

# Statement of Investment Principles 2014/15

## Statement of Investment Principles

### 1. Overall Responsibility

The County Council is the designated statutory body responsible for administering the Surrey Pension Fund on behalf of the constituent Scheduled and Admitted Bodies. The Council is responsible for setting investment policy, appointing suitable persons to implement that policy and carrying out regular reviews and monitoring of investments. The content of this Statement reflects the County Council's compliance with the requirements of the Myners Review of Institutional Investment, which can be found at Annex 2.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2005 came into effect on 14 December 2005. The Regulations provide the statutory framework within which LGPS administering authorities are required to publish a governance policy statement.

A copy of the Surrey Pension Fund's current governance policy statement can be found on the County Council's website. [www.surreypensionfund.org](http://www.surreypensionfund.org)

Investment policy and associated monitoring and review are delegated to the Surrey Pension Fund Board, which is made up of:

- six nominated members of the County Council;
- two representatives from the Borough/District Councils nominated by the Surrey Local Government Association;
- one representative from the external employers;
- one representative of the members of the Fund.

The Pension Fund Board is advised by a representative of the Fund's professional investment advisor, an independent advisor, the Chief Finance Officer and the Strategic Finance Manager (Pension Fund and Treasury).

The Pension Fund Board meets on a quarterly basis.

### 2. Investment Objectives

The Pension Fund Board seeks to ensure that the Pension Fund has sufficient assets to be able to meet its long term obligations to pay pensions to the Fund's members, i.e., over the long term to be at or above a 100% funding level. It also has an objective to maintain employer contribution rates as reasonably stable and affordable as possible. In order to meet these objectives, a number of secondary objectives have been agreed:

- i) To have a clearly articulated strategy for achieving and maintaining a fully funded position over a suitable long term time horizon; the Board recognises that funding levels can be volatile from year to year depending as they do both on investment market levels and on estimates of liability values, so the long-term strategy needs to be capable of steering a steady course through changing market environments.

- ii) To have a strategic asset allocation that is both well diversified and expected to provide long term investment returns in excess of the anticipated rise in the Fund's liabilities.
- iii) To appoint managers that the Board believes can consistently achieve the performance objectives set and to give each appointed manager a clearly defined benchmark and performance objective against which they can be judged.
- iv) To ensure investment risk is monitored regularly both in absolute terms (the risk of losing money) and relative to the Fund's liabilities (the risk of funding shortfalls); the Board will have regard to best practice in managing risk.
- v) To have sufficient liquid resources available to meet the Fund's ongoing obligations.
- vi) To achieve an overall Fund return 1% per annum in excess of the overall benchmark over rolling three-year periods.

### 3. Investment Style and Management

The Board has delegated day-to-day management of various parts of the Fund to external fund managers each of which has been given an explicit benchmark and performance objective. The Board retains responsibility for ensuring the mix of managers and by implication the overall asset allocation is suitable for the long-term objectives defined above.

The Board has appointed two different types of manager: 'Index Relative' who seek to achieve a return relative to a market index within a specified asset type and 'Absolute Return' who seek to achieve a desired return outcome by moving between different asset types.

#### ***Index Relative managers***

The managers in this category have been set differing performance targets and will take accordingly differing levels of risk relative to the benchmark index they are given.

*Passive* mandates seek to replicate the market index as closely as possible and are expected to take very little relative risk. Typically, such portfolios will have the largest number of individual holdings each of which will be close to the index weighting. The expected performance should be within 0.5% of the index return in any year.

*Core active* mandates seek to achieve a performance between 0.75% per annum and 2% per annum ahead of the relevant market index. Typically, core active mandates have diversified portfolios and take medium levels of relative risk. Most managers will only be appointed to manage a single asset class (for example, global equities, bonds or property).

*Concentrated active* mandates seek to outperform their relevant index by 3% per annum or more and take larger relative risks by owning a smaller number of individual holdings. The Pension Fund Board usually confines such mandates to specialist managers in regional equities.

