

Pensions Risk Register

Risk Scenario			Current Risk Rating			Future controls	Future risk rating		
Risk	Assigned to	Existing Controls	Impact	Likelihood	Risk factor		Impact	Likelihood	Risk Factor
<b>Governance Risks</b>									
If other scheme employers cease trading or operating for any reason the Scheme Actuary will calculate a cessation valuation of their liabilities. If that employer cannot meet that liability the Council has to make good the shortfall.	Governance and Compliance Manager	Employers contributions are monitored on a monthly basis. Council officers rely on good communications to identify any problems at the earliest stage. The range of remedies includes reporting to The Pensions Regulator, involving other statutory bodies, such as the Education Funding Agency, up to court enforcement action.	3	4	12	The team are currently putting in place an employer risk strategy, which will lead to the early identification of employers at risk. The Government (MHCLG) have consulted on this issue and mitigations should reduce the potential impact of this risk.	3	3	9
<b>Funding - Assets and Liabilities Risks</b>									
The Fund's invested assets are not sufficient to meet its current or future liabilities.	Head of Pensions and Treasury	A formal actuarial valuation is carried out every three years, although the Government have consulted on changing this to every 4 years. This results in a Funding Strategy Statement which is regularly reviewed to ensure contribution rates and the investment strategy are set to meet the long term solvency of the Fund. The Scheme Actuary's view is that there is a 75% chance that the funding target will be achieved. The current strategy will be brought to the Committee before the end of the year.	4	3	12	Officers are looking at ways of monitoring the funding level on a more frequent basis rather than waiting for a full valuation every three years, although this needs to be done efficiently and in a cost effective manner. When the current valuation is completed officers will work with the Actuary to seek a cost efficient way of more frequent monitoring.	4	2	8
Between a quarter and a third of the Fund is held in illiquid investments. This means there is a risk that the authority might find itself with insufficient cash to meet short term and medium term liabilities without having to disinvest and thus damage the prospects of generating adequate investment returns.	Pension Fund Investment Manager	The Fund's contribution income is currently enough to cover the short term liabilities. This is kept under constant review and officers monitor the cashflow carefully on a monthly basis. The Council is currently forward funding the Pension Fund which provides a buffer. This cash will be invested in liquid assets to mitigate this risk.	3	4	12	Officers have identified a potential cash shortfall due to the changing investment strategy towards alternatives. At present, all dividend income is reinvested but officers are monitoring cash flow requirements to ensure that this remains an efficient part of maintaining sufficient funds to meet immediate liabilities.	3	2	6
There is a current risk that academies are not paying over contributions, which involves the administering authority in incurring unnecessary costs.	Governance and Compliance Manager	The authority has retained legal advisors to mitigate this risk, possibly through legal channels. The most significant case, in terms of contributions due, is currently being considered by the Pensions Ombudsman.	3	5	15	The decision of the Ombudsman is still awaited and this is likely to be an issue requiring attention for some time.	3	5	15

<p>Under the S.13 reporting regime, the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) form a view of the viability of LGPS funds. Using GAD assumptions, rather than the Scheme Actuary's, the Fund is in the bottom decile for funding. There is a risk that the Government may intervene in the investment of the Fund.</p>	<p>Head of Pensions and Treasury</p>	<p>The current Scheme Actuary has indicated that there is a 75% likelihood that the Scheme will be fully funded in 22 years.</p>	<p>4            3            12</p>	<p>The authority is revisiting the funding position and contribution levels during the current valuation. Initial draft results from the valuation are encouraging.</p>	<p>4            2            8</p>
<p><b>Investment Risks</b></p>					
<p>There is a risk that, under any set of circumstances, an asset class will underperform. The Fund has a significant allocation to several single asset categories for example, equities, fixed interest, property or alternatives - which potentially leaves the Fund exposed to the possibility that a particular class of assets will underperform relative to expectation.</p>	<p>Pension Fund Investment Manager</p>	<p>The investment allocation mix is in a variety of uncorrelated investments designed to give a diverse portfolio, meaning any one investment class should not unduly impact on the performance of the overall portfolio if it underperforms relative to expectation. Due to a re-balancing exercise carried out during 2018-2019 investments are now in accordance with the allocation strategy.</p>	<p>4            3            12</p>	<p>A new asset allocation strategy is currently being considered to take effect from 1 April 2020.</p>	<p>3            2            6</p>
<p>The London CIV is experiencing problems recruiting to key roles, including to the Chief Investment Officer vacancy. This raises a number of concerns, including: fund launches; progress on the ESG project; and expanded permissions from the FCA. This latter point relates to their ability to transition funds.</p>	<p>Head of Pensions and Treasury</p>	<p>The Fund retains the services of an external consultant to assess the efficacy of transitions. This is a backward-looking review and the Fund does not have visibility of the process when the transition is happening or when the Fund is out of the market. The fund can rely on its investment advisor to ensure ESG issues are adequately addressed. Fund launches will be carefully monitored.</p>	<p>4            3            12</p>	<p>The appointment of a new Chief Investment Officer is not likely to start until 2020/21 and until the the post will be filled by an interim.</p>	<p>4            4            16</p>
<p>Specific macro-economic risks are addressed below but there is a more general, underlying risk of a global collapse in investment markets. The markets have experienced a continuous sequence of such events: Latin American sovereign debt; Black Friday crash; the Dot.com bubble; sub-prime and credit crunch. Other crises are inevitable.</p>	<p>Pension Fund Investment Manager</p>	<p>The discount rate assumption is reviewed at every valuation to ensure it gives appropriate views on future return expectations. The Fund is also well-diversified which provides a degree of protection.</p>	<p>4            3            12</p>	<p>A new asset allocation strategy is currently being considered to take effect from 1 April 2020. Consultations with the Fund's Investment Adviser are ongoing to ensure that, so far as possible, the Fund remains conscious of these risks and is taking reasonable precautions eg recently a currency hedging exercise has been carried out.</p>	<p>4            3            12</p>

<p>There is a risk that a "Hard Brexit" will result in disruption to the way that fund managers can operate and that this will have a deleterious impact on the Fund.</p>	<p>Head of Pensions and Treasury</p>	<p>The Government has rolled out a temporary permissions regime and EU27 governments are introducing mirror regimes to allow existing arrangements to continue. All the significant EU markets have introduced such regimes. However, a long-term solution to passporting has not been agreed.</p>	<p>3      4      12</p>	<p>There will be unresolved problems for a number of years due to the scale and complexity of the issue. The Fund will expect its managers to take all necessary steps to ensure they are prepared as well as possible for the developing situation.</p>	<p>3      3      9</p>
<p>There are a number of specific geopolitical risks which could affect the performance of global equities. The ones most likely to impact on the Fund are global trade tensions especially those arising from US/China competition. Others with potentially serious impact are internal US politics, Gulf tensions, and Brexit.</p>	<p>Pension Fund Investment Manager</p>	<p>Equities have performed well to the extent that the Fund was over-weight in the asset class. This has now been addressed.</p>	<p>4      3      12</p>	<p>The rebalancing has now been completed and the allocation strategy is being reviewed.</p>	<p>3      2      6</p>
<p><b>Operational Risks</b></p>					