



Report & Accounts **2015**



**GREATER MANCHESTER
PENSION FUND**

Administered by

 **Tameside**
Metropolitan Borough

Contents

Chair's Introduction	4
Management structure	6
Top 20 equity holdings	9
Investment report	10
Myners principles	21
Financial performance report	22
Statement of accounts	25
Actuarial statement	62
Scheme administration	64
Employer contributions	70
The LGPS at a glance	86
Policy Statements	87
- Funding Strategy	88
- Governance Policy	105
- Governance Compliance Statement	108
- Core Belief Statement	113
- Statement of Investment Principles	115
- Communications Policy	122
- Pension Administration Strategy	126
Useful contacts	133

Chair's introduction

GMPF has had a successful last 12 months; it has:

- achieved an investment return of 11.7%;
- maintained a funding level amongst the best funded of LGPS funds which means employer contribution rates are, on average, at the lower end of the range;
- taken on the membership data and assets arising from GMPF becoming the one administering authority for probation staff. This increased the membership of GMPF by around 46,000 and increased assets by £3 billion following the regulatory changes that took effect from 1 June 2014;
- experienced an increase in fund membership to over 340,000 members and assets have increased by £4.3 billion to £17.6 billion.

However, the challenges of running a pension fund in the current environment continue and are driven by 3 main factors:

- the impact of austerity measures and Government policies on employees and employers. This has resulted in workforces shrinking, the number of employers increasing and a potential weakening of the covenant strength of some of the GMPF's employers. This results in the aggregate maturity of the liabilities increasing and the mix of liability profiles covering a very wide range;
- the impact of monetary policy with the base rate remaining at 0.5% for a sixth year together with the impact of quantitative easing (QE), that has resulted in exceptionally low long term interest rates and negative nominal rates in some Government bond markets. This resulted in a higher value being placed on the value of pension promises earned that is only partially offset by investment returns over the last 5 years;
- the excellent investment returns of recent years for most asset classes has been driven by the very low prospective returns from bonds. Looking forward, I am expecting it to be a relatively low return environment in the medium term.

Thus from my perspective, the structural changes in membership and employers and the impact on maturity profiles is adding to complexity, and this complexity will continue to grow because of austerity measures and Government policies. The management of the short and long term needs of employers and scheme members with an appropriate level of prudence in managing and recovering deficits is the biggest challenge that we face.

The Panel and I continue to focus on factors that will help deliver our long term aim, "to provide secure pensions effectively and efficiently administered at an affordable and stable cost to employers". We recognise the importance of investment strategy, its implementation and managing costs will be critical. As will effective service delivery and low unit costs for administration responsibilities.

Funding issues

GMPF remains amongst the best funded of LGPS funds with relatively low employer contributions.

On a like for like basis, GMPF was the third best funded LGPS scheme out of the 89 funds in England and Wales at the 2013 actuarial valuation.

The consequence of the changes in membership is to increase potential volatility of cost and affordability to the employer. Key to long term success in managing volatility and affordability will be ensuring that GMPF is ready to take advantage of the opportunities that arise to reduce investment risk at an affordable cost to employers.

Investment performance & management arrangements

A solid year with returns of 11.7%.

The Fund's return of 11.7% was below the local authority average of 13.2%.

This was disappointing relative performance for the year but GMPF has an excellent long term track record and this is detailed in the *performance* section. It is this long term strong performance that has underpinned the funding level. The impact of investment returns on contributions is growing as illustrated by the increasing influence of returns as GMPF matures. A 1% investment return now equating to 8% of contributing employer's payroll and this ratio is expected to increase in the future.

GMPF has strengthened its investment management arrangements this year with the aims of improving performance and broadening the options for the future with the appointment of LaSalle as our property manager, taking over from the in-house team, and Investec appointed to a global equity mandate.

The appointment of a debt manager in the next financial year will complete our revised arrangements. We believe in maintaining simple arrangements whilst recognising the need to be able to respond to the growing complexity.

An important task for 2015 will be integrating Probation assets into the Main Fund investment management arrangements.

Membership Changes

The recent announcements by the Chancellor and the expectation of a further reduction in local authority spending in the Autumn Statement makes this an exceptionally testing period for employers and employees. Most GMPF employers will continue to reduce their workforce and further pay restraint is expected for the next 4 years. The reduction in employee members will in part be offset by "auto-enrolment."

Last year we welcomed 67 new employers to GMPF which means we now have 431 contributing employers. Much of this increase relates to employers created out of transfers from existing employers, such as new academy schools.

Regulation and Legislative Change

2014 Scheme up and running and further wide ranging changes being considered.

In an ideal world, we need stability in the LGPS to encourage and support pension saving. The big challenge to stability will be affordability, especially if investment returns do not help reduce deficits across LGPS funds.

The introduction of the 2014 career averaging new LGPS had its teething problems from an administrative perspective. The late conclusion of the regulatory process and the knock on impact of more manual calculations had an impact on meeting our performance standards to scheme members. We continue to work with employers to improve the service provided.

In February, we established a Local Board to help in the management of GMPF as required by Government. The Local Board has oversight of compliance responsibilities and helps deliver effective and efficient governance of the Scheme. Representation now comprises 5 employer and employee representatives to provide broad coverage of employer and member interests and its effective operation.

The Pension Regulator issued a Code of Practice focussing on the governance and administration of public service pension schemes and it has also published a document setting out its Compliance and Enforcement Policy. The Management Panel, its Working Groups and the Board will be working to ensure GMPF compliance and we are looking to build on our existing training programme for members of the Board and Panel to support this activity.

The last Government gave consideration through a "Call for Evidence" for structural changes to the LGPS. This process was not concluded but the new Government is continuing to consider how LGPS assets can be invested to deliver savings in investment management costs and improve net returns. As part of the 2015 Summer Budget there was an announcement on legislation for delivering savings through the use of pooled investment vehicles for fund assets. As part of this process, we will submit a constructive response building on the strengths of the LGPS and GMPF and focussing on the key requirements for effective governance of pension funds. We have been working hard at developing collaborative working, an illustration of which is our Joint Venture with the London Pensions Fund Authority targeting infrastructure investment. We are also working with a number of other funds to improve net investment performance.

The introduction of the single tier State Pension and the end of "contracting out" in 2016 is potentially a very costly matter for employers. This cost to employers is estimated at 2% of the pay bill per annum and it is important that Government brings in measures that mitigate the impact on LGPS employers.

Local Investment

We continue to progress local investment opportunities with the twin aims of commercial returns and supporting the area.

Some examples include our flagship office development at 1 St Peter's Square, Manchester, which is now completed and being let to long term occupiers in professional services. Our joint venture with Manchester City Council will see the conclusion of the build programme for 240 homes in Manchester this year and we are a partner in the Airport City development, a long term investment programme targeting £800m of investment over 15 years. All these investments are expected to deliver good returns for GMPF and have economic and/or regenerative benefits for the North West.

New home

We move into a new office in Droylsden in September which will enable all staff to be located in the same building and this will support our ongoing desire to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

Conclusion

This is an exceptional time to be managing a pension fund. The issues I have commented on together with a continued expectation of improving life expectancy flag the complexity and challenge of offering a good, affordable pension scheme to employees and employers.

We have long recognised the need to keep members informed and work closely with employers and be able to respond to the changes that the future brings. We also need to balance the short and long term needs of employers in a prudent way from a Fund perspective.

GMPF has a long term successful track record reflected in its funding level and reputation. Our track record and innovation is reflected in its recognition at national awards, such as Large Scheme of the Year, 2014 (LGC). The Panel and I will continue to take decisions from a long term perspective to help maintain our success.

I thank the members of the Panel, the Advisors, Investment Managers and not least our staff for their work over what has been an exceptional last 12 months.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kieran Quinn".

Councillor Kieran Quinn
Chair, Pension Fund
Management Panel

Management structure

Tameside MBC became GMPF's administering authority in 1987, and established a management structure which is still the backbone of the operation today.



Pension Fund Management Panel

The Management Panel carries out a similar role to the trustees of a pension scheme. They are the key decision makers for:

- Investment management
- Monitoring investment activity and performance
- Overseeing administrative activities
- Guidance to officers in exercising delegated powers.

Each local authority is represented on the Management Panel, as is the Ministry of Justice.

Pension Fund Advisory Panel

The Pension Fund Advisory Panel works closely with the Management Panel, and advises them in all areas. Each local authority is represented on the Advisory Panel, and there are six employee representatives nominated by the North West TUC.

The members of the Panels as at 31 March 2015 are listed on the following page.

Left to right: Ronnie Bowie, Peter Moizer and Mark Powers.

Local Board

The GMPF Local Pension Board was established early in 2015, to become operational from April 2015. The role of the Local Board is to assist Tameside MBC in its role as administering authority, in particular, to assist with:

- Securing compliance with the Regulations, any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme, and requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme; and
- Ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.

In future annual reports, there will be a separate report from the Local Board.

External advisors

Three external advisors assist the Advisory Panel, in particular regarding investment related issues. A key element is helping it to question the portfolio managers on their activities. The advisors are: **RS Bowie**, Senior Partner, Hymans Robertson, **P Moizer**, Professor and Dean of Business School, University of Leeds, **M Powers**, Investment Manager.

Mark Powers replaced John Hemingway, who retired as an adviser to the Fund after the July 2014 Panel meeting.



Management Panel

Councillor K Quinn - *Tameside (Chair)*
Councillor D Buckley - *Tameside*
Councillor GP Cooney - *Tameside*
Councillor J Fitzpatrick - *Tameside*
Councillor C Francis - *Tameside*
Councillor J Lane - *Tameside*
Councillor J Middleton - *Tameside*
Councillor S Quinn - *Tameside*
Councillor VP Ricci - *Tameside*
Councillor M Smith - *Tameside*
Councillor JC Taylor - *Tameside*
Councillor D Ward - *Tameside*
Councillor K Welsh - *Tameside*
Councillor M Whitley - *Tameside*
Councillor M Francis - *Bolton*
Councillor J Grimshaw - *Bury*
Councillor R Akbar - *Manchester*
Councillor D Houle - *Oldham*
Councillor A Brett - *Rochdale*
Councillor WB Pennington - *Salford*
Councillor JN Pantall - *Stockport*
Councillor A Mitchell - *Trafford*
Councillor T Halliwell - *Wigan*
P Herbert - *Ministry of Justice*

Advisory Panel

Councillor K Quinn - *Tameside (Chair)*
Councillor M Francis - *Bolton*
Councillor J Grimshaw - *Bury*
Councillor R Akbar - *Manchester*
Councillor D Houle - *Oldham*
Councillor A Brett - *Rochdale*
Councillor WB Pennington - *Salford*
Councillor JN Pantall - *Stockport*
Councillor A Mitchell - *Trafford*
Councillor T Halliwell - *Wigan*

Employee representatives

D Schofield - *GMB*
J Thompson - *UCATT*
M Baines - *UNISON*
M Rayner - *UNISON*
K Drury - *UNITE*
F Llewellyn - *UNITE*

Local Board

Employer representatives

Councillor J Middleton - *Tameside (Chair)**
R Paver - *Treasurer of Manchester City Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority*

Scheme Member representatives

M Rayner - *UNISON**
D Schofield - *GMB**

** These Board members were on the Management / Advisory Panels, but had to resign these positions in order to sit on the Local Board once it was established.*

The Local Board will be increased to 5 employer representatives and 5 Scheme Member representatives during 2015/16.



Working groups

GMPF also has six permanent working groups, which consider particular areas of its activities and make recommendations to the Management Panel. These working groups cover:

- Alternative Investments
- Policy & Development (previously Business Development & Local Investment)
- Employer Funding & Viability matters
- Investment Monitoring and Environmental, Social and Governance issues (previously Ethics & Audit)
- Pensions Administration
- Property and Development

To reflect GMPF's responsible and flexible approach to governance a time-limited working group (the MoJ Project Board) was established during 2013/14 to effectively project manage and oversee the transfer of the probation service's LGPS membership and assets (circa £3 billion) to GMPF and ensure expedient and efficient decision making. The MoJ Project Board was dissolved in September 2014 when residual MoJ work transferred to the Employer Funding & Viability Working Group.

Frequency of meetings

The Panels and working groups typically meet quarterly and GMPF's active multi-asset investment managers attend all Panel meetings. All managers attend the Investment Monitoring and ESG (formerly Ethics & Audit) working group annually to report on corporate governance and responsible investment matters.

Officers to GMPF

The Executive Director of Pensions is the administrator of the Fund, and acts as the link for members, advisers and investment managers between meetings.

The Chief Executive and Executive Director of Governance provide legal and secretarial services to the Management and Advisory Panels. The Executive Director of Finance is responsible for the preparation of GMPF's Statement of Accounts.

S Pleasant,
Chief Executive, (Head of Paid Service) Tameside MBC

P Morris,
Executive Director of Pensions, Tameside MBC

SJ Stewart,
Solicitor to the Fund, Executive Director of Governance, Section 5 Monitoring Officer, Tameside MBC

P Williams,
Executive Director of Finance, Section 151 Officer to the Fund, Tameside MBC [up to 31.3.2015]

Ben Jay,
Assistant Executive Director of Finance, Section 151 Officer to the Fund, Tameside MBC [from 1.4.2015]

Consulting Actuary

The Fund's Consulting Actuary is Hymans Robertson.

Statements published on GMPF's website:

Funding Strategy Statement The statement sets out how the Management Panel balances the conflicting aims of affordability, stability and prudence in the funding basis.

Governance Policy and Governance Compliance Statement

GMPF is required to maintain and publish its Governance Policy and Governance Compliance Statement detailing its governance arrangements.

www.gmpf.org.uk These statements are also available in hard copy on request.

Top 20 equity holdings



£242 million



£236 million



£157 million



£153 million



£146 million



£145 million



£142 million



£112 million



£102 million



£97 million



£92 million



vodafone

£81 million



£72 million



£69 million



£67 million



£61 million



£60 million



£55 million



£55 million



£55 million

Major holdings

GMPF publishes a list of all its equity and bond holdings each year, following the completion of its external audit. The list can be found on GMPF's website at:

www.gmpf.org.uk/investments/holdings.htm

Investment report

Investment management

Management of GMPF's assets is determined within the context of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 1998 as amended. These require GMPF to have regard to both the diversification and suitability of its investments and to take proper advice in making investment decisions.

During 1994, the Management Panel decided to separate GMPF's assets into two distinct parts - a Main Fund and a Designated Fund - in order to reflect a major difference between most of GMPF's employers and that of a small number of employers in their liability profiles. The Designated Fund is used for employers who have a very high proportion of pensioner liabilities.

At 31 March 2015, the total GMPF value was £17,591 million. Of this total, £17,316 million was held in the Main Fund and invested across a broad spread of assets whilst £275 million was held in the Designated Fund and invested wholly in UK index-linked gilts and cash.

The portfolios of the Designated Fund are passively managed in-house.

During the course of 2000/01 an extensive review of the external management arrangements of the Main Fund was undertaken. This review culminated in the adoption of a GMPF specific benchmark and the appointment of UBS Global Asset Management (UK) and Capital International as active managers and Legal & General Investment Management as passive manager. UBS and Capital manage the securities portfolios investing in equities, fixed interest and index linked bonds on a multi-asset discretionary basis, whilst Legal & General manage a multi-asset indexed securities portfolio.

In 2014, the Management Panel reaffirmed its decision to introduce two new mandates, a global equity mandate and a debt mandate. The global equity mandate was awarded to Investec Asset Management Ltd and was funded in 2015. The debt mandate is currently being progressed. It also appointed LaSalle Investment Management in October 2014 to manage GMPF's direct property portfolio, taking over from the in house team.

GMPF published a Core Belief Statement on its website at http://www.gmpf.org.uk/pdf/core_belief_statement.pdf in 2009. This sets out the key underlying beliefs of the Management Panel in relation to investment issues and GMPF's overall approach to investment matters.

These beliefs provide the bedrock rationale underpinning GMPF's investment activity.

The chart on the following page summarises the management arrangements for the Main Fund at the end of the year.

Custody of financial assets and banking

GMPF uses an independent custodian - currently the JP Morgan Chase Bank - to safeguard its financial assets and the rights attaching to those assets. The Custodian is responsible for the safe-keeping of GMPF's financial assets, the settlement of transactions, income collection, overseas tax reclamation and other administrative actions in relation to the investments.

GMPF's banker is Royal Bank of Scotland.

The remaining comments and results in this Investment Report relate solely to the Main Fund.

Investment strategy

In December 2000, the Panel adopted a GMPF specific benchmark, which defines the proportion of the Main Fund to be invested in each asset class.

Each year the Management Panel reviews the Main Fund's investment strategy restrictions for the coming year. The benchmark in place at the end of 2014/15 is summarised in the charts on the following page. A change implemented in 2015 has been to increase the overseas weighting to 65% of the total equity weighting, reflecting a 2014 Panel decision.

Each of the three multi-asset managers has been given a specific benchmark reflecting their perceived skills and the relative efficiency of markets. The active multi-asset managers are given ranges for each asset class allowing them to make tactical asset allocation decisions. Investec are relatively unconstrained against a Global Equity benchmark.

GMPF's target allocation to private equity is 5% of Main Fund value, which, at the year end, was implemented by new commitments to specialised funds of £200 million per year. GMPF also has a target allocation to Infrastructure funds of 4% of Main Fund value, which at the year end, was implemented by new commitments to specialised funds averaging £95 million per year. The target allocation to the 'Special Opportunities Portfolio' (SOP) is 5% of Main Fund value. Current realistic benchmark allocations for private equity, infrastructure and SOP are 2.5%, 1% and 1.5% respectively.