### ***Absolute Return managers***

The managers in this category are all expected to achieve returns well ahead of cash or inflation in the long-term.

*Diversified Growth* managers use a very broad range of asset classes and actively vary allocations between asset types depending on investment market conditions. They will also use derivatives from time to time to limit the scope for large falls in value. The expected returns from such mandates will be close to the long term return from equity markets but with much less volatility.

*Absolute return* managers also seek to achieve good long term returns with dampened down volatility, but typically they are focused on a particular investment area. The desired outcome is similar to *Diversified Growth* mandates but with possibly greater variability across mandate types and usually with a much smaller amount invested in each capability.

### **Fees**

The level of fees paid to managers varies greatly according to the complexity of the mandate and the geographic area involved. Fees are usually expressed as a proportion of assets under management. There may also be additional performance related fee charges.

Fees for passive mandates tend to be very low, particularly in developed markets where information is readily available. Fees are higher for mandates that require greater manager skill. Typically a concentrated active mandate will have a higher fee rate than a core active manager and a small absolute return mandate will have a higher fee rate than a larger diversified growth mandate.

### **Current Manager Structure**

The table below shows the current asset allocation and manager structure of the Fund.

	Category	Allocation Policy %	Fund %	Control Range% +/-
<b>Equities</b>			<b>63.0</b>	<b>+/-3.0</b>
UK			29.0	
<i>Legal and General</i>	<i>Passive</i>	10.0		
<i>Majedie</i>	<i>Concentrated Active</i>	7.0		
<i>Mirabaud</i>	<i>Concentrated Active</i>	4.0		
<i>UBS</i>	<i>Core Active</i>	8.0		
Overseas			34.0	
<i>Legal and General</i>	<i>Passive</i>	14.0		
<i>Marathon</i>	<i>Concentrated Active</i>	12.0		
<i>Newton</i>	<i>Core Active</i>	8.0		
<b>Property</b>			<b>7.0</b>	<b>+/-3.0</b>
<i>CBRE</i>	<i>Core Active</i>	7.0		
<b>Alternatives</b>			<b>10.0</b>	<b>+/-3.0</b>
<i>Standard Life</i>	<i>Diversified growth</i>	6.0		
<i>Baillie Gifford</i>	<i>Diversified growth</i>	4.0		
<b>Bonds</b>			<b>20.0</b>	<b>+/-3.0</b>
Fixed interest gilts			5.25	
<i>Legal and General</i>	<i>Passive</i>	2.5		
<i>Western</i>	<i>Core Active</i>	2.75		
Index linked gilts			4.0	
<i>Legal and General</i>	<i>Passive</i>	4.0		
Corporate bonds			8.0	
<i>Legal and General</i>	<i>Passive</i>	2.5		
<i>Western</i>	<i>Core Active</i>	5.5		
Total Return			2.75	
<i>Franklin Templeton</i>	<i>Unconstrained</i>	2.75		
<b>Total</b>			<b>100.0</b>	

The Fund also has a commitment to invest up to 5% of the fund in private equity. This allocation is achieved by investing both in fund of funds and direct funds, managed by a number of private equity specialists. The investments are funded through cash flow. The Pension Fund Board reviews the private equity strategy on an annual basis and makes commitments in order to achieve the target commitment level of 5% of the Fund.

Fees paid to managers vary due to the levels of risk taken and the geographic areas in which the manager is invested. Fees are generally expressed as a proportion of assets under management. Performance fees are in place for a number of the Fund's managers. The following table shows the Fund's private equity investments as at 31 March 2013.

