchmark*

* This shows the benchmark of the SCPF's equities managed by Legal & General Investment Management. In addition, the fund has implemented an equity protection programme (using derivatives) with Legal & General Investment Management in order to manage the SCPF's exposure to equity markets over the short to medium term.



Note some of these manager mandates will be reviewed following implementation of the new investment strategy and once LGPS Central have solutions in place.

Appendix C

Principles of the UK Stewardship Code

UK Stewardship Code 2020 consists of twelve Principles grouped into four areas, namely:

- Purpose and governance;
- Investment approach;
- Engagement;
- Exercising rights and responsibilities.

Purpose and governance

1. Signatories' purpose, investment beliefs, strategy, and culture enable stewardship that creates long-term value for clients and beneficiaries leading to sustainable benefits for the economy, the environment and society.
2. Signatories' governance, resources and incentives support stewardship.
3. Signatories manage conflicts of interest to put the best interests of clients and beneficiaries first.
4. Signatories identify and respond to market-wide and systemic risks to promote a well-functioning financial system.
5. Signatories review their policies, assure their processes and assess the effectiveness of their activities.

Investment approach

6. Signatories take account of client and beneficiary needs and communicate the activities and outcomes of their stewardship and investment to them.
7. Signatories systematically integrate stewardship and investment, including material environmental, social and governance issues, and climate change, to fulfil their responsibilities.
8. Signatories monitor and hold to account managers and/or service providers.

Engagement



9. Signatories engage with issuers to maintain or enhance the value of assets.
10. Signatories, where necessary, participate in collaborative engagement to influence issuers.
11. Signatories, where necessary, escalate stewardship activities to influence issuers.

Exercising right and responsibilities

12. Signatories actively exercise their rights and responsibilities.



Contact Details

The Shropshire County Pension Fund is a data controller under data-protection law. This means we store, hold and manage your personal information in line with statutory requirements to enable us to provide you with pension administration services. To enable us to carry out our statutory duty, we must share your information with certain bodies, but will only do so in limited circumstances. For more information about how we hold your information, who we share it with and what rights you have, you can ask for this information from the fund, please visit www.shropshirecountypensionfund.co.uk.

If you can read this but know someone who cannot, please contact us on 01743 252130 so we can provide this information in a more suitable format.

Office hours

Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5.00pm

Friday 8.45am to 4.00pm

Helpdesk phonelines are open Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm (excluding Bank Holidays).

Contact details

Email: pensions@shropshire.gov.uk

Website: www.shropshirecountypensionfund.co.uk

Tel: 01743 252130

Write: Pensions, PO Box 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ

Administered by