Statements published on GMPF's website:

Core Belief Statement

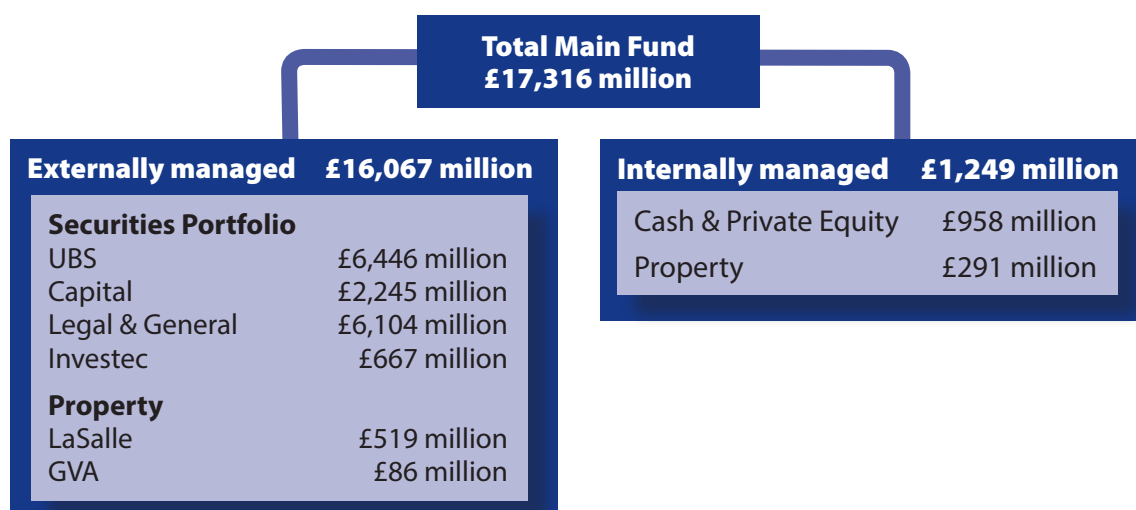
This sets out the underlying beliefs of the Management Panel in relation to investment issues.

Statement of Investment Principles

GMPF is required to maintain and publish a Statement of Investment Principles detailing its investment arrangements.

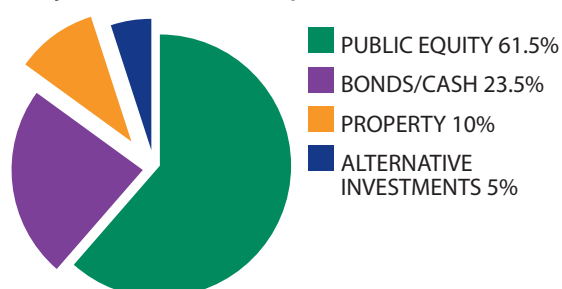
www.gmpf.org.uk These statements are also available in hard copy on request.

Management arrangements

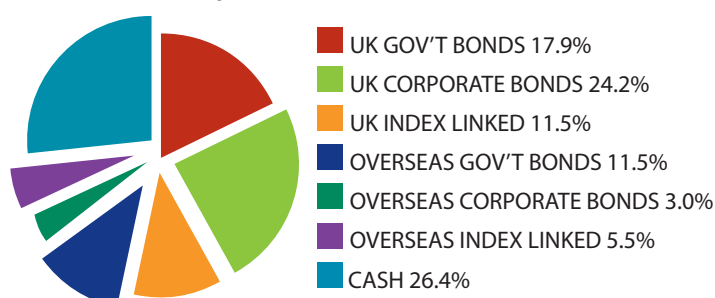


Benchmark asset allocation

Major asset class split



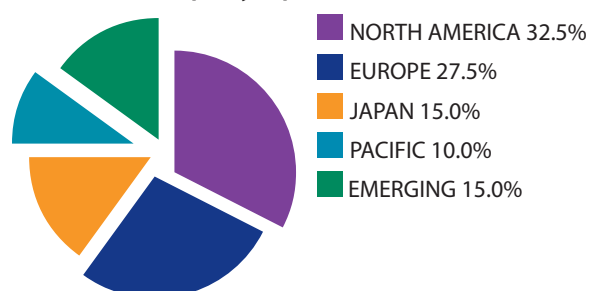
Bonds/cash split



UK/overseas equity split

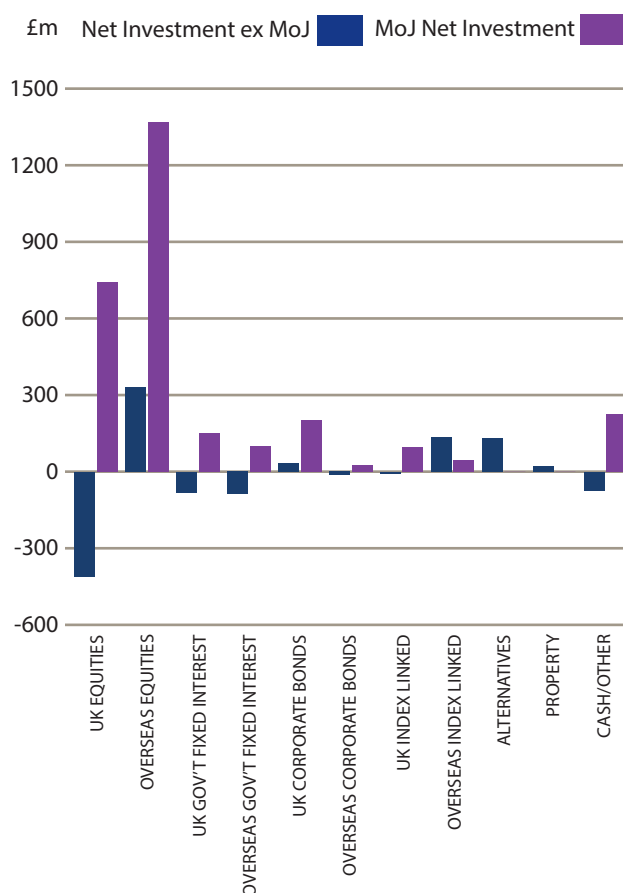


Overseas equity split



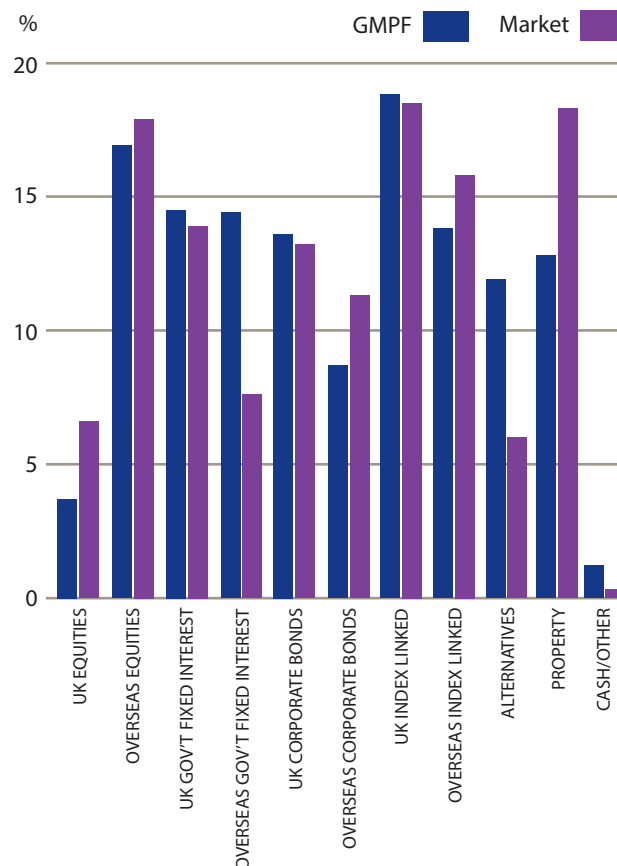
NET INVESTMENT

Year ended 31 March 2015



INVESTMENT RETURNS

Year ended 31 March 2015



Investment strategy (continued)

GMPF targets local investment through the Property Venture Fund (target allocation range up to 3% of the Main Fund) and other allocations. Such local investment is restricted to 5% of Main Fund value, with current commitments at 1%.

The graph top left shows the net effect, on an economic exposure basis, of the total investment activity of the Main Fund during the year, based on the Panel's restrictions. As can be seen, there has been a switch out of UK Equities, UK and Overseas Government Fixed Interest and Cash into Overseas Equities, Overseas Index Linked and Alternatives. The graph separately shows the effect of the transfer into GMPF of over £2.9 billion of MoJ assets. The substantial majority of MoJ assets - over £2 billion - were invested in Equities (Overseas & UK).

Performance

The graph top right compares the return achieved by the Main Fund with the market/benchmark index return in each of the main investment categories during the year.

The year saw positive returns in all investment categories, with substantial returns being achieved in all categories other than UK Equities and Cash.

The Main Fund achieved a return of 11.7% during the year and out-performed the benchmark index in UK and Overseas Government Bonds, UK Corporate Bonds, UK Index Linked, Alternatives and Cash. Such returns are also significantly in excess of the Fund's actuarial assumptions.

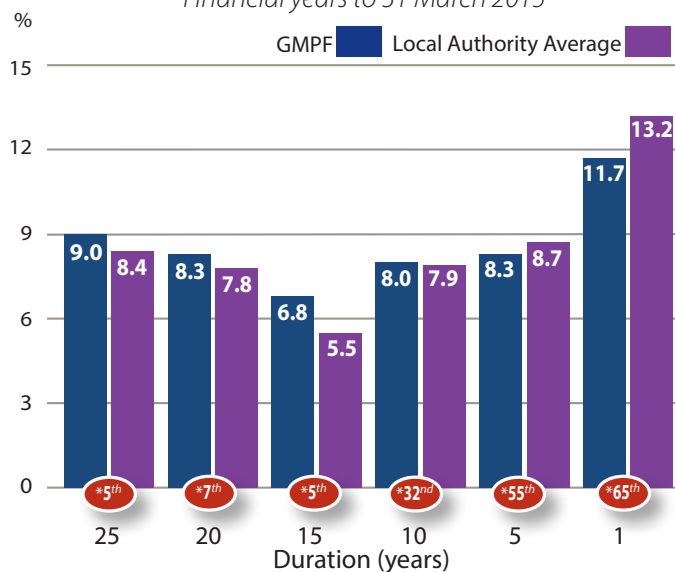
GMPF subscribes to WM's Local Authority Pension Fund Service in order to assess its performance relative to all other funds which operate under the same regulations. The graph top left on the following page looks at the Main Fund's performance as compared to the local authority average over various durations extending over 25 years. Over the long term the Main Fund has consistently outperformed the average local authority by around 0.6% per year and, over periods of 15, 20 and 25 years, has ranked in the top 10 of such funds.

Portfolio distribution

The distribution of assets across the main investment categories within the Main Fund changes as a result of the investment strategy followed by the managers and the performance achieved within each investment category. These changes are shown, on an economic exposure basis, in the graph top right on the following page.

PENSION FUND RETURNS

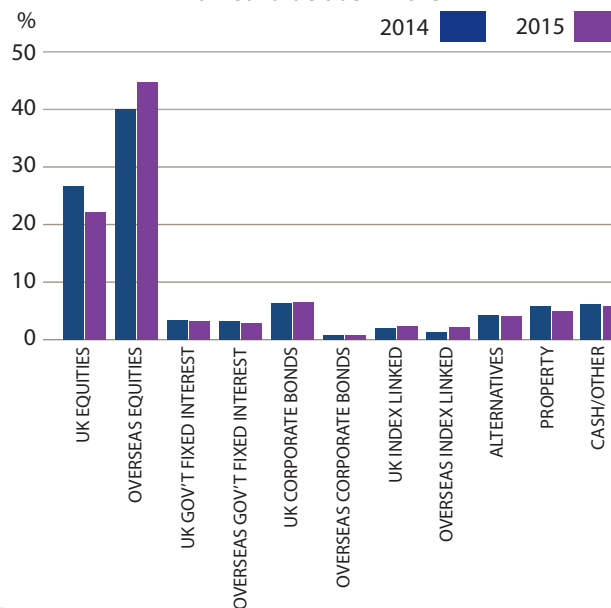
WM Local Authority Survey -
Financial years to 31 March 2015



*GMPF's rank within Local Authority funds

PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION

Market value at 31 March



Equities portfolio: Mothercare

Mothercare is a specialist retailer of products for mothers-to-be, babies and children up to the age of eight. The Mothercare group comprises two iconic retail brands – Mothercare and Early Learning Centre. Through its high street stores, its online business, and its catalogue mail order operations, the Group has customers all over the UK and more than 60 countries worldwide. It has also launched a social networking site aimed at new parents, which is rather appropriately called Gurgle.com!

Economic background

The year began with the US Federal Reserve (Fed) delivering the expected tapering to its Quantitative Easing (QE) programme.

With the exception of Japan, which was still reeling from the effects of the sales tax increase, the thrust of data for the developed economies remained positive notwithstanding a geopolitical climate in which a number of regions suffered a serious upsurge in conflict.

Eurozone equities lagged other regions as the threat of deflation loomed large. With the strong euro and falling energy prices contributing to low inflation levels the European Central Bank (ECB) cut its deposit rate to negative 10 basis points in an effort to encourage bank lending to Eurozone businesses.

Global markets spent much of the second quarter fixated by geopolitics until a ceasefire, albeit a fragile one, was agreed in the Ukraine.

The most significant event in the UK was the Scottish Referendum. The 'no' vote calmed UK asset markets which had experienced jitters as a consequence of a strong performance by the 'yes' campaign.

Eurozone equities continued to lag behind other regions due to a poor July. The market backdrop was initially characterised by geopolitical tensions with Russia and 'soft' European economic data before the ECB signalled a fundamental policy shift through further interest rate cuts and asset purchases (QE) in an effort to bolster growth. These initiatives proved sufficient to weaken the euro and help markets recover some of July's losses.

The story in Japan was similar with the markets wondering when, and not if, the Bank of Japan would increase the pace of its QE programme.

With the US at a very different stage of the economic cycle, the Fed clearly indicated that its asset purchase programme would finish by the end of October 2014.

The final quarter of 2014 proved turbulent for global markets with the key theme being the sustained collapse in oil prices. Weaker energy prices are generally supportive for global growth, acting like a tax cut for consumers and industries. However, there were a number of other dynamics at play such as the end of QE in the US, a strengthening US dollar, and continuing geopolitical concerns within the Eurozone which led investors to reappraise global growth prospects and worry about the absence of any meaningful inflation.

Although volatility was a good deal higher in the final quarter compared to previous quarters, global equity markets nevertheless ended the period at roughly the same level as they had began, supported by earnings yields that were still relatively attractive in an environment of very low interest rates.

Going into 2015 the Eurozone recovery continued to remain weak with the underlying pace of growth close to stagnation. Political tensions in Greece took centre stage as the Greek Parliament failed to elect a new President and a snap general election was called for 25 January 2015. With the anti-austerity party, Syriza, leading the polls markets re-priced the risks of Greece potentially leaving the Eurozone.

However, these concerns were vastly outweighed by the influence of the ECB's QE programme announced on 22 January. This contributed to a major turnaround in the performance of European equities versus US equities, with the former outperforming the latter by 18% in local currency terms over the quarter. The ECB started its QE programme by purchasing over €52 billion of government bonds in March 2015.

The rise in European equity prices was also bolstered by a subsequent improvement in economic indicators. The Eurozone experienced its best growth since 2011 with expansion of economic activity across both manufacturing and services. The ECB also published a more upbeat set of forecasts showing that it expects a material boost to the economy from its asset purchasing programme.

Nevertheless, risks in Europe remain: Greece continued to be under the spotlight with the newly formed government not only announcing the reversal of some reforms and spending cuts carried out by the previous government but also formally rejecting the continuation of the existing bailout. A lack of meaningful progress on repayment negotiations intensified the funding pressures on Greek banks and increased the risk of some form of liquidity crisis occurring later in the year.

The US economy continued to exceed expectations in the final quarter of 2014. The end of QE passed without issue with the Fed having clearly flagged expected interest rate rises in 2015. However, the US economy experienced a 'soft patch' at the start of 2015, as the impact of a strong dollar took a toll on exports and earnings, and this looks likely to delay the Fed's first rate hike as it will take a few months to confirm whether this 'softness' is indeed just temporary.

In the UK, employment levels grew at a robust pace throughout the first quarter of 2015 and the number of unemployed-per-vacancy ratio fell to its lowest level since 2008.



Private equity

Since 1981 GMPF has invested in private companies through pooled vehicles raised by specialised management teams. Six new fund commitments and five additional commitments, together totalling £122 million, were made by GMPF during 2014/15. The portfolio of 96 active funds is diversified by stage of investment (from early stage investments to very large buyout investments) and geographic location across the UK, Europe, the US and Asia.

As at 31 March 2015, the target rate of annual new fund commitments was £200 million, the increase from £100 million being effective from 1 July 2014. Of the £991 million committed to funds, some £711 million has been drawn down and invested by managers and £664 million has been returned to GMPF as distributions of sales of investments and income. The value of assets currently invested in private equity is £376 million.

During 2011, GMPF undertook a fundamental review of private equity performance measurement in conjunction with its specialist adviser (Capital Dynamics), leading to the adoption of a 'vintage decade' approach. The 'since inception' performance remains stable, with an annualised return of 16.7% as at 31 March, 2015. 1980 vintage commitments have returned over 12% per year, whilst 1990 vintage commitments have returned over 25% per year. The performance of funds invested between 2000 and 2009 is over 9% per year.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure programme commenced in 2001 and GMPF's specialist adviser is Capital Dynamics Ltd. Three further new fund commitments totalling £77 million were made by GMPF during 2014/15 and the portfolio grew to 18 active investments, with two funds having already been fully realised.

The target rate of new fund commitments increased during the year to an average of £95 million per year, effective from 1 July, 2014 and, as the portfolio is immature, it is recognised that the 4% target allocation will take several years to achieve. Of the £299 million committed, some £168 million has been drawn down and invested by managers. In addition, £47 million has been received back through distributions of sales of investments and income.

As at 31 March 2015 the value of assets currently invested in infrastructure is £157 million. Although the infrastructure portfolio is immature, the 'since inception' performance is an annualised return of 6.5% per year as at 31 March 2015.

Special Opportunities Portfolio

GMPF established the 'Special Opportunities Portfolio' (SOP) in 2009/10 in order to broaden the range of assets in which it invests, to improve diversification and assist with stability, and to take advantage of opportunities as they arise or as market conditions allow.

Three new fund commitments totalling £130 million were made by GMPF in 2014/15, resulting in a portfolio of eight investments. Of the £328 million committed/invested to date, some £186 million has been drawn down and invested by managers. In addition, £55 million has been received back through distributions of realisations and income. A number of potential opportunities remain under active consideration.