Name	Currency	Inception	Commitment £/€//\$
<b>UK Funds</b>			
HG Capital MUST 3	£	2001	2.0
HG Capital MUST 4	£	2002	3.0
HG Capital 5	£	2006	10.0
HG Capital 6	£	2009	10.0
HG Capital 7	£	2013	15.0
ISIS II	£	1999-2002	12.0
ISIS III	£	2003	14.0
ISIS IV	£	2007	15.0
ISIS Growth Fund	£	2013	10.0
Darwin Property Fund	£	2013	20.0
<b>Euro Fund of Funds</b>			
Standard Life ESP II	€	2004	10.0
Standard Life ESP 2006	€	2006	15.0
Standard Life ESP 2008	€	2008	15.0
Standard Life ESF	€	2011	17.5
Standard Life SOF	\$	2013	20.0
<b>US Fund of Funds</b>			
Blackrock Div PEP I	\$	2001	5.0
Blackrock Div PEP II	\$	2003	5.0
Blackrock Div EP III	\$	2005	17.5
GSAM PEP 2000	\$	2000	10.0
GSAM PEP 2004	\$	2004	10.0
GSAM PEP 2005	\$	2006	17.0
GSAM PEP X	\$	2008	18.0
GSAM PEP XI	\$	2011	18.0
GSAM Vintage Fund VI	\$	2013	20.0
<b>US Funds</b>			
Capital Dynamics US Solar Fund	\$	2011	25.0
Capital Dynamics Energy/Infra	\$	2013	25.0

#### 4. Policy on Kinds of Investment

The Pension Fund Board, having regard to funding levels, cash needs and risk tolerance, determines the overall Fund asset mix. The following table shows the strategic asset allocation benchmark for both the managed Fund (i.e. excluding private equity) and the total fund:

	Target Allocation exc. Private Equity	Target Allocation inc. Private Equity
Bonds	%	
Gilts	5.25	5.0
Corporate Bonds	8.0	7.6
Index-Linked gilts	4.0	3.8
Unconstrained	2.75	2.6
Property	7.0	6.7
Total Bonds/Property	27.0	25.7
UK Equity	29.0	27.5
Overseas Equity	34.0	32.3
Global	30.0	28.5
Emerging markets	4.0	3.8
Total Equity	63.0	59.8
Diversified Growth	10.0	9.5
Private Equity	n/a	5.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

#### Acceptable asset classes are:

- UK Equities
- UK Fixed Interest
- UK Index Linked Gilts
- UK Property through pooled funds
- Overseas Equities, major classes being:
  - North America
  - Europe
  - Pacific Rim including Japan
  - Emerging Markets
- Global Bonds
- Overseas Index Linked Stocks
- Unquoted Equities via Pooled Funds
- Emerging Market Equities via Pooled Funds, unless specifically authorised
- Direct investment in private equity funds or fund of funds

The use of derivatives and other financial instruments is permitted within pre-agreed limits for specific purposes such as asset allocation switches and currency hedging. Underwriting is permitted provided that the underlying stock is suitable on investment grounds and complies with existing investment criteria. Stock lending is only permitted subject to specific approval.

There are statutory limits on the proportion of the Fund that can be invested in certain types of investment as determined by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

## 5. Investment Performance Targets and Benchmarks

Manager	Portfolio	Benchmark Index	Performance Target
UBS	UK Equities	FTSE All Share	+2.0% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
Mirabaud	UK Equities	FTSE All Share	+2.5% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
Marathon	Global Equities	MSCI AC World	+2.0% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
Majedie	UK Equities – Long Only  UK Equities – Directional Long/Short	FTSE All Share  FTSE All Share	+2.5% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods Absolute return focused, but aims to out-perform the FTSE All Share Index by an unspecified amount over the long term
Newton	Global Equities	MSCI AC World	+2.0% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
Western	Fixed Income	70.0%: Markit i Boxx £ Non-Gilts ex-BBB All Stocks 30.0%: FTSE A UK Gilts – All Stocks	+0.75% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
Franklin Templeton	Unconstrained Global Fixed Income	Barclays Multiverse Index	+4% to 7% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
LGIM	Multi-Asset Equities and Bonds	Combination of indices as per agreed mandate	To track the performance of the respective indices within a lower level of tracking deviation (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
CBRE	Property	IPD UK All Balanced Funds	+0.5% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 3-year periods
Baillie Gifford	Diversified Growth	UK Base Rate	+3.5% p.a. (net of fees) over rolling 5-year periods
Standard Life	Diversified Growth	6 month LIBOR	+5.0% p.a. (gross of fees) over rolling 5-year periods
Internal	Private Equity	MSCI World Index	+5% p.a. (net of fees) over the life of the contract
Internal	Cash	LIBID 7-day rate	LIBID 7 day rate

The over-riding aim is to run the Pension Fund in accordance within the relevant legislation and subject to the following performance target: “to outperform the Surrey benchmark by 1% per annum over rolling 3-year periods, with a maximum underperformance of -2% in any one year.”

The overall Surrey benchmark is shown below in detail.

Type of funds	Level of Risk	Target Return Out-Performance p.a.
Passive (index-tracker)	Low	0 – 0.5%
Core Active	Medium	0.75% - 2.0%
Concentrated Active	High	2.0 - 2.5%
Diversified growth	Medium	3.5% - 5%
Unconstrained	Medium	4% - 7%
Total	Medium	1%

The performance target for the private equity Funds is to outperform returns on quoted UK Equities (FTSE All Share Index) by 2% per annum.

## 6 Risk Measurement and Management

There are a number of risks to which any investment is exposed. The Pension Fund Board recognises that, whilst increasing risk increases potential returns over a long period, it also increases the risk of a shortfall in returns relative to that required to cover the Fund’s liabilities as well as producing more short term volatility in the funding position.

In addition to targeting an appropriate overall level of investment risk, the Pension Fund Board seeks to spread risks across a range of different sources, believing that diversification limits the impact of any single risk. The Pension Fund Board aims to take on those risks for which a reward, in the form of excess returns, is expected over time.

The following risks are recognised and considered by the Pension Fund Board:

**Mismatch risk:** the primary risk upon which the Pension Fund Board focuses is the arising of a mismatch between the Fund's assets and its liabilities.

**Sponsor Covenant risk:** the financial capacity and willingness of the sponsoring employers to support the Fund is a key consideration of the Pension Fund Board and is reviewed on a regular basis.

**Diversification risk:** the Pension Fund Board recognises the risks that may arise from the lack of diversification of investments. Subject to managing the risk from a mismatch of assets and liabilities, the Pension Fund Board aims to ensure that the asset allocation policy results in an adequately diversified portfolio.



**Concentration risk:** the Pension Fund Board is also aware of concentration risk which arises, for example, when a high proportion of the Fund's assets are invested in securities, whether debt or equity, of the same or related issuers or in the same or similar industry sectors. The overall investment arrangements are intended to provide an appropriate spread of assets by type and spread of individual securities within each asset class.

**Liquidity risk:** the Pension Fund Board recognises that there is liquidity risk in holding assets that are not readily marketable and realisable. Given the long term investment horizon, the Pension Fund Board believes that a degree of liquidity risk is acceptable, given the potential return. The majority of the Fund's assets are realisable at short notice.

**Manager risk:** the Fund's assets are invested with a number of managers to provide appropriate diversification.

**Regulatory and political risk:** across all of the Fund's investments, there is the potential for adverse regulatory or political change. Regulatory risk arises from investing in a market environment where the regulatory regime may change. This may be compounded by political risk in those environments subject to unstable regimes. The Pension Fund Board will attempt to invest in a manner which seeks to minimise the impact of any such regulatory or political change should such a change occur.

**Exchange rate risk:** this risk arises from unhedged investment overseas. The Fund has a currency hedging policy in place: 50% of its exposure to the US dollar, Euro and Yen.

The documents governing the appointment of each investment manager include a number of guidelines which, among other things, are designed to ensure that only suitable investments are held by the Fund. The Investment Managers are prevented from investing in asset classes outside their mandate without the Pension Fund Board's prior consent.

Arrangements are in place to monitor the Fund's investments to help the Pension Fund Board check that nothing has occurred that would bring into question the continuing suitability of the current investments. To facilitate this, the Pension Fund Board meets with the Investment Managers from time to time, and receives regular reviews from the Investment Managers and its investment advisors.