As at 31 March 2015 the value of the investments within SOP was £153 million. The short lifespan of the portfolio to date does not lend itself to the calculation of meaningful performance numbers, but overall positive returns have been generated since the first investment was made in 2009.



GMPF's Special Opportunities Portfolio includes investments in global agriculture and timber.

Private equity: Auto Trader.

Through our private equity partner Apax, GMPF has invested in Auto Trader.

Auto Trader has always been good at connecting car sellers with the right buyers but over the years how they do this has altered beyond all recognition. From humble beginnings in 1977 as a magazine, the company has grown to become the UK's largest digital automotive marketplace, and can proudly claim that 80% of UK car dealers advertise with them.



Image credit: Brian Carlin/Team Vestas Wind/ Volvo Ocean Race.

Private equity: 3Si

Through our private equity partner August Equity, GMPF has invested in Safety and Survival Systems International Ltd (3Si), a worldwide supplier of marine safety equipment to both the commercial and leisure industries.

The company also supplies safety equipment to some of the major names in racing including both branded and own manufacture products. These encompass the Jonbuoy Man Overboard recovery range, liferafts, and the Kru lifejacket range.

The liferafts and lifejackets featured in this image were supplied by 3Si and used after Team Vestas Wind grounded in the Volvo Ocean Race 2014-2015.

Property

At 31 March 2015, GMPF's main property portfolio comprised 51 directly-owned holdings and 8 indirectly-owned specialist holdings. The portfolio was valued as at 31 March 2015 at a total value just over £519 million. There is an additional £291 million invested in balanced property pooled vehicles. These are mainly for asset allocation purposes and overall performed ahead of their benchmark during 2014.

In July 2013 GMPF Management Panel decided to outsource the investment management of the main commercial property portfolio. Following a competitive open tender, LaSalle Investment Management was appointed as the new GMPF manager on 1 October 2014.

As a result of the transition from the previous in-house management team to the new external fund manager, transactional activity in 2014 was limited to four disposals, with no purchases being made.

As shown in the graph on the right, when compared to the industry (IPD) benchmark, the main property portfolio continues to have a bias towards the retail sector, with a significant under-weight allocation in the office sector and slightly underweight positions in the industrial and alternative sectors.

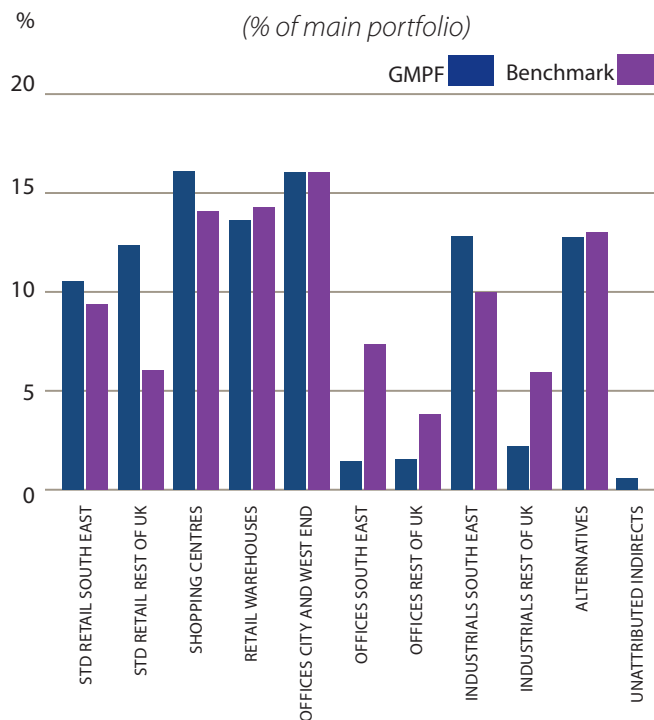
During 2014, the aggregate total return for the main property portfolio (which does not include the balanced property pooled vehicles) was 11.3% compared with the benchmark (IPD's median fund return) of 17.9%, ranking the portfolio on the 88th percentile. Relative GMPF performance is shown in the Table below right.

Since being appointed LaSalle Investment Management has reviewed the properties in the main portfolio and have in place a fund strategy aligned with individual business plans for each property holding to deal with and redress the recent underperformance of the portfolio. The company is tasked with increasing the size of the direct UK property portfolio, as well as re-positioning it in terms of sector allocation. LaSalle has started to undertake sales of properties, which are predicted to underperform the benchmark and also purchased a large student housing block known as the Hive in Bethnal Green London, which is shown opposite. In the second quarter of 2015 a further acquisition of an office and medical treatment centre at Emerson Green in the West Country has also been completed, with other significant purchases planned.

In 2015, GMPF has also made investments in overseas property through selected indirect funds.

ALLOCATION TO SECTORS

(% of main portfolio)



Emersons Green

The Hive,
Bethnal Green



Property Performance for period ending 31 December 2014

Duration	GMPF	Benchmark IPD Median
1 year	11.3%	17.9%
3 years	8.0%	10.2%
5 years	8.5%	10.2%
10 years	5.1%	6.1%
20 years	8.1%	8.6%

Greater Manchester Property Venture Fund (GMPVF)

GMPVF has an allocation of up to £450 million, and creates property investments by a process of site acquisition, building design, direct property development or redevelopment and property letting/management, in order to generate office, residential, retail and industrial/workshop accommodation.

Since its establishment in 1990, GMPVF has developed more than 1 million square feet of commercial buildings within the Greater Manchester area.

GMPVF has the twin aims of generating a commercial rate of return and supporting the area. GMPVF also seeks to make an environmental impact through regeneration. To date, all completed developments have generated a profit.

The target area for GMPVF is the North West of England with a particular focus on Greater Manchester. GVA, a firm of property consultants with national coverage, is the manager of GMPVF.

GVA recently identified an opportunity for GMPVF to provide debt finance to suitable property developments across the North West. This initiative will enable GMPVF to generate a commercial return and support a broader range of developments than could be carried out by GMPVF alone. Negotiations have taken place with several local property developers and it is anticipated that a number of loan arrangements will be agreed for developments due to start in 2015/16.

The major new 270,000 sq ft office block, Number One St Peters Square, was completed in September 2014. This development is jointly owned by GMPVF and Argent Estates Limited, with Carillion being the construction contractor.

Part of the building was pre let to the international accounting firm KPMG, with a number of further lettings agreed with other top tier professional firms, following completion of the building. The remaining available space is being actively marketed.

GMPVF is a partner with Manchester Airport Group, Carilion and Beijing Construction and Engineering Group to develop Airport City on land within the Enterprise Zone adjacent to Manchester Airport. This £800m project will develop offices, advanced industrial, hotel and logistics accommodation, over the next 10 – 15 years.

Other prospective development sites owned by the Fund include:

- The former Royal Mail Sorting Office, Stockport – the aim is to develop commercial accommodation;
- Chorlton Cross Shopping Centre, Manchester
- A 0.38 acre cleared site at Old Haymarket, Liverpool city centre
- An office development in city centre Manchester;
- A 19 acre site known as Preston East located adjacent to Junction 31A of the M6
- An office development in Didsbury, Manchester
- A site at Calver Park, Warrington.

The aim for the next two to three years is to continue to build a broad portfolio of investment opportunities.

GMPVF formed a joint venture with Manchester City Council (Matrix Homes) to develop 240 family homes across five sites in Manchester. The construction contractor – Wates Living Spaces - has now handed over 94 homes, with the remainder due to complete by January 2016. The properties are available for both sale and for rent via Places for People. The homes available for sale have been sold quicker than expected.

GMPVF is actively pursuing further opportunities for Matrix Homes to progress additional housing development in partnership with other Greater Manchester Authorities.



GMPVF's flagship property One St Peters Square, whose tenants include KPMG, DLA PIPER and the Fumo restaurant.

Local Investments

Invest 4 Growth

the objective of Invest 4 Growth, was to make investments that provide a commercial return and also have a beneficial economic, social or environmental impact. These aims followed and implemented the ideas of a significant report, of the same name, authored by the Smith Institute, and commissioned by local authority funds. This is consistent with the twin aims applied successfully over many years to local investment. GMPF approved an allocation of £50 million to the initiative in March 2014.

Invest 4 Growth was a collaborative project with five other LGPS funds, where participating funds pooled resources to carry out due diligence and negotiate investment management fees with external managers. This resource sharing and the economies of scale achieved due to the cumulative total of commitments enabled GMPF and the other funds to make savings on the investment costs and achieve a diversified portfolio.

GMPF is the largest participant in the scheme and out of the £38 million committed so far, £20 million was drawn down as at 31 March 2015 and invested by the fund managers.

It is too early to judge investment performance yet, but so far the managers are making satisfactory progress against the initial objectives.



Successful properties in the Bridges Property portfolio include The Old Vinyl Factory Hayes London (top) and East Parade Leeds (left).

Impact Portfolio

In September 2014 GMPF approved an allocation of up to £150 million to an Impact Portfolio, to follow on from Invest 4 Growth, with the same twin aims of commercial returns and positive local impact. GMPF will seek collaboration with other pension funds to develop the portfolio diversification and cost reduction benefits achieved from economies of scale.

As at 31 March 2015 final due diligence was being undertaken on a number of potential opportunities including investing in renewable energy, loans to small and medium sized businesses and social infrastructure. Alongside these investments into nationally focused pooled funds, GMPF will seek co-investment opportunities where suitable which will enhance the impact in the North West region and reduce overall investment management costs.



Bridges Social Impact Bond Fund providing much needed support to disadvantaged 14 -19 year olds.

GMPPF approach to ethical investments and corporate governance

GMPPF invests in various company shares and bonds, government bonds, property and cash around the world and has an excellent long-term investment track record. This helps keep our employer contribution rates at the lower end of the range for local authorities and, in turn, enables the authorities to spend more money on front-line services whilst maintaining attractive pensions for staff.

We invest over 60% of GMPPF's assets in well diversified portfolios of UK and overseas company shares. Further assets are invested in company bonds. GMPPF has holdings in some of the largest companies in the world. You can see a list of GMPPF's top twenty holdings on page 9 of this report and a full list of GMPPF's holdings can be found on the Investments Homepage of GMPPF's website: <http://www.gmpf.org.uk/investments.htm>

We have delegated the investment management of these portfolios of company shares and bonds to a small number of external professional fund management firms. However, we give the investment managers detailed guidelines within which to work.

The cornerstone of our policy on ethical investment is our interpretation of the legal position. In our view, applying ethical, environmental or any other non-commercial policy either to investments generally or to selecting fund managers, would be inconsistent with our legal duties and responsibilities. We also have a statutory responsibility to ensure proper diversification of investments. Thus we have a general policy of not interfering in the day-to-day investment decisions of GMPPF's investment managers. Moreover, we do not actively invest in or permanently disinvest from companies solely for social, ethical or environmental reasons. This policy is described in Section 8 of GMPPF's Statement of Investment Principles (www.gmpf.org.uk).

Although we will listen to special interest groups that oppose some of GMPPF's investments, for example in alcohol, gambling or pharmaceuticals, we cannot let this detract from our duty.

Considerations such as these have led us to decide not to have or develop a detailed generalised ethical investment policy. We prefer to concentrate on developing a policy that involves using voting and other contacts to positively influence company behaviour. As responsible institutional investors we seek to influence companies' governance arrangements, environmental, human rights and other policies by positive use of shareholder power. An example of GMPPF following this stance was our concerted involvement in a campaign to secure improvement in News Corporation's approach to corporate governance arrangements. However, none of this prevents us applying ethical or environmental criteria on a case by case basis if considered relevant and appropriate.

For example, for many years we chose not to invest in South Africa. Moreover, the legal status of the Fund is such that all property is held by Tameside MBC and consequently we would not do anything that conflicted with its statutory duties as a Local Authority.

The whole area of voting and exercising influence over the companies one holds shares in is known as 'corporate governance'. GMPPF has a well-developed approach to such matters including:

- Issuing voting guidelines to our managers including, among other matters, a UK Environmental Investment Code which, where appropriate, we require the managers to apply in their voting behaviour;
- Having an Investment Monitoring and ESG Working Group whose role is to oversee corporate governance and related matters, including monitoring GMPPF's external managers' voting behaviour and other relevant activity;
- Subscribing to the research and advisory service of PIRC Ltd who are an important advisor in this field;
- Monitoring developments in corporate governance and the activities of GMPPF's managers in this area; and
- GMPPF is also a member of the 'Local Authority Pension Fund Forum', which provides a large investor base to influence companies' corporate governance and social responsibility; and the Institutional Investor Group on Climate Change, a forum for pension funds and investment managers. Councillor Kieran Quinn, Chair of GMPPF's Management and Advisory Panels is also Chair of LAPFF.

We have considered the possibility of investing in specialist ethical investment funds or vehicles, but our current view is that evidence on the returns of such funds or vehicles is not as clear as it might first appear. For example, the seemingly competitive returns of ethical funds or vehicles could simply be the result of the well-known 'small companies effect' and not the result of ethical investing at all. The small companies effect arises because small companies can give above average returns at different times within an economic cycle.

Ethical vehicles tend to invest more in small companies rather than large ones, because large companies are more likely to have dealings in areas that ethical vehicles dislike. For this reason and others, including that such investment would tend to run counter to our overall preference for using shareholder influence, GMPPF does not invest in such specialist investment vehicles. However, we do review this periodically.

Myners principles

In March 2001, Paul Myners published his Review of Institutional Investment. It was a wide ranging report on how some of the main players - trustees, actuaries, investment consultants and fund managers - carry out their roles. The Government supported the report's conclusions, and in October 2001, it issued a revised set of 10 investment principles.

In December 2004, HM Treasury published a consultation document reviewing progress made with the recommendations in the Myners Report. GMPF officers had participated in the review and GMPF considered the consultation document to be positive in terms of the Local Authority 'model' of appointing lay councillors working with GMPF officers giving expert advice.

The National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), of which GMPF is a member, was also generally supportive of the review's findings and the revisions proposed to the current principles. NAPF undertook to carry out a further review in

2007 to assess progress. This NAPF review was published in November 2007 and a number of recommendations were made to update the Principles to ensure the continued spread of best practice.

The Government welcomed the NAPF review, launched a consultation paper in March 2008 and published a response to that consultation in October 2008 setting out a revised set of six investment principles. As required by the Regulations, the publication of CIPFA's Guidance on the Application of the revised Myners Principles in December 2009, prompted GMPF to consider its position in relation to the six revised principles in the context of its Statement of Investment Principles.

This section summarises the current GMPF position on the six revised best practice principles. Further comment is incorporated in the Statement of Investment Principles, the latest version of which was adopted by GMPF on 11 June, 2010 and is currently under review.

1. Effective decision making: Key strategic investment decisions are taken by the Pension Fund Management Panel, for example asset allocation and investment management arrangements. In taking such decisions, the Panel receives advice from its Actuary, other external Advisors and in house staff. GMPF also incorporates specialist advice where appropriate, for example on private equity and corporate governance issues. Implementation decisions are delegated to the Executive Director of Pensions and external Managers. The training needs of Panel members are periodically considered by the Management Panel and suitable training arrangements are made. GMPF is developing its approach to the CIPFA skills and knowledge framework for members of the Management Panel. The Management Panel members participate in 4 formal training sessions per annum. This is supported by attendance at seminars and conferences and detailed consideration and discussion of specific issues at Working Groups.

2. Clear objectives: GMPF's investment objective is to help deliver low and stable employer contribution rates. This equates to a long term real rate of return of approximately 3% to 3.5% pa compared to RPI. An asset liability study undertaken during 2000 culminated in the adoption of a Fund specific benchmark, the current version of which is described on page 11. The Management Panel is developing a performance measurement framework to measure the overall performance of its Advisors.

3. Risk and Liabilities: The Management Panel has an active risk management programme in place. The overall approach to risk and the key risks and the measures to control them are detailed in GMPF's Statement of Investment Principles and its Funding Strategy Statement. GMPF continues to consider how to further develop its approach to assessing overall risk, mitigating unrewarded risk wherever possible, and identifying any residual risk.

4. Performance Assessment: The Management Panel currently undertakes informal assessment of its own decisions and the advice of the Advisors to, and officers of, GMPF and is developing its approach to formal assessment in these areas. The performance of external Managers is monitored on a quarterly basis (annually for property).

5. Responsible Ownership: Each external fund manager is required to report their policy and activity in this area to GMPF's specialist "Investment Monitoring and ESG (formerly Ethics & Audit) Working Group" on an annual basis. GMPF is developing its approach to measuring the effectiveness of its strategy. GMPF is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) which promotes the investment interests of local authority pension funds and seeks to maximise their influence as shareholders while promoting corporate social responsibility and high standards of corporate governance among the companies in which they invest. Councillor Kieran Quinn, Chair of GMPF's Management and Advisory Panels was elected Chair of LAPFF in January, 2013. GMPF has adopted a Statement of compliance with the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code, which replaced the Institutional Shareholders Committee's Code on the Responsibilities of Institutional Investors.

6. Transparency and Reporting: GMPF's Statement of Investment Principles, Funding Strategy Statement, Core Belief Statement and Governance Compliance Statement are published on GMPF's website together with a full list of holdings at the year end. The results of monitoring GMPF's investment managers are contained elsewhere in this Annual Report and Accounts which is also published on the website. All four documents are freely available in hardcopy to interested parties and their availability is publicised widely amongst scheme members. GMPF communicates at least annually with all its members. Pensioners are also invited to a biennial Forum.

Financial performance report

Key financials

The key event is GMPF becoming the one fund for Probation which resulted in the members of 34 Probation Trusts transferring from their local fund to GMPF. This has a significant effect on the cashflows for GMPF during the year and represents a step change for the overall scale of GMPF on an on-going basis.

In future years reporting we will show the financial out-turn against a prediction. The budget agreed by the Management Panel in December 2014 contained predictions for these key cashflows on a 3 year basis using a predicted 31 March 2015 GMPF value.

The table below, 3 year Financial Forecast updates this for the actual value at 31 March 2015, with all of the other assumptions and methodologies remaining constant. These include an investment return of 4.8% per annum and inflation of 2.5% per annum.

The key issues to draw out are

- As GMPF matures the gap between pensions paid and contributions received increases
- The net negative cashflow from contribution income less benefits paid is offset by investment income meaning that GMPF is not a forced seller of assets
- These figures are based on long term projected average investment performance and short term volatility may cause significant variations to the figures in this forecast.

Summary of Transactions 2014/15			
	£m	£m	£m
Fund value at 31 March 2014			13,284
Dealings with members			2,546
Employee contributions	138		
Employer contributions	421		
Pensions paid		(637)	
Net Transfers	2,624		
Management costs			(18)
Investments			1,779
Investment income	294		
Change in market value	1,485		
Total change in value of Fund			4,307
Fund value at 31 March 2015			17,591

3 Year Financial Forecast			
	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m
Fund size at start of year	17,591	18,272	18,936
Fund size at end of year	18,272	18,936	19,583
Pensions paid	(698)	(737)	(778)
Contributions received	559	551	544
Transfers	0	0	0
Net Cashflow	(139)	(186)	(234)
Management costs	(24)	(27)	(28)
Investment Income	311	326	342
Increase in Value of Investments	533	551	567
Net Return from Investments	844	877	909
Net change in Fund	681	664	647

Analysis of Management Costs for the 12 Months to 31 March 2015

	12 months to March 2015		
	① Original estimate 2014/15 £000	② Actual expenditure 2014/15 £000	③ Variation to date (② - ①) £000
Type of expenditure			
Staff costs			
Direct salaries	3,948	3,940	(8)
On costs	1,113	978	(135)
	5,061	4,918	(143)
Direct costs			
Operational Expenses	1,455	1,628	173
Investment Advisory Expenses	54	53	(1)
Bank Charges and Nominee Fees	415	372	(43)
Managers and Professional Fees	11,689	11,284	(405)
	13,613	13,337	(276)
Central establishment charges	379	389	10
Less:			
Recovery of Management and Legal Fees	(251)	(203)	48
Administration fees	0	(47)	(47)
Commission recapture	(84)	(177)	(93)
	18,718	18,217	(501)

Commentary on out turn for year

During the year the expenditure on administration and investments was half a million pounds less than what was budgeted for, this was largely due to lower than budgeted expenditure on investment management costs

The Fund account splits out expenditure into three activities in note 8. These are investment, administration, and oversight and governance functions. During the year monitoring of management expenditure is made on an overall basis and at service management level which may cut across these functions.

Three year budgeted expenditure

The table below is derived from the 3 year budget approved by the GMPF Management Panel on 11 December 2014, it has been adjusted for changes to predicted investment management expenses in future years to reflect the value of investments as at March 2015, no other changes to predicted expenditure or assumptions have been made.

Type of expenditure	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Staff Costs	5,390	5,478	5,686
Investment management & professional fees	16,634	19,076	19,520
Accommodation	414	348	355
Other services	1,649	1,683	1,716
Central establishment charges	379	379	379
Total	24,466	26,964	27,656

The increase in asset values towards the end of 2014/15, the implementation of more diverse investment strategies and the appointment of an external property manager will result in increases in investment management fees in subsequent years

There are currently no significant developments planned which will have a material impact on costs, with the exception of full implementation of the investment strategy and the move to a new pensions building.

Statement of accounts



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL ON THE PENSION FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE GREATER MANCHESTER PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT

We have examined the pension fund financial statements of Greater Manchester Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2015 under the Audit Commission Act 1998, which comprise the fund account, the net assets statement and the related notes.

This statement is made solely to the members of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, as a body, in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the authority those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's statement and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Assistant Executive Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Assistant Executive Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) Responsibilities, set out on page 98 of the audited financial statements the Assistant Executive Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) is responsible for the preparation of the pension fund financial statements in accordance with applicable law, proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to state to you our opinion on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements included in the pension fund annual report with the pension fund financial statements included in the Statement of Accounts of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, and its compliance with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15.

In addition we read the other information contained in the pension fund annual report and consider the implications for our statement if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the pension fund financial statements. The other information consists of the Chair's Introduction, Top 20 Equity Holdings, Investment Report, Financial Performance Report, Actuarial Statement, Scheme Administration, Funding Strategy Statement, Governance Compliance Statement, Statement of Investment Principles and Communications Policy.

We conducted our work in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission. Our report on the administering authority's annual statement of accounts describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the pension fund financial statements are consistent with the pension fund financial statements included within the annual statement of accounts of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2015 and comply with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15.

Mark Heap

Grant Thornton UK LLP

4 Hardman Square
Spinningfields
Manchester
M3 3EB

21 September 2015

Fund account for the year ended

31 March 2014 (restated) £000		Note	31 March 2015 £000
Contributions and benefits			
(108,361)	Contributions from employees	5	(138,267)
(299,286)	Contributions from employers	5	(420,732)
(407,647)			(558,999)
0	Transfers in (bulk)		(2,641,622)
(11,707)	Transfers in (individual)		(8,316)
(419,354)			(3,208,937)
527,253	Benefits payable	6	636,593
15,735	Payments to and on account of leavers	7	26,486
17,526	Management expenses (net)	8	18,216
560,514			681,295
Returns on investments			
(276,630)	Investment income	9	(296,724)
0	Investment returns by proxy	9a	(108,453)
(563,909)	Reduction/(increase) in fair value of investments	11	(1,373,260)
2,190	Taxation	10	2,286
2,164	(Profit)/loss on foreign currency		(3,354)
(836,185)	Net (profit)/loss on investments		(1,779,505)
(695,025)	Net increase in the Fund during the year		(4,307,147)
(12,589,029)	Net assets of the Fund at start of year		(13,284,054)
(13,284,054)	Net assets of the Fund at end of year		(17,591,201)

The significant increase in the net assets of GMPF and the constituent elements detailed above and overleaf is principally due to the transfer of Probation staff and pensioners into GMPF on 1 June 2014.

Net Assets Statement at

31 March 2014 £000		Note	31 March 2015 £000
2,743,255	UK equities	11	2,817,799
3,429,147	Overseas equities	11	3,930,516
691,246	UK fixed interest corporate bonds	11	788,541
79,223	Overseas fixed interest corporate bonds	11	88,447
174,432	UK fixed interest government bonds	11	111,083
358,535	Overseas fixed interest government bonds	11	313,423
201,180	UK index linked government bonds	11	206,441
170,246	Overseas index linked government bonds	11	340,996
376,835	Investment property	11	409,235
299	Derivative contracts	11	325
4,287,243	Pooled investment vehicles	11	7,882,069
704,032	Cash and deposits	11	628,823
122,901	Other investment assets	11	159,956
13,338,574	Investment assets		17,677,654
(64,796)	Other investment liabilities	11	(114,206)
(64,796)	Investment liabilities		(114,206)
30,179	Current assets	11	53,633
(19,903)	Current liabilities	11	(25,880)
10,276	Net current assets		27,753
13,284,054	Net assets of Fund		17,591,201

1. Notes to the Accounts

From 1 April 2010 GMPF was required to prepare its financial statements under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 based on IFRS, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This requires that GMPF accounts should be prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 26, except where interpretations or adaptations to fit the public sector are detailed in the Code. The financial statements summarise the transactions of GMPF and deal with net assets at the disposal of the Management Panel. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the GMPF financial year. Under IFRS, GMPF is required to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. This is disclosed as a separate note (note 25). The full actuarial position of GMPF, which does take account of pension and benefit obligations falling due after the year end, is outlined in note 22. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with that information.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation: The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. That is, income and expenditure is recognised as it is earned or incurred including contributions receivable and pension benefits payable. Individual transfer values are recognised on a received or paid basis.

Financial assets & liabilities: On initial recognition, GMPF is required to classify financial assets and liabilities into held to maturity investments, available for sale financial assets, held for trading, designated at fair value through the fund account, or loans and receivables. Financial assets may be designated as at fair value through the fund account only if such designation (a) eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition of inconsistency, or (b) applies to a group of financial assets, financial liabilities or both that GMPF manages and evaluates on a fair value basis, or (c) relates to an instrument that contains an embedded derivative which is not evidently closely related to the host contract.

Contribution income: Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the scheme actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pensions strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset.

Amounts not due until future years are classed as long-term financial assets.

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs): GMPF provides an AVC scheme for its contributors, the assets of which are invested separately from GMPF. These AVC sums are not included in GMPF's financial statements because GMPF has no involvement in the management of these assets. Members participating in this arrangement each receive an annual statement confirming the amount held in their account and the movements in the year. Further details are provided in note 24.

Additional Voluntary Contributions Income: Where a member is able and chooses to use their AVC fund to buy scheme benefits, this is treated on a cash basis and is categorised within Transfers In.

Investment Income: Interest, rent and dividends on fixed interest and equity investments and on short-term deposits has been accounted for on an accruals basis.

Accrued Investment Income: Accrued investment income has been categorised within investments in accordance with the Pensions Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (Revised May 2007).

Foreign Income: Foreign income is translated into sterling at the rate applicable at the date of conversion. Income due at the year-end is translated at the rate applicable at 31 March 2015.

Foreign Investments: Foreign investments are translated at the exchange rate applicable at 31 March 2015. Any gains or losses arising on translation of investments into sterling are accounted for as a change in market value of investment.

Rental income: Rental income from operating leases on investment properties owned by GMPF is recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. Any lease incentives granted are recognised as an integral part of the total rental income over the term of the lease. Contingent rents are only recognised when contractually due.

Benefits: Benefits includes all benefit claims payable by GMPF during the financial year.

Investment values: All financial assets are valued at their fair value as at 31 March 2015 determined as follows:

At 31 March 2015	Valuation basis/technique	Main assumptions
Equities and bonds	Pricing from market data providers based on observable bid price quotations.	Use of pricing source. There are minor variations in the price dependent upon the pricing feed used.
Direct Investment Property	Independent valuations for freehold and leasehold investment properties at fair value; the main investment property portfolio has been valued by Deloitte LLP, Chartered Surveyors, as at 31 December 2014 subsequently adjusted for transactions undertaken between 1 January 2015 and 31 March 2015. The Greater Manchester Property Venture Fund portfolio has been valued as at 31 March 2015 by Bilfinger GVA. In both cases valuations have been in accordance with Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Red Book.	Investment properties have been valued on the basis of open market value (the estimated amounts for which a property should exchange between a willing buyer and seller) and market rent (the expected benefits from holding the asset) in accordance with the RICS Appraisal and Valuation Manual. The values are estimates and may not reflect the actual values.
Indirect property (Part of Pooled Investment Vehicles)	Independent valuations for freehold and leasehold properties less any debt within the individual property fund plus/minus other net assets.	Freehold and leasehold properties valued on an open market basis. Valuation carried out in accordance with the principles laid down by the RICS Appraisal and Valuation Manual and independent audit review of the net assets within the individual property fund.
Derivatives	Derivative contracts are valued at fair value. Futures contracts' fair value is determined using exchange prices at the reporting date. The fair value is the unrealised profit or loss at the current bid market quoted price. The amounts included in change in market value are the realised gains and losses on closed futures contracts and the unrealised gains and losses on open futures contracts. The fair value of the forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end date and determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract was matched at the year end with an equal and opposite contract.	

At 31 March 2015	Valuation basis/technique	Main assumptions
Private equity, infrastructure and special opportunities portfolios	The funds are valued either in accordance with accounting standards codification 820 or with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The valuation basis, determined by the relevant Fund Manager, may be any of quoted market prices, broker or dealer quotations, transaction price, third party transaction price, industry multiples and public comparables, transactions in similar instruments, discounted cash flow techniques, third party independent appraisals or pricing models.	In reaching the determination of fair value, the investment managers consider many factors including changes in interest rates and credit spreads, the operating cash flows and financial performance of the investments relative to budgets, trends within sectors and/or regions, underlying business models, expected exit timing and strategy and any specific rights or terms associated with the investment, such as conversion features and liquidation preferences. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions that affect the application of policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense. The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis.
Cash and other net assets	Value of deposit or value of transaction	Cash and account balances are short-term, highly liquid and subject to minimal changes in value.

Financial instruments at fair value through the fund account: Financial assets and liabilities are stated at fair value as per the Net Assets Statement which is prepared in accordance with the Pensions SORP (Revised May 2007), requiring assets and liabilities to be reported on a fair value basis. Gains and losses on financial instruments that are designated as at fair value through the fund account are recognised in the fund account as they arise. The carrying values are therefore the same as fair values.

Loans & receivables: Non-derivative financial assets which have fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market are classified as loans and receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents: Cash comprises of cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in values.

Acquisition costs of investments: Acquisition costs of investments are included in the purchase price.

Management Expenses: Investment management expenses paid directly by GMPF are included within Management Expenses within the Fund account on page 27. These costs together with other management costs are met from within the employer contribution rate. Certain of GMPF's external securities managers have contracts which include performance fees in addition to the annual management fees. The performance fees are based upon one off, non-rolling, 3 yearly calculations. It is GMPF policy to accrue for any performance fees which are considered to be potentially payable.

In addition certain investments in pooled vehicles predominantly in private markets, alternatives and property have investment costs deducted directly by the investment managers. These costs are not charged directly to the Fund account nor analysed in note 8. They are included in the fair value adjustments applied to assets concerned within the Fund account and corresponding notes, the performance is reported on a net basis. In line with CIPFA recommendations on improving disclosure of investment costs, note 11 includes an estimate of these costs for this financial year and previous financial year.

Administration Expenses are included within Management Expenses within the Fund account. These costs are accounted for on an accruals basis. The costs of administration are met by employers through their employer contribution rate. All staff costs of the administering authority's pension service are charged direct to GMPF.

Net (Profit)/Loss on Foreign Currency: Net (profit)/loss on foreign currency comprises the change in value of short-term deposits due to exchange rate movements during the year.

Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits: The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on an annual basis by the Actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS19 and relevant actuarial standards. As permitted under IAS26, GMPF has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net asset statement (see note 25).

Derivatives: GMPF uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities. GMPF does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes.

Derivative contract assets are fair valued at bid prices and liabilities are fair valued at offer prices. Changes in fair value of derivative contracts are included in change in fair value.

Future contracts are exchange traded and fair value is determined using exchange prices at their reporting date. Amounts due or owed to the broker are amounts outstanding in respect of initial margin and variation margin.

Forward foreign exchange contracts are over the counter contracts and are valued by determining the gain or loss that would arise from closing out the contract at the reporting date, by entering into an equal and opposite contract at that date.

Transfers: Transfer values represent amounts received and paid during the period for individual members who have either joined or left GMPF during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged. This reflects when liabilities are transferred and received. Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in transfers in. Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis

Taxation: GMPF is a registered public service scheme under section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a fund expense as it arises.

2a. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

In applying the policies, GMPF has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions, or those involving uncertainty. Those with most significant effect are:

- GMPF will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future as a going concern;
- No investments are impaired (further detail on the investment strategy and approach to managing risk can be found in Note 4).

Any judgements made in relation to specific assets and liabilities, in addition to information stated in the relevant notes, can also be found in Note 2: Accounting Policies.

Compliance with IFRS requires the assumptions and uncertainties contained within figures in the accounts and the use of estimates to be explained. GMPF accounts contain estimated figures, taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors, as detailed below:

Unquoted private equity, infrastructure and special opportunities investments

Unquoted private equities are valued by the investment managers in accordance with accounting standards codification 820 or with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The value of unquoted private equities, infrastructure and special opportunities held via investment in specialist pooled investment vehicles at 31 March 2015 was £686,936,000 (£539,884,000 at 31 March 2014).

Pension Fund Liability

The pension fund liability on an actuarial basis is calculated every three years by an appointed actuary. For the purpose of reporting the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, this liability value is updated annually in intervening years by the Actuary. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the Actuary and are summarised in note 25. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on change to the underlying assumptions..

3. Classification of Financial Instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and net assets statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period.

At 31 March 2015			
	Designated as fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000
Financial assets:			
Equities	6,748,315	0	0
Fixed interest	1,301,494	0	0
Index linked	547,437	0	0
Derivatives	325	0	0
Pooled investment vehicles	7,882,069	0	0
Cash	0	628,823	0
Other investment assets	0	159,956	0
Current assets	0	53,633	0
	16,479,640	842,412	0
Financial liabilities:			
Derivatives	0	0	0
Other investment liabilities	0	(114,206)	0
Current liabilities	0	(25,880)	0
	0	(140,086)	0
Total	16,479,640	702,326	0

At 31 March 2014			
	Designated as fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000
Financial assets:			
Equities	6,172,402	0	0
Fixed interest	1,303,436	0	0
Index linked	371,426	0	0
Derivatives	299	0	0
Pooled investment vehicles	4,287,243	0	0
Cash	0	704,032	0
Other investment assets	0	122,901	0
Current assets	0	30,179	0
	12,134,806	857,112	0
Financial liabilities:			
Derivatives	0	0	0
Other investment liabilities	0	(64,796)	0
Current liabilities	0	(19,903)	0
	0	(84,699)	0
Total	12,134,806	772,413	0

Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

All gains and losses were on financial instruments and these were at fair value through the Fund account. The net gain for the year ending 31 March 2015 £1,367,751 (31 March 2014 £543,760,000).

3a. Valuation of Financial Instruments carried at Fair Value

The table below provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of GMPF that are carried at fair value in the GMPF net asset statement grouped into levels 1 to 3 based on the degree to which fair value is observable. Further details of the values shown can be found in Note 11.

At 31 March 2015				
	Level 1 £000	Level 2 £000	Level 3 £000	Total £000
Financial assets:				
Equities	6,748,315	0	0	6,748,315
Fixed interest	0	1,301,494	0	1,301,494
Index linked	0	547,437	0	547,437
Derivatives	0	325	0	325
Pooled investment vehicles	0	6,667,607	1,214,462	7,882,069
Total	6,748,315	8,516,863	1,214,462	16,479,640

At 31 March 2014				
	Level 1 £000	Level 2 £000	Level 3 £000	Total £000
Financial assets:				
Equities	6,172,402	0	0	6,172,402
Fixed interest	0	1,303,436	0	1,303,436
Index linked	0	371,426	0	371,426
Derivatives	0	299	0	299
Pooled investment vehicles	0	3,339,166	948,077	4,287,243
Total	6,172,402	5,014,327	948,077	12,134,806

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine the fair values.