The safe custody of the Fund's assets is delegated to professional custodians (either directly or via the use of pooled vehicles).

Should there be a material change in the Fund's circumstances, the Pension Fund Board will review whether and to what extent the investment arrangements should be altered; in particular whether the current risk exposure remains appropriate.

## **7 Policy on Balance Between Different Kinds of Investment**

The Council has set target asset allocation ranges for each kind of investment within the overall benchmark. Fund Managers are required to report quarterly their current country, sector or asset allocation positions, whichever is relevant, against their strategy, and to seek approval for variations to their strategies.

## **8 Policy on Realisation of Investments**

Fund Managers are required to maintain portfolios that consist of assets that are readily realisable. Any investment within an in-house or pooled fund, which is not readily tradable, requires specific approval.

## **9 Monitoring and Review**

The target funding level is set triennially, consequent upon the actuarial review. The statutory requirement is to move towards 100% funding over a period of time, agreed with the Fund Actuary as the average expected future working lifetime of the scheme membership (20 years).

Investment strategy will be reviewed annually, with a major review taking place no later than every five years. The SIP will also be reviewed annually.

A review of investment management arrangements is carried out at least every three years. Investment management performance is reviewed annually upon receipt of the third party performance information.

The individual manager's current activity and transactions are presented quarterly in discussion with the Pension Fund Board.

An Annual Meeting is held in November each year and is open to all Fund employers.

## **10 Stewardship and Responsible Investment**

The Council wishes to have an active influence on issues of environmental, social or governance (ESG) concern with companies in which the Pension Fund is a shareholder. It will seek to codify its approach with Fund Managers and will use the services of specialist agencies as necessary to identify issues of concern. The Council requires the Fund Managers to take into account the implications of substantial "extra-financial" considerations, e.g., ESG or reputational issues that could bring a particular investment decision into the public arena.

Whilst the Fund has no specific policy on investing or divesting in stock with regard to ESG issues, in comparing potential investment decisions, and where differences in predicted returns are deemed immaterial, external fund managers could deploy ESG considerations in deciding upon selection.

The Pension Fund also holds expectations of its fund managers to hold companies to account on the highest standards of behaviour and reputational risk management which may damage long term performance, and for those issues to be part of their stock selection criteria.

The Fund wishes to be an active shareholder and exercise its voting rights to promote and support good corporate governance principles. Share voting is undertaken in-house, after consultation with fund managers, and consultation with the Pension Fund Board on potentially contentious issues. A quarterly report will be posted to the Fund website.

The Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), a membership group of LGPS funds that campaigns on corporate governance issues, thus demonstrating a commitment to sustainable investment and the promotion of high standards of corporate governance and responsibility.

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## **11 Custody**

Managers are required to hold cash and stocks in an account managed by Northern Trust, the Fund's independent global custodian, or by agreement otherwise as appropriate. The Pension Fund aims to hold only a minimum working cash balance. A separate bank account is in place to hold any excess funds held by the administering authority for the purpose of day-to-day cash management of the pension fund.

## **12 Administration**

Funds officers prepare a quarterly report to the Pension Fund Board, preparing the audited annual report and financial statements in line with statutory deadlines, and maintain an up to date record of cash balances at Surrey to ensure surplus cash is invested promptly and resources are available to meet the benefit outflow as it arises.

## Myners Investment Principles – Compliance Statement

### Principle 1: Effective Decision-making

Administering 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; and
- those persons or organisations have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate and challenge the advice they receive, and manage conflicts of interest.

#### ✓ Full compliance

The Pension Fund Board is supported in its decision making role by the Chief Finance Officer and the Pension Fund and Treasury Manager.

Members of the Pension Fund Board participate in regular training delivered through a formal programme. Training is provided at every quarterly meeting.

### Principle 2: Clear Objectives

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 administering authority and scheme employers, and these should be clearly communicated to advisors and investment managers.

#### ✓ Full compliance

The Fund's overall objectives are defined in the Funding Strategy Statement and are directly linked to the triennial actuarial valuation. The investment objectives are clearly stated in the Statement of Investment Principles.

The content of the Funding Strategy Statement reflects discussions held with individual scheme employers during the actuarial valuation process. Employers understand that contribution rates are set having given consideration to the key tenets of affordability, sustainability and stability but also with the understanding that any decisions made must be prudent. To this end, the strength of the employer covenant is considered when setting contribution rates.

### Principle 3: Risk and liabilities

In setting and reviewing their investment strategy, administering authorities should take account of the form and structure of liabilities. These include the implications for the local taxpayers, the strength of the covenant for participating employers, the risk of their default and longevity risk.

✓ **Full compliance**

The Fund actuary reviews the funding position of each employer every three years and this valuation includes an assessment of the gap between the employer's share of the Fund assets and the liabilities specific to each employer. The strength of the employer covenant is considered when setting contribution rates.

The Fund's investment strategy is reviewed following each triennial valuation to ensure that the investment strategy will achieve the expected returns assumed during the valuation process.

As a member of Club Vita, a bespoke set of assumptions are specifically tailored to fit the membership profile of the Surrey Fund. The assumptions selected are intended to make an appropriate allowance for future improvements in longevity, based on the actual experience of the Fund.

#### **Principle 4: Performance assessment**

Arrangements should be in place for the formal measurement of performance of the investments, investment managers and advisors.

Administering authorities should also periodically make a formal assessment of their own effectiveness as a decision-making body and report on this to scheme members.

✓ **Full compliance**

Each manager's performance is measured regularly against targets, which are specified in the contract between the Fund and the manager. The Fund's global custodian produces performance data for each manager and for the Fund as a whole. The target outperformance for the Fund as a whole is specified within the Statement of Investment Principles. The Fund performance is also assessed with reference to the local authority peer group.

Performance data is reported to Pension Fund Board on a quarterly basis. Fund managers present to the Pension Fund Board on at least an annual basis and officers have at least one additional meeting per annum to discuss the portfolio composition, strategy and performance.

Consideration has been given to quantitative measures to assess the performance of the Pension Fund Board although options other than measuring meeting attendance are limited.

#### **Principle 5: Responsible ownership**

Administering authorities should:

- Adopt, or ensure their investment managers adopt, the Stewardship Code.
- 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.

✓ **Full compliance**

All new investment mandates will be expected to include a statement of a manager's adoption of the Stewardship Code.

The Council wishes to have an active influence on issues of environmental or ethical concern with companies in which the Pension Fund is a shareholder. It will seek to codify its approach with Fund Managers and will use the services of specialist agencies as necessary to identify issues of concern. The Council requires the Fund Managers to take into account the implications of substantial "extra-financial" considerations, e.g., environmental, social or reputational issues that could bring a particular investment decision into the public arena.

The Fund wishes to be an active shareholder and exercise its voting rights to promote and support good corporate governance principles. In addition, the Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), thus demonstrating a commitment to sustainable investment and the promotion of high standards of corporate governance and responsibility.

Many of the Fund's managers are signed up to the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI), which provides a framework for investors to consider environmental, social and corporate governance issues when making investment decisions.

On an annual basis, those managers that are not signed up to the Stewardship Code and PRI are required to provide a statement on how far they do comply with the requirements and their reasons for not becoming a signatory.

## **Principle 6: Transparency and reporting**

Administering authorities should:

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

✓ **Full compliance**

The Fund's annual report includes all of the Fund's policies including the governance policy statement, governance policy compliance statement, communications policy statement, Funding Strategy Statement and Statement of Investment Principles. The annual report can be found on the council's website together with standalone versions of each of these documents.

Quarterly reports to the Pension Fund Board on the management of the Fund's investments are publicly available on the council's committee administration website.

Pensions newsletters are sent to Fund members.