Level 1: Inputs to Level 1 are quoted prices on the asset being valued in an active market where there is sufficient transaction activity to allow pricing information to be provided on an ongoing basis. Financial instruments classified as Level 1 predominantly comprise actively traded shares.

Level 2: Level 2 prices are those other than Level 1 that are observable e.g. composite prices for fixed income instruments and fund net asset value prices. This is considered to be the most common level for all asset classes other than equities.

Level 3: Level 3 prices are those where at least one input, which could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation, is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include the GMPF private equity and infrastructure investments which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant management judgement in determining appropriate assumptions, including earnings multiples, public market comparables and estimated future cash flows.

The valuation techniques used by GMPF are detailed in note 2.

A reconciliation of fair value measurements in Level 3 is set out below.

31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
£000		£000	
671,038	Opening balance	948,077	
301,021	Acquisitions	241,274	
(75,508)	Disposal proceeds	(115,646)	
	Total gains/(losses) included in the fund account:		
4,472	- on assets sold	17,285	
47,054	- on assets held at year end	123,472	
948,077	Closing balance	1,214,462	

GMPF has cash, other investment assets and liabilities which will mature in the next 12 months. No valuation technique is required in relation to these investments and therefore assignment to a level is not applicable.

4. Financial risk management

The management panel of GMPF recognises that risk is inherent in any investment activity. GMPF has an active risk management programme in place and the measures which it uses to control key risks are set out in its Funding Strategy Statement (FSS).

The FSS is prepared in collaboration with GMPF's Actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, and after consultation with GMPF's employers and investment advisors.

The FSS is reviewed in detail every 3 years in line with triennial valuations being carried out. A full review was completed by 31 March 2014.

GMPF's approach to risk measurement and its management is set out in its Statement of Investment Principles (SIP). The Management Panel recognises that risk is inherent in any investment activity. The overall approach is to reduce risk to a minimum where it is possible to do so without compromising returns (e.g. in operational matters), and to limit risk to prudently acceptable levels otherwise (e.g. in investment matters).

The means by which GMPF minimises operational risk and constrains investment risk is set out in further detail in its SIP (available at www.gmpf.org.uk).

Some risks lend themselves to being measured (e.g. using such concepts as 'Active Risk' and such techniques as 'Asset Liability Modelling') and where this is the case, GMPF employs the relevant approach to measurement. GMPF reviews new approaches to measurement as these continue to be developed.

GMPF's exposures to risks and its objectives, policies and processes for managing and measuring the risks has not changed throughout the course of the year.

Market risk

Market risk is the level of volatility in returns on investments caused by changes in market expectations, interest rates, credit spreads, foreign exchange rates and other factors.

This is calculated as the standard deviation of predicted outcomes. GMPF is exposed to market risk through its portfolio being invested in a variety of asset classes.

GMPF seeks to limit its exposure to market risk by diversifying its portfolio as explained within its SIP and by restricting the freedom of its fund managers to deviate from benchmark allocations. The asset allocation has been made with regard to the balance between expected returns and expected volatility of asset classes and using advice from GMPF's investment advisor, Hymans Robertson LLP.

The table below shows the expected market risk exposure or predicted volatilities of GMPF's investments:

Asset type	Potential market movements (+/-)	
	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
	p.a.	p.a.
UK equities	16.6%	17.0%
Overseas equities	19.4%	20.1%
Fixed interest - gilts	6.9%	6.7%
Index linked gilts	5.0%	4.8%
Corporate bonds	9.6%	9.5%
Overseas bonds	13.2%	12.6%
Property	14.7%	14.7%
Private equity	28.4%	28.6%
Infrastructure	15.9%	15.9%
Cash and other liquid funds	0.6%	0.6%
GMPF	11.7%	12.0%

The volatilities for each asset class and correlations used to create the total GMPF volatility have been estimated using standard deviations of 5,000 simulated one-year total returns using Hymans Robertson Asset Model, the economic scenario generator maintained by Hymans Robertson LLP.

The overall GMPF volatility has been calculated based on GMPF's target split as at 31 March 2014 and 2015. The calibration of the model is based on a combination of historical data, economic theory and expert opinion.

Had the market price of GMPF's investments increased/decreased over a period of a year in line with the data within the table above, the change in the market value of the net assets available to pay benefits would have been as shown in the tables below.

Asset type	31 March 2015	% change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£000	p.a.	£000	£000
UK equities	3,834,754	17.0%	4,486,662	3,182,846
Overseas equities	7,765,183	20.1%	9,325,984	6,204,381
Fixed interest - gilts	570,034	6.7%	608,227	531,842
Index linked gilts	543,181	4.8%	569,254	517,108
Corporate bonds	1,147,979	9.5%	1,257,037	1,038,921
Overseas bonds	991,305	12.6%	1,116,210	866,401
Investment property	895,490	14.7%	1,027,127	763,853
Private equity	571,172	28.6%	734,527	407,817
Infrastructure	157,035	15.9%	182,004	132,066
Cash and other liquid funds	1,201,521	0.6%	1,208,730	1,194,312
GMPF	17,677,654	12.0%	19,798,973	15,556,336

Asset type	31 March 2014	% change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£000	p.a.	£000	£000
UK equities	3,451,263	16.6%	4,024,173	2,878,353
Overseas equities	5,191,954	19.4%	6,199,193	4,184,715
Fixed interest - gilts	445,495	6.9%	476,234	414,756
Index linked gilts	404,049	5.0%	424,251	383,847
Corporate bonds	923,928	9.6%	1,012,625	835,231
Overseas bonds	596,914	13.2%	675,707	518,121
Investment property	785,221	14.7%	900,648	669,794
Private equity	442,070	28.4%	567,618	316,522
Infrastructure	97,619	15.9%	113,140	82,098
Cash and other liquid funds	1,000,061	0.6%	1,006,061	994,061
GMPF	13,338,574	11.7%	14,899,187	11,777,961

Interest rate risk

GMPF invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments whilst recognising that there is a risk that returns will not be as expected. Changes in the level of interest rates will contribute to the volatility of returns in all asset classes. The table in the section on market risk shows the expected volatility over one year for GMPF's investment portfolio. One area directly affected by interest rate changes is the level of income expected from floating rate cash instruments. As at 31 March 2015, GMPF had £412,417,000 (2013/14 £172,828,000) invested in this asset via pooled investment vehicles. Therefore, a 1% change in interest rates will increase or reduce the Fund's return by £4,124,170 (2013/14 £1,728,000) on an annualised basis.

Currency risk

GMPPF invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments whilst recognising that there is a risk that returns will not be as expected. Changes in the level of foreign exchange rates will contribute to the overall volatility of overseas assets. GMPPF's approach is to consider these risks in a holistic nature. The table in the section on market risk shows the expected volatility over one year for GMPPF's investment portfolio including overseas assets which are separately identified.

Credit risk

GMPPF risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause GMPPF to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit risk in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of GMPPF's financial assets and liabilities. The volatility of credit risk is encapsulated within the overall volatility of assets detailed in the table showing market risk.

In essence, GMPPF's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk. However, the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises the credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

Contractual credit risk is represented by the net payment or receipt that remains outstanding, and the cost of replacing the derivative positions in the event of counterparty default. The residual risk is minimal due to the various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet Tameside MBC's (TMBC), as administering authority, credit criteria. TMBC has also set limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits placed with any one class of financial institution. In addition, TMBC invests an agreed percentage of its funds in the money markets to provide diversification. Money market funds chosen all had a "AAA" rating from a leading ratings agency.

TMBC believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and has had no experience of default or uncollectable deposits. GMPPF's cash holding under its Treasury Management arrangements at 31 March 2015 was £577,813,000 (31 March 2014 £655,711,000). This was held with the following institutions.

Summary	Rating	Balance at 31 March 2014 £000	Balance at 31 March 2015 £000
Money market funds			
Blackrock	AAA	31,900	4,700
Insight	AAA	50,000	50,000
J P Morgan	AAA	50,000	50,000
HSBC	AAA	50,000	49,100
SSGA	AAA	50,000	50,000
Goldmans	AAA	0	27,100
IGNIS	AAA	50,000	50,000
D B Advisors	AAA	50,000	50,000
Prime Rate	AAA	50,000	50,000
Morgan Stanley	AAA	50,000	50,000
Legal & General	AAA	50,000	50,000

Summary	Rating	Balance at 31 March 2014 £000	Balance at 31 March 2015 £000
Banks			
RBS	BBB	46,811	41,523
Bank of Scotland	A	50,000	0
Local authorities & public bodies			
Salford Council	N/A	0	5,000
Staffordshire Council	N/A	0	10,000
Warrington Council	N/A	5,000	0
West Dunbartonshire Council	N/A	5,000	0
North Tyneside Council	N/A	5,000	0
Merseyside Police Authority	N/A	7,000	0
Rhondda Council	N/A	0	4,390
Highland Council	N/A	0	5,000
Dudley Council	N/A	0	6,000
Buckinghamshire Council	N/A	0	15,000
Birmingham Council	N/A	25,000	0
Glasgow Council	N/A	25,000	10,000
Wakefield Council	N/A	5,000	0
Totals		655,711	577,813

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that GMPF will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. TMBC therefore take steps to ensure that GMPF has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. This will particularly be the case for cash from the liability matching mandates from the main investment strategy to meet the pensioner payroll cost; and also cash to meet investment commitments.

TMBC has immediate access to the GMPF cash holdings, with the exception of investments placed with other local authorities – where periods are fixed when the deposit is placed.

GMPF had in excess of £577 million cash balances at 31 March 2015.

All financial liabilities at 31 March 2015 are due within one year.

The majority of GMPF assets are liquid, their value could be realised within one week. The following table shows GMPF investments in liquidity terms.

31 March 2014 £000	Liquidity terms	31 March 2015 £000
11,904,164	Assets realisable within 7 days	16,023,957
72,500	Assets realisable in 8-30 days	20,000
0	Assets realisable in 31-90 days	10,000
1,361,910	Assets taking more than 90 days to realise	1,623,697
13,338,574	Total	17,677,654

Management prepares periodic cash flow forecasts to understand and manage the timing of GMPF's cash flows. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held is a central consideration when preparing GMPF's annual investment strategy.

The effects of reductions in public expenditure are expected to result in a significant maturing of GMPF's liabilities, with fewer employee members and more pensioner and deferred members. However, when income from investments is taken into account, GMPF is expected to continue to be cash flow positive for the foreseeable future and it will not be a forced seller of investments to meet its pension obligations.

5. Contributions

By Category

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
(299,286)	Employers	(420,732)
(108,361)	Employees	(138,267)
(407,647)		(558,999)

By Authority

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
(335,607)	Part 1 Schedule 2 Scheme Employer	(357,785)
(5,895)	Designating Bodies	(79,494)
(56,947)	Community Admission Body	(111,628)
(9,198)	Transferee Admission Body	(10,092)
(407,647)		(558,999)

Scheme employers can be split into those listed in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (as amended) (such as local authorities) which participate automatically, and those listed in Part 2 (such as town councils) which can only participate if they choose to do so by designating employees or groups of employees as eligible. Part 2 employers are called designating bodies. Community admission bodies provide a public service in the United Kingdom otherwise than for the purposes of gain and have sufficient links with a Scheme employer. Transferee admission bodies are commercial organisations carrying out work for local authorities under a best value or other arrangement. Further analysis by employer is contained in note 20 of these statements.

At the 2013 Actuarial Valuation, GMPF was assessed as 90.5% funded. Contribution increases are phased over the 3 year period ending 31 March 2017. The phasing results in deficit contributions increasing over the period, and some employers will make contributions in excess of their future service rate.

The contribution rates specified in the Actuarial Valuation are minimum contribution rates. Some employers have made voluntary payments in excess of these minimum rates. In addition, a small number of employers were required to make explicit deficit payments – details of these can be found in the 2013 Actuarial Valuation report located at www.gmpf.org.uk.

6. Benefits Payable

By Category

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
425,907	Pensions	529,224
89,452	Commutation & lump sum retirement benefits	95,666
11,894	Lump sum death benefits	11,703
527,253		636,593

By Authority

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
420,691	Part 1 Schedule 2 Scheme Employer	520,745
16,976	Designating Bodies	19,030
81,883	Community Admission Bodies	89,056
7,703	Transferee Admission Bodies	7,762
527,253		636,593

Scheme employers can be split into those listed in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (as amended) (such as local authorities) which participate automatically, and those listed in Part 2 (such as town councils) which can only participate if they choose to do so by designating employees or groups of employees as eligible. Part 2 employers are called designating bodies. Community admission bodies provide a public service in the United Kingdom otherwise than for the purposes of gain and have sufficient links with a Scheme employer. Transferee admission bodies are commercial organisations carrying out work for local authorities under a best value or other arrangement. Further analysis by employer is contained in note 20 of these statements.

7. Payments to and on account of leavers

31 March 2014 (restated) £000		31 March 2015 £000
0	Group transfers to other schemes	1,000
15,710	Individual transfers to other schemes	25,176
(23)	Payments for members joining state scheme	18
(12)	Income for members from state scheme	(50)
60	Refunds to members leaving service	342
15,735		26,486

8. Management Expenses

The costs of administration and investment management are met by the employers through their employer contribution rate.

In June 2014, CIPFA published guidance on Accounting for LGPS Management Costs. The aim of this guidance is to assist in the improvement of consistent and comparable data across LGPS funds. Previously, costs were categorised as either administration or investment related. The guidance introduced a third category, Oversight and Governance. For 2014/15, GMPF Scheme management costs have been categorised in accordance with the guidance and 2013/14 figures have been restated to provide appropriate comparatives.

Investment Management Expenses

31 March 2014 (restated) £000		31 March 2015 £000
1,073	Employee costs	1,291
310	Support services including IT	138
10,361	Management fees	10,699
353	Custody fees	349
12,097		12,477

Administrative costs

31 March 2014 (restated) £000		31 March 2015 £000
2,762	Employee costs	3,249
1,199	Support services including IT	1,114
132	Printing and publications	42
4,093		4,405

Oversight and Governance costs

31 March 2014 (restated) £000		31 March 2015 £000
400	Employee costs	434
248	Support services including IT	381
120	Governance and decision making costs	109
62	Investment performance monitoring	53
62	External audit fees*	68
102	Internal audit fees	102
123	Actuarial fees - investment consultancy	109
219	Actuarial fees	78
1,336		1,334

* Total fee paid to external auditors in 2014/15 is £68,332 (2013/14 £62,336) of which £11,992 (2013/14 £5,996) was paid in relation to work carried out on behalf of GMPF's main scheme employers

9. Investment income

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
(51,969)	Fixed interest (corporate and government bonds)	(46,022)
(177,638)	Equities	(193,904)
(4,753)	Index linked	(4,779)
(23,621)	Pooled investment vehicles	(25,343)
(18,285)	Investment property (gross)	(24,748)
3,182	Investment property non-recoverable expenditure	2,107
(2,598)	Interest on cash deposits	(2,869)
(803)	Stocklending	(1,118)
(145)	Underwriting	(48)
(276,630)		(296,724)

In accordance with IAS 12 Income Taxes, investment income includes withholding taxes and irrecoverable withholding tax is analysed separately as a tax charge. Income received by Legal and General pooled funds is automatically reinvested within the relevant sector fund and thus excluded from the above analysis. Similarly, UBS pooled funds for Emerging Market Equities, Capital International pooled funds for Emerging Market Equities and High Yield Bonds, Aviva Investors Property Fund, Standard Life Pooled Property Pension Fund and Standard Life Investments UK Property Development Fund in which GMPF invest have income automatically reinvested with that fund.

9a. Investment Return by Proxy

On 1st June 2014, in accordance with Statutory Instrument 1146 (2014), GMPF became the sole administering authority for probation staff and former probation staff in England and Wales that have or are eligible for LGPS membership.

The transfer of assets from the former Administering Authorities was a staged process throughout the year, with the ceding LGPS funds paying an estimated compensatory amount to GMPF to reflect investment returns for the period between 1 June 2014 and the actual transfer value receipt date. Once the actual investment returns of the transferring funds were established, the amount was refreshed and an adjustment paid to or from GMPF to reflect this. Adjustments paid or received after 31 March and up to 31 May have been accrued for within these accounts. In addition, accruals have been made for amounts that have not yet been received or paid - but that have been calculated at the time of the preparation of these accounts.

10. Taxation

GMPF is exempt from UK income tax on interest and from capital gains tax on the profits resulting from the sale of investments. GMPF is exempt from United States withholding tax on dividends and can recover all or part of the withholding tax deducted in some other countries. The amount of withholding tax deducted from overseas dividends which GMPF is unable to reclaim in 2014/15 amounts to £2,286,000 (2013/14 £2,190,000) and is shown as a tax charge.

As Tameside MBC is the Administering Authority for GMPF, VAT input tax was recoverable on all GMPF activities including expenditure on investment and property expenses..

11. Investments at fair value

The following tables analyse the carrying amounts of the financial assets and liabilities by category.

Value at 1 April 2014 £000		Purchases £000	Sales £000	Change in fair value £000	Value at 31 March 2015 £000
	Designated as at fair value through the fund account				
6,172,402	Equities	3,931,485	(3,771,637)	416,065	6,748,315
1,303,436	Fixed interest	1,136,109	(1,259,002)	120,951	1,301,494
371,426	Index linked	269,197	(137,102)	43,916	547,437
376,835	Property	39,150	(12,260)	5,510	409,235
299	Derivatives	1,831	(17,571)	15,766	325
4,287,243	Pooled investment vehicles	4,148,905	(1,325,131)	771,052	7,882,069
12,511,641		9,526,677	(6,522,703)	1,373,260	16,888,875
	Loans and receivables				
704,032	Cash				628,823
68,381	Other investments and net assets				73,503
13,284,054	Total				17,591,201

Value at 1 April 2013 £000		Purchases £000	Sales £000	Change in fair value £000	Value at 31 March 2014 £000
Designated as at fair value through the fund account					
5,862,922	Equities	2,232,060	(2,472,500)	549,920	6,172,402
1,507,659	Fixed interest	1,318,061	(1,437,343)	(84,941)	1,303,436
256,439	Index linked	343,735	(196,462)	(32,286)	371,426
358,877	Property	29,964	(32,155)	20,149	376,835
0	Derivatives	0	(829)	1,128	299
3,931,131	Pooled investment vehicles	447,416	(201,243)	109,939	4,287,243
11,917,028		4,371,236	(4,340,532)	563,909	12,511,641
Loans and receivables					
643,529	Cash				704,032
28,472	Other investments and net assets				68,381
12,589,029	Total				13,284,054

The change in market value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investment during the year.

Equities

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
2,743,255	UK quoted	2,817,799
3,429,147	Overseas quoted	3,930,516
6,172,402		6,748,315

Fixed interest

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
174,432	UK public sector quoted	111,083
358,535	Overseas public sector quoted	313,423
691,246	UK corporate quoted	788,541
79,223	Overseas corporate quoted	88,447
1,303,436		1,301,494

Index linked

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
201,180	UK public sector quoted	206,441
170,246	Overseas public sector quoted	340,996
371,426		547,437

Investment Property

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
£000		£000
336,950	UK - Main property portfolio	369,900
39,885	UK - Greater Manchester Property Venture Fund *	39,335
376,835		409,235

* An amount of £46,239,000 (2013/14 £17,290,000) relating to Greater Manchester Property Venture Fund has not been included in this total but is recorded under property unit trusts within Pooled Investment Vehicles analysis section of note 11

All investment property is located in England, Wales or Scotland and, in order to reduce risk, is diversified over several sectors which include high street retail, offices, industrial/retail warehousing, leisure, healthcare and student accommodation. Gross and net rental income are shown in note 9 of these accounts.

With the sole exception of one investment property, where a rent sharing agreement is in place with the freeholder, no directly held investment property has restrictions on its realisation, remittance of income or disposal proceeds.

Committed expenditure in relation to investment property can be found at note 17.

In accordance with the Investment Property Strategy, decisions have been taken to sell three investment properties. These were either being prepared for sale, were being marketed or prices had been agreed at 31 March 2015 (combined prices totalled £20,525,000).

The following tables summarise the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

Movement in the fair value of investment properties in 2014/15	£000
Balance at 1 April 2014	376,835
Purchases	37,750
Expenditure during year	1,401
Disposals	(12,260)
Net gains/ (losses) from fair value adjustments	5,509
Balance at 31 March 2015 *	409,235

* Of which £20,525,000 relates to properties being marketed at 31 March 2015.

Movement in the fair value of investment properties in 2013/14	£000
Balance at 1 April 2013	358,877
Purchases	28,535
Expenditure during year	1,429
Disposals	(32,155)
Net gains/ (losses) from fair value adjustments	20,149
Balance at 31 March 2014	376,835

Future Operating Lease Rentals Receivable

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
21,618	Not later than 1 year	21,177
68,153	Later than 1 year, but not later than 5 years	63,233
167,229	Later than 5 years	154,921
257,000	Total	239,331

The future minimum lease payments due to GMPF under non-cancellable operating leases are stated above.

Where a lease contains a "tenant's break" clause, it is only up to this point that the aggregation is made.

Derivatives

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
	Investment assets:	
0	Forward Currency contracts	180
299	FTSE 100 Index future	318
299		498
	Investment liabilities:	
0	Forward Currency contracts	(173)
299	Net (liability)/asset	325

Derivative receipts and payments represent the realised gains and losses on futures contracts and forward currency contracts. GMPF's objective in entering into derivative positions is to decrease risk in the portfolio.

31 March 2015 Contract	Settlement Date	Currency	Currency Bought 000	Currency	Currency Sold 000	Asset £000	Liability £000
Forward Currency Contact	Within one month	JPY	662,945	EUR	5,000	65	0
Forward Currency Contact	Within one month	USD	4,261	SEK	36,000	58	0
Forward Currency Contact	Within one month	USD	1,850	EUR	1,750	22	0
Forward Currency Contact	Within one month	EUR	20,679	GBP	15,000	0	(32)
Forward Currency Contact	Within one month	USD	33,187	GBP	22,500	0	(141)
Forward Currency Contact	Within one month	JPY	2,016,835	GBP	11,300	35	0
						180	(173)

31 March 2015 Contract	Settlement Date	Economic Exposure £000	Market Value £000
FTSE 100 Index Futures	Within 3 months	116,732	318

31 March 2014 Contract	Settlement Date	Economic Exposure £000	Market Value £000
FTSE 100 Index Futures	Within 3 months	39,523	299

The above table analyses the derivative contracts held at 31 March 2015 by maturity date. The Forward Currency Contracts were all traded on an over-the-counter-basis and the UK FTSE Future contract was exchange traded.

Pooled investment vehicles

31 March 2014 £000			31 March 2015 £000
103,029	Managed funds	-property	149,488
528,527		-overseas equity	564,562
16,405		-overseas corporate bonds	0
107,218		-UK private equity & infrastructure	141,032
313,142		-overseas private equity & infrastructure	416,100
97,464		-UK special opportunities portfolio	93,781
20,436		-overseas special opportunities portfolio	59,667
272,806	Unit trusts	-property	315,574
1,342		-overseas private equity	1,311
88		-UK private equity	83
32,551	Insurance policies	-property	37,427
708,008		-UK quoted equity	1,016,955
271,064		-UK fixed interest	458,951
202,868		-UK index linked securities	336,740
137,055		-UK corporate bonds	359,438
172,828		-UK cash instruments	412,417
1,234,279		-overseas quoted equity	3,270,104
68,133		-overseas fixed interest	176,107
0		-overseas corporate bonds	25,149
0		-overseas linked securities	47,183
4,287,243			7,882,069

Cash

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
657,210	Sterling	576,755
46,822	Foreign currency	52,068
704,032		628,823

Other investments balances and net assets

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
63,845	Amounts due from broker	86,431
28,628	Outstanding dividends and recoverable withholding tax	34,716
19,383	Gross accrued interest on bonds	19,275
291	Gross accrued interest on loans	1,543
8,730	Investment loans	16,915
2,024	Other accrued interest and tax reclaims	1,076
122,901	Other investment assets	159,956
(64,123)	Amounts due to broker	(105,608)
0	Amounts due to other funds re asset transfers	(7,431)
(299)	Variation margin	(318)
(374)	Irrecoverable withholding tax	(849)
(64,796)	Other investment liabilities	(114,206)
25,037	Employer contributions - main scheme	34,440
242	Employer contributions - additional pensions	926
519	Property	1,628
499	Development of new Pensions office building	6,556
3,882	Other	10,083
30,179	Current assets	53,633
(8,629)	Property	(6,844)
(33)	Employer contributions - main scheme	(443)
(1,247)	Employer contributions - additional pensions	(1,455)
(8,268)	Admin & investment management expenses	(9,545)
(1,726)	Other	(7,593)
(19,903)	Current liabilities	(25,880)
10,276	Net current assets	27,753
68,381	Other investment balances and net assets	73,503

11a. Transaction and management costs not charged directly to the Fund account

Transaction costs

The charges for Transaction Costs are currently implicit within the value of assets concerned. Consequently, they are not charged directly to the Fund account nor analysed in note 8 of these financial statements. Instead, they are reflected in the fair value adjustments applied both to the assets concerned and the Fund account.

Transaction costs include commissions, stamp duty and other fees. With the aim of increasing transparency, the costs generated from acquisitions and disposals in the following investment areas were:

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
7,489	Public market investments	5,330
49	Directly held investment property	944
7,538		6,274

The CIPFA Code of Practice (and guidance related to the Code) does not require 'bid-offer spread' to be reported as a transaction cost.

Management costs

Certain investments in pooled vehicles predominantly in private markets, alternatives and property have investment costs met within the vehicle rather than an explicit charge paid by GMPF. Thus costs are not charged directly to the Fund account nor analysed in note 8. They are included in the fair value adjustments applied to assets concerned within the Fund account and corresponding notes, the performance is reported on a net basis.

The table below shows estimates made for these costs during the current and previous financial year using methodology agreed with external advisers on private assets and include potential accrued performance fees.

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
8,002	Private market and alternative investments (performance related)	12,526
12,040	Private market and alternative investments (non-performance related)	13,814
1,821	Indirect investment property	2,020
21,863		28,360

12. Local investments

GMPF invests within the North West of England with a focus on the Greater Manchester conurbation in property development and redevelopment opportunities. This programme of investments is delivered through Greater Manchester Property Venture Fund.

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
57,175	Greater Manchester Property Venture Fund	85,574

13. Designated Funds

A small number of employers within GMPF have a materially different liability profile. Some earmarked investments are allocated to these employers. The investments of the Designated Fund incorporated in the Net Asset statement are as follows:

31 March 2014		31 March 2015 £000
140,473	Index linked	140,069
156,173	Cash	134,121
1,243	Other investment balances	1,272
297,889	Net	275,462

14. Summary of manager's portfolio values at 31 March

2014			2015		
£m	%		£m	%	
Externally managed					
6,652	50.1%	UBS Global Asset Management	6,446	36.6%	
2,794	21.0%	Legal & General	6,104	34.7%	
1,965	14.8%	Capital International	2,245	12.8%	
57	0.4%	GVA (advisory mandate)	86	0.5%	
0	0.0%	Investec	667	3.8%	
0	0.0%	LaSalle	519	2.9%	
11,468	86.3%		16,067	91.3%	
Internally managed					
540	4.1%	Private equity	728	4.1%	
298	2.2%	Designated funds	275	1.6%	
359	2.7%	Property direct	0	0.0%	
369	2.8%	Property indirect	291	1.7%	
250	1.9%	Cash, other investments and net assets	230	1.3%	
1,816	13.7%		1,524	8.7%	
13,284	100.0%	Total	17,591	100.0%	

15. Concentration of investment

As at 31 March 2015, GMPF held, respectively, 17.0% and 17.7% of its net assets in insurance contracts MF32950 and MF36558 with Legal & General Assurance (Pensions Management) Limited. They are linked long term contracts under Class III of Schedule 1 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 and not “with profits” contracts.

The policy documents have been issued and the values are incorporated in the Net Asset statement within pooled investment vehicles. The policies’ underlying asset classes are as follows:

POLICY MF32950 – Main Fund

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
708,008	UK equities	245,034
1,234,279	Overseas equities	1,799,547
271,064	UK fixed interest	304,998
137,055	UK corporate bonds	149,951
68,133	Overseas fixed interest	75,305
202,869	UK Index linked	237,205
172,828	UK cash instruments	185,079
2,794,236		2,997,119

POLICY MF36558 - Probation

31 March 2014 £000		31 March 2015 £000
0	UK equities	771,921
0	Overseas equities	1,470,557
0	UK fixed interest	153,954
0	UK corporate bonds	209,487
0	Overseas fixed interest	100,802
0	UK Index linked	99,535
0	UK cash instruments	227,339
0	Overseas index linked	47,183
0	Overseas corporate bonds	25,149
0		3,105,927

Policy MF 36558 is solely in respect of all former Probation employers.

Details of any single investment exceeding 5% of any class or type of security are detailed in the following tables:

		Value as at 31 March 2015	Asset class value at 31 March 2015	% of asset class
Investment	Type and nature of investment	£000	£000	%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.25% - Fixed July 2015	72,149	1,301,494	5.54%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.125% Index Linked April 2019	78,615	547,437	14.36%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.125% Index Linked April 2017	62,398	547,437	11.40%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.125% Index Linked July 2024	46,474	547,437	8.49%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.25% Index Linked April 2025	37,603	547,437	6.87%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.625% Index Linked April 2024	29,962	547,437	5.47%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 1.75% Index Linked January 2028	28,792	547,437	5.26%
UK Government	Treasury Bonds 2.5% Index Linked April 2020	125,377	547,437	22.90%
LIFFE FTSE 100 Future June 2014	Derivative Contract	318	318	100.00%

		Value as at 31 March 2014 (restated)	Asset class value at 31 March 2014 (restated)	% of asset class (restated)
Investment	Type and nature of investment	£000	£000	%
UK Government	Treasury Bonds 2.5% - Index Linked July 2016	20,716	371,426	5.58%
UK Government	Treasury Bonds 2.5% - Index Linked April 2020	127,837	371,426	34.42%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.125% - Index Linked April 2017	18,599	371,426	5.01%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.125% - Index Linked January 2023	30,669	371,426	8.26%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 0.50% - Index Linked April 2015	41,471	371,426	11.17%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 1.75% - Index Linked January 2028	30,146	371,426	8.12%
US Government	Treasury Bonds 1.875% - Index Linked July 2019	19,744	371,426	5.32%
Capital International Emerging Markets Fund	Pooled investment vehicles - shares in open-ended investment company	258,472	4,287,243	6.03%
UBS International Emerging Markets Fund	Pooled investment vehicles - shares in open-ended investment company	270,055	4,287,243	6.30%
LIFFE FTSE 100 Future June 2014	Derivative Contract	299	299	100.00%

16. Notifiable interests

As at 31 March 2015 GMPF had holdings of 3% or over in the ordinary share capital of the following quoted companies:

UK Equity 31 March 2014 %		UK Equity 31 March 2015 %
4.1	Dixons Retail PLC	N/A
7.2	HMV Group PLC	N/A
4.0	Premier Farnell PLC	4.0
7.9	STV Group PLC	6.0
4.9	Chemring Group PLC	4.9
4.2	Darty PLC	4.2
3.4	Mothercare PLC	3.7
3.9	Synthomer PLC	3.9
N/A	Balfour Beatty PLC	3.3
N/A	Brown (N) Group PLC	3.4
N/A	RPS Group PLC	3.5
N/A	TT Electronics PLC	5.3

17. Commitments

31 March 2014 £000	Asset type	Nature of commitment	31 March 2015 £000
474	Directly held investment property	Commitments regarding demolition or refurbishment work	2,076
0	Directly held investment property	Commitments regarding purchases	20,800
385,733	Indirect private equity and infrastructure managed funds	Undrawn commitments to funds	411,231
64,370	Special opportunities portfolio managed fund	Undrawn commitments to funds	149,570
7,610	Investment property managed funds	Undrawn commitments to funds	47,610
17,936	Investment property unit trust	Undrawn commitments to lend	8,208
0	Commercial/domestic based investment property unit trust	Undrawn commitment to funds	15,765
0	Local Investment 4 Growth Fund	Undrawn commitment to funds	17,748
0	Local Impact portfolio	Undrawn commitment to funds	1,246
7,001	Administration Property	Undrawn commitments to funds	1,156
483,124			675,410

The above expenditure was contractually committed as at the 31 March and a series of stage payments are to be made at future dates.

For details of material commitments made since 31 March 2015, please see note 26

18. Related party transactions

In the course of fulfilling its role as administering authority to GMPF, Tameside MBC incurred costs for services (e.g. salaries and support costs) and construction of new pension building of £12,090,000 (to date and subject to review) on behalf of GMPF and paid to HMRC VAT (net) of £1,830,000. Total payments due to Tameside MBC therefore, amounted to £13,920,000 (2013/14 £4,843,000). GMPF reimbursed Tameside MBC £12,728,000 for these charges and there is a creditor of £1,192,000 owing to Tameside MBC at the year end (2013/14 £430,000 within Creditors). This creditor has been settled since the year end.

The Executive Director of Pensions has his entire full-time remuneration and any employer's pension contributions of £111,283 (2013/14 £131,648) charged to GMPF. This amount is also detailed in Tameside MBC's accounts.

Other key management personnel are as below, with the amounts shown including employer pension contributions:

Job Title	£
Assistant Executive Director - Investments	91,375
Assistant Executive Director - Administration	91,375
Assistant Executive Director - Funding & Business Development	91,375
Assistant Executive Director - Local Investment & Property	91,375

There is no direct charge to GMPF for the services provided by the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), the Executive Director (Finance)/Assistant Executive Director (Finance)/Section 151 Officer and the Executive Director of Governance & Resources/Section 5 Monitoring Officer of Tameside MBC, but a contribution towards their cost is included in the recharge as detailed above. They receive no additional salary or remuneration for undertaking this role. Details of the total remuneration of these officers is published on the Tameside MBC website. The remuneration of the Chairman of the Management Panel can be found by accessing the following link:

<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/constitution/part6>

Paragraph 3.9.4.3 of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom exempts Local Authorities on the Key Management Personnel disclosure requirements of IAS 24, on the basis that the disclosure requirements for officer remuneration and members' allowances detailed in Section 3.4 of the code (which are derived from the requirements of Regulation 7(2)-(4) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and Regulation 7A of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations (2005) satisfy the Key Management Personnel disclosure requirements of paragraph 16 of IAS 24.

The disclosures required by regulation 7(2)-(4) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations can be found in the main accounts of the administering authority - Tameside MBC.

No senior officers responsible for the administration of GMPF have entered into any contract (other than their contract of employment) with Tameside MBC (administering authority).

A number of members of the Management Panel and Officers responsible for the administration of GMPF have directorships to discharge their responsibilities to the Fund in companies, which have been incorporated for the sole purpose of the investment, administration and management of GMPF's assets. No additional remuneration is paid for these directorships. These are:

Name	Position in GMPF	Company in which directorship is held
Cllr J Taylor	Management Panel Member	Elisabeth House (General Partner) Limited
Cllr M Whitley	Management Panel Member	Elisabeth House Nominee 1 Limited Elisabeth House Nominee 2 Limited Elisabeth House (General Partner) Limited
Peter Morris	Executive Director - Pensions	GMPF UT (Second Unit Holder) Limited Elisabeth House Nominee 1 Limited Elisabeth House Nominee 2 Limited Elisabeth House (General Partner) Limited Airport City (Asset Manager) Limited
Andrew Hall	Investment Manager	GMPF UT (Second Unit Holder) Limited Matrix Homes (General Partner) Limited
Neil Charnock	Head of Legal Services	Hive Bethnal Green Limited
Patrick Dowdall	Assistant Executive Director - Local Investment & Property	Matrix Homes (General Partner) Limited Hive Bethnal Green Limited
Nigel Driver	Investment Manager	Hive Bethnal Green Limited
Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive	Airport City (General Partner) Limited

The above receive no remuneration for these directorships.

Under legislation introduced in 2003/04, Councillors were entitled to join the pension scheme. Councillor J Pantall, member of the GMPF Management Panel, and Employee representative F Llewellyn both received pension benefits from GMPF during the financial year. In addition, the following Councillors, members of the GMPF Management and Advisory Panels, and Employee representatives made pension contributions to GMPF during the financial year:

Name	Position
Cllr K Quinn	Councillor member
Cllr S Quinn	Councillor member
Cllr G P Cooney	Councillor member
Cllr J Fitzpatrick	Councillor member
Cllr J Lane	Councillor member
Cllr M Smith	Councillor member
Cllr JC Taylor	Councillor member
Cllr A Mitchell	Councillor member
Cllr D Ward	Councillor member
Cllr D Buckley	Councillor member
Cllr T Halliwell	Councillor member
Cllr K Welsh	Councillor member
D Schofield	Employee representative
J Thompson	Employee representative
M Baines	Employee representative
M Rayner	Employee representative
K Drury	Employee representative

Each member of the GMPF Management and Advisory Panels and Working Groups formally considers declarations of interest at each meeting. In addition, an annual return of all declarations of interest is obtained from the members by their respective Councils. Those relevant to GMPF Management Panel membership are listed below:

Name	Position & Organisation	Organisation relationship with GMPF
Cllr K Quinn	Director of New Charter Building Company Ltd Non-executive Director of Manchester Airport Group	Contributing employer Contributing employer
Cllr S Quinn	Vice Chair North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation	Contributing employer
Cllr D Ward	Member of General Assembly of University of Manchester	Contributing employer
Cllr JC Taylor	Chairman of Tameside Sports Trust	Contributing employer
Cllr J Fitzpatrick	Member of Shareholder Committee Manchester Airport Plc	Contributing employer
Cllr M Smith	Employee of Manchester Working Ltd Vice-Chair of Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Authority	Contributing employer Contributing employer
Cllr G Cooney	Employee of Manchester City Council Director of New Charter Housing Trust Limited	Contributing employer Contributing employer
Cllr A Mitchell	Committee Member of Groundwork Organisations	Contributing employer
Cllr W Pennington	Member of General Assembly of University of Manchester	Contributing employer
Cllr T Halliwell	Employee of Wigan & Leigh College	Contributing employer
Cllr K Welsh	Employee of Manchester Working	Contributing employer

The administering authority, Tameside MBC, falls under the influence of the United Kingdom Department of Communities and Local Government. GMPF may have significant holdings of UK Government Bonds depending on investment decisions.

19. Employer related investment

Greater Manchester Property Venture Fund includes a standing investment of office accommodation which was leased to Wigan MBC at 31 March 2014. It was valued at £1,170,000 at that date. Wigan MBC have since ceased their tenancy.

At 31 March 2015, GMPF had an amount of £5,000,000 (2014 £nil) on short-term loan to Salford City Council as part of normal treasury management activities.

20. Contributions received and benefits paid during the year ending 31 March

Contributions Received 2014 £m	Benefits Paid 2014 £m		Contributions Received 2015 £m	Benefits Paid 2015 £m
(29)	34	Bolton Borough Council	(31)	36
(18)	22	Bury Borough Council	(19)	24
(52)	96	Manchester City Council	(54)	91
(20)	29	Oldham Borough Council	(19)	30
(22)	30	Rochdale Borough Council	(23)	29
(26)	34	Salford City Council	(27)	36
(21)	27	Stockport Borough Council	(22)	31
(19)	28	Tameside Borough Council (administering authority)	(20)	29
(17)	22	Trafford Borough Council	(19)	22
(27)	36	Wigan Borough Council	(29)	35
(91)	79	Other scheme employers *	(174)	177
(66)	90	Admitted bodies *	(122)	97
(408)	527		(559)	637

* A full list of all scheme and admitted bodies can be found in the GMPF Annual Report 2014/15 which will be available at www.gmpf.org.uk, following the GMPF Annual General Meeting in October 2015.

21. Funding Strategy Statement and Statement of Investment Principles

GMPF has published a Statement of Investment Principles and a Funding Strategy Statement. Both documents can be found on its website - www.gmpf.org.uk

22. Actuarial Review of the Fund

GMPF's last actuarial valuation was undertaken as at 31 March 2013. A copy of the valuation report can be found on the GMPF website –

<http://www.gmpf.org.uk/2014/documents/policies/actuarialvaluation/2013.pdf>.

The funding policy is set out in the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) dated 7 March 2014. The key funding principles are as follows:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of GMPF as a whole and the solvency of each of the notional sub-funds allocated to individual employers;
- to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all benefits as they fall due for payment;
- to ensure that employers are aware of the risks and the potential returns of the investment strategy;
- to help employers recognise and manage pension liabilities as they accrue, with consideration as to the effect on the operation of their business where the Administering Authority considers this to be appropriate;
- to try to maintain stability of employer contributions;
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers, and ultimately to the Council Tax payer, from an employer ceasing participation or defaulting on its pension obligations;
- to address the different characteristics of the disparate employers or groups of employers to the extent that this is practical and cost-effective; and
- to maintain the affordability of GMPF to employers as far as is reasonable over the longer term.

The valuation revealed that GMPF's assets, which at 31 March 2013 were valued at £12,590 million, were sufficient to meet 90.5% of the present value of promised retirement benefits earned. The resulting deficit was £1,317 million.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2013 valuation were:

Financial assumptions	31 March 2013	
	Nominal % p.a.	Real % p.a.
Discount rate	4.80%	2.30%
Pay increases*	3.55%	1.05%
Price inflation/Pension increases	2.50%	-

*plus an allowance for promotional pay increases.

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method that takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date. It also makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

23. Stocklending

GMPF's custodian, J P Morgan, is authorised to release stock to third parties under a stocklending agreement. Under the agreement, GMPF do not permit J P Morgan to lend UK or US equities.

At the year end the value of stock on loan was £255.9 million (31 March 2014: £233.2 million) in exchange for which the custodian held collateral at fair value of £269.3 million (31 March 2014: £245.4 million), which consisted exclusively of UK, US, and certain other government bonds.

24. AVC Investments

GMPF provides an AVC scheme for its contributors, the assets of which are invested separately from GMPF. Therefore, these amounts are not included in the GMPF accounts in accordance with regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No 3093).

The scheme provider is Prudential where the sums saved are used to secure additional benefits on a money purchase basis for those contributors electing to pay additional voluntary contributions. The funds are invested in a range of investment products including with profits, fixed interest, equity, cash, deposit, property, and socially responsible funds, as follows:

Contributions paid	£7,344,850
Units purchased	£1,894,033
Units sold	616,180
Fair value as at 31 March 2015	£69,607,015
Fair value as at 31 March 2014	£62,409,071

25. Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2014/15 requires administering authorities of LGPS funds to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits in accordance with IS26 Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans.

This value has been calculated by GMPF's Actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, using the assumptions below.

Assumptions used

The assumptions used are those adopted for the administering authority's IAS19 Employee Benefits report at each year end as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2014/15.

Financial assumptions

31 March 2014 % p.a.	Year ended:	31 March 2015 % p.a.
2.80%	Inflation/pension increase rate	2.40%
3.85%	Salary increase rate	3.55%
4.30%	Discount rate	3.20%

Mortality

Life expectancy is based on GMPF's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2010 model, assuming the current rate of improvements has reached a peak and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25% p.a.. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current pensioners	21.4 years	24.0 years
Future pensioners*	24.0 years	26.6 years

* future pensioners are assumed to be currently aged 45

Commutation

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 55% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre-April 2008 service and 80% of the maximum tax-free cash for post-April 2008 service.

Value of promised retirement liabilities

Year ended 31 March 2014 £m		Year ended 31 March 2015 £m
16,873	Present value of promised retirement benefits	24,896

Liabilities have been projected using a roll forward approximation from the latest formal funding valuation as at 31 March 2013. The liability as at 31 March 2015 includes the liabilities transferred as part of the Ministry of Justice pension transfer on 1 June 2014. No allowance has been made for unfunded benefits

Sensitivity analysis

The sensitivities regarding the principle assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below.

31 March 2014		Change in assumptions at year ended 31 March	31 March 2015	
Approximate % increase to promised retirement benefits	Approximate monetary amount (£m)		Approximate % increase to promised retirement benefits	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
7%	1,181	0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	7%	1,743
2%	337	0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	3%	747
3%	506	1 year increase in member life expectancy	3%	747
9%	1,519	0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	10%	2,490

It should be noted that the above figures are only appropriate for the preparation of the accounts of GMPF. They should not be used for any other purpose.

26. Post balance sheet event

On 23 April 2015, GMPF entered into an agreement with the London Pension Fund Authority to fund a range of infrastructure project investments. GMPF's commitment to this joint venture is £250 million.

Actuarial statement

This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 57(1)(d) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, and Chapter 6 of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2014/15.

Description of Funding Policy

The funding policy is set out in the administering authority's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), dated March 2014. In summary, the key funding principles are as follows:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund as a whole and the solvency of each of the notional sub-funds allocated to individual employers;
- to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all benefits as they fall due for payment;
- to ensure that employers are aware of the risks and potential returns of the investment strategy;
- to help employers recognise and manage pension liabilities as they accrue, with consideration as to the effect on the operation of their business where the Administering Authority considers this to be appropriate;
- to try to maintain stability of employer contributions;
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the Council Tax payer from an employer ceasing participation or defaulting on its pension obligations;
- to address the different characteristics of the disparate employers or groups of employers to the extent that this is practical and cost-effective; and
- to maintain the affordability of the Fund to employers as far as is reasonable over the longer term.

The FSS sets out how the administering authority seeks to balance the conflicting aims of securing the solvency of GMPF and keeping employer contributions stable.

Funding Position as at the last formal funding valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 was as at 31 March 2013. This valuation revealed that the GMPF's assets, which at 31 March 2013 were valued at £12,590 million, were sufficient to meet 91% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting deficit at the 2013 valuation was £1,317 million.

Individual employers' contributions for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017 were set in accordance with the GMPF's funding policy as set out in its FSS.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions and Method used to value the liabilities

Full details of the methods and assumptions used are described in the valuation report dated 27 March 2014.

Method

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date, and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

Assumptions

A market-related approach was taken to valuing the liabilities, for consistency with the valuation of GMPF assets at their market value.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2013 valuation were as follows:

Financial Assumptions	31 March 2013	
	% p.a. Nominal	% p.a. Real
Discount Rate	4.80%	2.30%
Pay Increases	3.55%	1.05%
Price Inflation / Pension Increases	2.50%	-

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumptions are based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI_2010 model, assuming the current rate of improvements has reached a peak and will converge to long term rate of 1.25% p.a.. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	21.4 years	24.0 years
Future Pensioners*	24.0 years	26.6 years

*Currently aged 45.

Copies of the 2013 valuation report and Funding Strategy Statement are available on request from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, the Administering Authority to GMPF.

Experience over the period since April 2013

Experience has been mixed over the two years to 31 March 2015 (excluding the effect of any membership movements). Real bond yields have fallen dramatically and the effect of this has been largely offset by the effect of strong asset returns, meaning that funding levels are likely to have worsened marginally over this period.

It should be noted that a significant number of members have transferred into GMPF over the year in relation to the centralisation of the National Probation Services Local Government Pension Scheme arrangements. This will increase the liabilities and assets of GMPF considerably

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2016. The Funding Strategy Statement will also be reviewed at that time.



Steven Law

Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
For and on behalf of Hymans Robertson LLP

30 June 2015

HYMANS  **ROBERTSON**

20 Waterloo Street
Glasgow
G2 6DB

Scheme administration



Scheme administration

Background to GMPF and LGPS

GMPF is the largest fund in the statutory Local Government Pension Scheme for England and Wales. Tameside MBC is the administering authority for GMPF.

Employees of all local and joint authorities in the Greater Manchester area and of many other public bodies have automatic access to the LGPS (unless they are eligible to be a member of another public service pension scheme, such as the teachers, police officers, fire-fighters, Civil Service or NHS pension schemes). Employees of a wide range of other bodies that provide a public service can also join the LGPS if they are covered by a relevant resolution or by an admission agreement. There are also some councillors who are members of the Fund, but they must stop contributing at the end of their current terms of office. Please see the section *Employer Contribution Rates* for a list of employers who contribute to the GMPF.

The LGPS is a defined benefit scheme. Prior to 1 April 2014 it was a final salary scheme, whereby a member's length of service in the scheme together with pay on or near retirement is used to work out their pension benefits. For membership from 1 April 2014 pension benefits are based on pension build-up, which is also called career averaging. This provides, in the Scheme's standard section, for a pension of a 49th of pay per year of service. Members have the option of joining the 50/50 section of the LGPS, which provides for a build-up of 50% of the standard 49th, for 50% of the standard contributions. A summary of the scheme rules can be found in the section *The Scheme at a Glance*.

Statutory regulations define the benefits to be paid and not GMPF's investment performance or market conditions.

Standard employee contributions vary according to levels of pay. Employers meet the balance of the cost of the LGPS through variable employer contributions. The employer contribution rates are set by GMPF's actuary every three years following a valuation of the Fund. Employer contribution rates can rise or fall depending on their individual funding level and the estimated cost of providing benefits for future membership. The last valuation took place as at 31 March 2013 and the contribution rates to be applied for the three years from 1 April 2014 were then determined. Please see the section *Employer Contribution Rates* for a comparison of the rates for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Members of the LGPS are contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P) because the LGPS provides at least broadly equivalent benefits. Members and their employers pay lower National Insurance contributions as a result. The LGPS is also registered with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, giving rise to various tax benefits, including tax relief on employee contributions.



Pensions Policy Manager Emma Mayall with Assistant Executive Director Euan Miller.

Membership and Employers

The membership continues to grow. The total number of employee, pensioner and deferred members at 31 March 2015 was 341,337 compared to 286,419 at 31 March 2014. The main reason for such a large increase was that on 1 June 2014, GMPF became the *One Fund* for all probation related members in England and Wales. This led to approximately 46,000 employee, deferred and pensioner members transferring from 34 other LGPS funds to the GMPF. This was the largest transfer of LGPS members since local government reorganisation in 1974.

There has also continued to be an increase in the number of employers contributing to GMPF in 2014/15, in part again because of becoming the *One Fund*. The overall number of actively contributing employers now stands at 431, compared to 364 as at 31 March 2014. There have also been a number of new academy schools and new admission bodies. In most cases, these admission agreements have been made to allow existing LGPS members who are outsourced by a local authority or other Scheme employer to a private contractor, to continue as members of the LGPS. In other cases, agreements have been made to reflect an existing body's change of legal status.

The total number of employers at 31 March 2015 is made up of 10 local authorities, 3 higher education corporations, 21 further education corporations, 8 foundation or voluntary schools, 151 academies, a further 23 scheme employers and 215 admission bodies.

Changes to Scheme rules

Two Statutory Instruments came into force on 1 April 2014, being amongst the most important since the LGPS was created in 1922. They were the LGPS Regulations 2013, which changed the Scheme to career averaging for future membership, and the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014, which preserved the final salary nature of existing membership. Because of the change to career averaging a great deal of work was undertaken to update literature, forms, processes and the website.

The third major Statutory Instrument was the LGPS (Offender Management) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. This was the piece of legislation that made GMPF the *One Fund* for probation related members. Arising from this was a great deal of work to take on the new members and the new employers. This included the introduction of a third monthly payroll, to pay those transferred pensioners who had been paid in the middle of the month.

Scheme Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

AVCs continued to be a popular way of providing extra retirement benefits. A change in the Scheme's rules had been expected for new AVC savers that would have limited the amount of AVCs that could be taken as tax free cash to 25% of the accumulated AVC pot. This change was not made, so most members can continue to take their entire AVC pot as a tax free lump sum.

Pensions Regulator

In April 2015, the Pensions Regulator published its Code of Practice no 14: Governance and Administration of Public Service Pension Schemes. The code applies to all schemes established under the Public Service Pension Schemes Act 2013 and is directed at scheme managers and members of pension boards of public service pension schemes and connected schemes. It contains four parts:

- Governing your scheme
- Managing risks
- Administration; and
- Resolving issues.

The Management Panel and Local Board will oversee and monitor performance against the code and this will form part of subsequent annual reports.

Death Grants

One of the potentially most contentious areas of work relates to the payment of death grants, where potential beneficiaries can lodge a claim and counterclaim. The guidelines for payment are rigorously applied - sometimes at great length - with the aim of making fair and reasonable awards. There are encouragingly few appeals.



Our guidelines for the payment of death grants has the aim of making fair and reasonable awards, and has resulted in encouragingly few appeals.

Other Regulatory & Legislative Issues

We have continued to raise our concerns about the ending of contracting-out in 2016, and the extra National Insurance contributions this will require from both employers and employees. These are serious concerns, with employers expected to experience material increases in their costs, estimated to be 2% of pensionable pay, unless there is a compensating change elsewhere or extra funding. In aggregate, the Local Government Association (LGA) estimates that it will cost LGPS employers around £800 - £1,000 million a year.

Employer Training & Performance

A variety of training was provided to employers. This included courses being run at the Pensions Office and at Hyde Town Hall, where speakers attended from the LGA.

Some employers had staffing changes that affected their capacity to deal with their pension related work and responsibilities. This meant that they have tended to struggle with supplying the information required for effective and efficient administration, not least the prompt notification of all starters and leavers. The Pensions Office is working with these employers to try and improve the service delivered to members.

EPICi and DART

GMPP now has over 500 employer records, and the complexity of arrangements is growing. We continue to use a system developed by South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (SYPA) called *Employer Pensions Information Centre* - internal or *EPICi* for short. This was bought and installed two years ago and has proved to be a very effective way of helping to manage the increasing complexities of an ever growing number of employers.

SYPA has also developed a data analysis and reporting tool, known as DART. This system allows the swift extraction of statistical reports thereby improving administrative efficiency.

The use of these systems is a good example of the collaboration work that takes place between administering authorities.

Altair

From February 2014 the Pensions Office's main pensions administration system has been Altair. This is used for holding membership data, calculation and payment of benefits, document generation, document scanning, and office workflow. The calculation of benefits function was greatly hampered by the lateness of the Regulations for the 2014 Scheme, with the second Statutory Instrument not being laid before Parliament until 10 March. This meant that at the start of career averaging, many laborious manual calculations had to be undertaken. Altair has been catching up with these regulatory changes during the year.

Value for Money

Benchmarking is undertaken through our membership of the CIPFA club for administering authorities. Our administration costs are competitive, with the annual administration cost per member being £16.20. This compares favourably with the average of £20.92. We also continue to meet with colleagues from the other five metropolitan funds in order to share ideas and best practice.

We use a mortality tracing firm to help identify deaths of UK pensioners that have not been notified to the Pensions Office.



GMPP's Executive Director of Pensions, Peter Morris (centre) accepting the LGA Investment Award for Large Scheme of the Year, 2014.

Performance Standards

The Pensions Office uses a number of key performance standards in order to measure its work. The table below lists these standards, together with the performance over the year, and includes the number of cases that were measured...

Task	Total number of cases	Standard	Within Standard
1. Written queries answered or acknowledged	5,068	5 days	93.27%
2. New starters processed	15,098	10 days	86.04%
3. Changes in details processed	23,750	10 days	97.47%
4. Helpline telephone calls answered in office hours	72,508	100%	81.05%
5. Pensions forecasts for deferred members	105,471	Issued before 31 May	90.20%
6. Pensions forecasts for active members	87,739	Issued before 31 August	6.99%*
7. Technical guidance issued to employers	7	Within 2 months	100.00%
8. Pension savings statements	148	Issued before 6 October	100.00%
9. Estimates for divorce purposes	464	10 days	97.41%
10. Non LGPS transfers into the fund processed	84	15 days	96.57%
11. Non LGPS transfers out quotations processed	875	10 days	96.57%
12. Non LGPS transfer out payments processed	248	10 days	96.77%
13. Internal and concurrent transfers processed	346	10 days	78.90%
14. Refund payments made	470	10 days	87.20%
15. Deferred benefits calculated	5,145	10 days	62.12%
16. Annuity quotations calculated	114	5 days	98.25%
17. APC illustrations calculated	209	10 days	86.12%
18. AVC amendments noted on ALTAIR	2,051	10 days	89.76%
19. New retirements benefit options sent	2,540	10 days	72.68%
20. New retirements processed for payment	2,720	5 days	94.13%
21. Deferred benefits processed for payment	2,720	5 days	94.93%
22. Notifications of death processed	3,166	5 days	95.77%
23. Dependant's pensions processed for payment	1,184	5 days	96.45%
24. Death grants processed for payment	440	5 days	90.68%
25. Retirement lump sum processed by payroll	4,603	5 days	100.00%
26. Payments ceased due to death	3,153	By noon on eve of pay day	100.00%
27. Changes to bank details made	1,938	By payroll cut off date	100.00%

* The task of sending pension forecasts to employees scored particularly low. Whilst the statutory standard of 30 September was met, the in-house standard of 31 August was only met for the pilot local authority.

Performance Standards (continued)

This has been a very challenging year for delivering the pensions administration service for all LGPS administrators. Performance against some standards has suffered as a result. There are many factors that have influenced performance levels, these include the need to introduce a new administration system for the 2014 scheme, and the resulting need to undertake many more manual calculations, and support to employers looking to manage their budgets.

The take on of probation was also a major task, with membership increasing by approximately 15% as a result.

Extra staff have been recruited to assist with the long term increase in workloads, and to help manage current work pressures.

Membership levels

Membership changes over the last three years were as follows:

	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015
Employees	88,988	92,912	113,115
Deferreds (all types)	95,529	99,028	117,069
Pensioners (all types)	91,605	94,479	111,153
Total	276,122	286,419	341,337

As can be seen, membership has been growing across the board. The March 2015 figures incorporate the Probation related transfers.

Communications

The Pensions Helpline continues to be a popular way for members to communicate with us about their pensions. Over 72,000 calls were received by the Helpline team during the year, with some of the most popular calls being from members informing us of address and bank changes, requesting booklets and forms, and asking questions about tax and their own pension benefits.

Annual benefit statements were issued to employee and deferred members, and to produce these we switched to a new form of digital printing, which meant we could still issue a high quality colour coded document to our customers, but one which was even more tailored to the individual. A Grapevine newsletter was also issued to all pensioners.

Changes have also been made regarding disclosure of information, allowing newsletters to be published electronically for those for whom we have email addresses and have not exercised their right to opt-out of e-communications. More and more email addresses are being collected, so as to maximise the benefits from e-comms. As an example, a recent Pension Power newsletter included over 40,000 email alerts being issued, compared to 27,000 for the previous issue.

New digital print technology has meant high quality colour coded statements for employee and deferred members, with content even more tailored to the individual.



Employer contribution rates



Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Manchester City Council Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Manchester City Council	16.6	17.5
St Kentigern's R.C. Primary School	16.6	17.5
National Car Parks Manchester Ltd	16.6	17.5
Manchester Sports and Leisure Trust (To 30.09.14)	16.6	17.5
Group 4 Total Security Limited	16.6	17.5
Eastlands Homes Partnership Ltd (Trfd Staff)	16.6	17.5
Wythenshawe Forum Trust Limited (To 30.09.14)	16.6	17.5
Amey Highways Limited	16.6	17.5
Peak Valley Housing Association Ltd	16.6	17.5
Manchester Working Limited	16.6	17.5
Adactus Housing Association Limited	16.6	17.5
Capita IT Services (BSF) Ltd (Ex-Man)	16.6	17.5
Hochtief Facility Management UK Limited (Wright Robinson)	16.6	17.5
Enterprise Manchester Partnership Limited	16.6	17.5
Mosscares Housing Limited	16.6	17.5
Jacobs Engineering UK Limited	16.6	17.5
Community Integrated Care	16.6	17.5
Inspirit Care Limited [Ex-Manchester]	16.6	17.5
Manchester Enterprise Academy	16.6	17.5
Manchester Health Academy	16.6	17.5
Manchester Creative And Media Academy	16.6	17.5
East Manchester Academy	16.6	17.5
Manchester Communication Academy	16.6	17.5
The Co-operative Academy of Manchester	16.6	17.5
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust	16.6	17.5
One Education Limited	16.6	17.5
The King David High School	16.6	17.5
Cheetham Church of England Community Academy	16.6	17.5
Trinity Church of England High School	16.6	17.5
Greater Manchester Arts Centre Limited	16.6	17.5
Elite Cleaning & Environmental Services Limited	16.6	17.5
St Barnabas C of E Primary Academy Trust	16.6	17.5
Wise Owl Trust (Briscoe Lane Academy)	16.6	17.5
E-ACT (Blackley Academy)	16.6	17.5
Wise Owl Trust (Seymour Road Academy)	16.6	17.5
Chorlton High School	16.6	17.5
Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust (St Anthony's)	16.6	17.5
Children of Success Schools Trust (Haveley Hey)	16.6	17.5
Children of Success Schools Trust (The Willows)	16.6	17.5
Webster Primary School	16.6	17.5

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Manchester City Council Pool <i>(continued)</i>	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust (St Paul's)	16.6	17.5
Oasis Community Learning (Harpur Mount)	16.6	17.5
Commission For The New Economy Limited (2)	16.6	17.5
Manchester Central Convention Complex Limited (From 29.04.13)	16.6	17.5
Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust (St John Fisher)	16.6	17.5
The King David Primary School (From 01.06.13)	16.6	17.5
Oasis Community Learning (Academy Aspinall) (From 01.09.13)	16.6	17.5
Kingsway Community Trust (Green End Primary School) (From 01.09.13)	16.6	17.5
Kingsway Community Trust (Ladybarn Primary School) (From 01.09.13)	16.6	17.5
Beaver Road Academy Trust (From 01.11.13)	16.6	17.5
Contour Homes Limited (From 06.01.14)	16.6	17.5
Mears Limited (From 06.01.14)	16.6	17.5
Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust (St Elizabeth's Primary) (From 01.04.14)		17.5
Burnage Academy for Boys (From 01.04.14)		17.5
Crossacres Primary Academy (From 01.04.14)		17.5
Daspire Solutions Ltd (Ex MCC - Our Lady's Catholic High)	16.6	17.5
Education and Leadership Trust (Levenshulme High School) (From 01.09.14)		17.5
Education and Leadership Trust (Whalley Range High School) (From 01.09.14)		17.5
Bulloughs Cleaning Services Ltd (Ex Manchester CC) (From 01.08.13)	16.6	17.5
Piper Hill Learning Trust (PH Specialist Support School) (From 01.03.15)		17.5
Taylor Shaw - Cavendish Primary (Ex MCC) (From 01.09.13)	16.6	17.5
Dolce Limited (MCC) (From 22.04.14)		17.5
SS Simon and Jude C of E Academy Trust (St James CE Primary) (From 01.03.15)		17.5
SMC Premier Cleaning Ltd (Ex MCC)	16.6	17.5
Academies Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Middleton Academy Limited (St Anne's Academy)	15.5	16.0
Great Academies Education Trust	15.5	16.0
Oasis Community Learning (MediaCityUK Academy)	15.5	16.0
Essa Academy	15.5	16.0
Droylsden Academy	15.5	16.0
Bolton St. Catherine's Academy	15.5	16.0
Northern Education Trust (Kearsley Academy)	15.5	16.0
St Bede Church of England Primary Academy	15.5	16.0
Audenshaw School Academy Trust	15.5	16.0
Urmston Grammar	15.5	16.0
Park Road Academy Primary School	15.5	16.0
Lever Edge Primary Academy	15.5	16.0
Wellacre Technology Academy Trust	15.5	16.0

Scheme employers		Contribution Rate	
Academies Pool <i>(continued)</i>		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Wellington School		15.5	16.0
Altrincham Grammar School for Boys		15.5	16.0
Sale Grammar School		15.5	16.0
Fairfield High School for Girls		15.5	16.0
Yesoiday HaTorah School		15.5	16.0
Kier Facilities Services Limited [Oasis]		15.5	16.0
Sodexo Limited [Oasis MediaCity]		15.5	16.0
Ashton Pioneer Homes Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Ashton Pioneer Homes Ltd		16.8 + £7k	23.0 + £5k
AQA Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
AQA Education		20.1	21.6
Better Choices Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Better Choices Limited (Tfd Staff)		15.7	16.7
Better Choices Limited (New Staff)		15.7	16.7
Employment & Regeneration Partnership Ltd		15.7	16.7
Better Choices Limited [Rochdale]		15.7	16.7
Commission For The New Economy Limited (To 31.03.15)		15.7	16.7
Bolton MBC Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Bolton MBC		17.9	18.7
Canon Slade C of E School		17.9	18.7
Dawn Construction Limited		17.9	18.7
Bolton Community Leisure Limited		17.9	18.7
Monument Café Limited (Bolton)		17.9	18.7
JW Cleaning Services Ltd [Bolton2]		17.9	18.7
Concerted Academies Trust (Smithills School) (From 01.01.14)		17.9	18.7
Agilisys Limited (Ex Bolton) (From 01.07.13)		17.9	18.7
Borough Care Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Borough Care Ltd		16.3	18.3

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Bury College Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Bury College	16.9	18.6
Bury MBC Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Bury MBC	17.8	18.5
Groundwork Bury & Bolton (To 31.12.13)	17.8	
Six Town Housing Limited	17.8	18.5
Connexions Cumbria	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Inspira Cumbria Limited	14.0	15.3 + £21k
CQC Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Care Quality Commission	21.8 + £71k	26.1 + £96k
Greater Manchester Fire Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	19.5	20.5
Transport for Greater Manchester Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Transport for Greater Manchester	16.5	17.3
Greater Manchester Public Transport Information	16.5	17.3
Greater Manchester Waste Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority	19.8 + £535k	19.8 + £535k
Manchester Airport Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Manchester Airport plc	19.5 + £1,065k	19.8 + £1,700k
Manchester Airport Aviation Services Ltd	19.5	19.8
Other Local Authorities Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Saddleworth Parish Council	18.3	19.8
Manchester Port Health Authority	18.3	19.8
Horwich Town Council	18.3	19.8
The Valuation Tribunal Service	18.3	19.8
Shaw & Crompton Parish Council	18.3	19.8
Shevington Parish Council	18.3	19.8

Scheme employers		Contribution Rate	
Oldham MBC Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Oldham MBC		17.0	17.6
The Villages Housing Association Limited		17.0	17.6
Housing 21		17.0	17.6
Kier Facilities Services Limited [Oldham]		17.0	17.6
The Unity Partnership Limited		17.0	17.6
Taylor Shaw Limited (St Augustine's)		17.0	17.6
Allied Publicity Services (Manchester) Limited		17.0	17.6
Bullough Cleaning Services Limited		17.0	17.6
Oasis Community Learning (Oldham Academy)		17.0	17.6
E-ACT (The Oldham Academy North)		17.0	17.6
Oldham College Community Academies Trust (Waterhead Academy)		17.0	17.6
NSL Limited		17.0	17.6
Church of England Children's Society		17.0	17.6
E.ON UK PLC [Ex-Oldham]		17.0	17.6
Capita Managed IT Solutions Limited (Ex Northgate - Oldham)		17.0	17.6
The Hathershaw College		17.0	17.6
Crompton House Church of England School		17.0	17.6
Sodexo Limited [Oasis Oldham]		17.0	17.6
The Blue Coat School		17.0	17.6
Oasis Community Learning (Limeside Academy)		17.0	17.6
Wates Construction Limited		17.0	17.6
Great Places Housing Association		17.0	17.6
Taylor Shaw Limited (Kier)		17.0	17.6
SMC Premier Cleaning Limited		17.0	17.6
Sodexo Limited (Limeside Academy)		17.0	17.6
Action For Children		17.0	17.6
New Bridge School		17.0	17.6
Church of England Children's Society		17.0	17.6
Oldham Care and Support Limited (From 01.10.13)		17.0	17.6
Oldham College Community Academies Trust (Stoneleigh Academy)		17.0	17.6
Focus Academy Trust (UK) Ltd (Roundthorn Primary Academy) (From 01.09.13)		17.0	17.6
Focus Academy Trust (UK) Ltd (Coppice Primary Academy) (From 01.09.13)		17.0	17.6
St Chad's Church of England Primary School (From 01.02.14)		17.0	17.6
The Harmony Trust Ltd (Greenhill Academy) (From 01.02.14)		17.0	17.6
Bright Tribe Trust (Werneth Primary) (From 01.02.14)		17.0	17.6
North Chadderton School (From 01.09.14)			17.6
The Harmony Trust Ltd (Alt Academy) (From 01.10.14)			17.6
The Harmony Trust Ltd (Westwood Academy) (From 01.11.14)			17.6
The Harmony Trust Ltd (Richmond Academy) (From 01.11.14)			17.6
Blue Support Services (From 01.07.14)			17.6

Scheme employers		Contribution Rate	
Oldham MBC Pool <i>(continued)</i>		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Churchill Contract Services		17.0	17.6
Catering Academy Ltd - Waterhead Academy (From 01.02.15)			17.6
Taylor Shaw Ltd - Blessed John Henry Newman College		17.0	17.6
Taylor Shaw Ltd - Royton and Crompton (From 01.02.14)		17.0	17.6
Rochdale MBC Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Rochdale MBC		17.1	18.0
Crossgates School		17.1	18.0
Smithy Bridge Foundation Primary School		17.1	18.0
Wardle High School (To 31.08.13)		17.1	18.0
St James' C of E Primary School		17.1	18.0
Hollingworth Business and Enterprise College (To 31.08.13)		17.1	18.0
Healey Primary School		17.1	18.0
Peopleprint Community Media Workshop		17.1	18.0
Rochdale Boroughwide Cultural Trust		17.1	18.0
Alternative Futures Group Limited		17.1	18.0
Balfour Beatty Workplace Ltd		17.1	18.0
Safeguard Solutions Limited		17.1	18.0
Capita IT Services (BSF) Limited [Ex-Roc]		17.1	18.0
E.ON UK PLC [Ex-Rochdale/Carillion]		17.1	18.0
Grosvenor Facilities Management Limited		17.1	18.0
Carewest (Northern) Limited		17.1	18.0
Carillion Services Limited (Ex Hollingworth]		17.1	18.0
SMC Premier Cleaning Ltd (Ex RMBC) (From 01.09.12)		17.1	18.0
Wardle Academy (From 01.09.13 to 31.01.15)		17.1	18.0
Hollingworth Academy Trust (From 01.09.13)		17.1	18.0
Carillion AMBS Ltd (Ex RMBC - Falinge) (From 20.12.13)		17.1	18.0
Carillion AMBS Ltd (Ex RMBC - Wardle) (From 20.12.13)		17.1	18.0
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (From 07.07.14)			18.0
PossAbilities C.I.C. (Ex RMBC) (From 01.04.14)			18.0
Salford City Council Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Salford City Council		17.8	18.6
St Ambrose Barlow RC High School		17.8	18.6
The Salfordian Trust Company Limited		17.8	18.6
Salford Community Leisure Limited		17.8	18.6
The Working Class Movement Library		17.8	18.6
Mitie PFI Limited		17.8	18.6
Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited		17.8	18.6

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Salford City Council Pool <i>(continued)</i>	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Salix Homes Limited (To 22.03.15)	17.8	18.6
Hochtief Facility Management UK Limited (Salford)	17.8	18.6
City West Housing Trust Limited	17.8	18.6
Inspirit Care Limited [Ex-Salford]	17.8	18.6
RM Education plc	17.8	18.6
Hochtief Facility Management UK Limited [Salford2]	17.8	18.6
The Landing at MediaCityUK Limited	17.8	18.6
Chevin Housing Association Limited (From 18.09.13)	17.8	18.6
City West Works Ltd (From 01.03.14)	17.8	18.6
Salford Disability Forum	17.8	18.6
Salix Homes Limited (From 23.03.15)		18.6
Career Connect (Ex Salford CC)	17.8	18.6
Salford City College Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Salford City College	16.6	17.1
Small Further Education Colleges Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Holy Cross College	14.9	15.6
Loreto 6th Form College	14.9	15.6
Xaverian 6th Form College	14.9	15.6
Oldham 6th Form College	14.9	15.6
Aquinas College	14.9	15.6
Ashton Under Lyne 6th Form College	14.9	15.6
Winstanley College	14.9	15.6
St John Rigby College	14.9	15.6
Bolton Sixth Form College	14.9	15.6
Rochdale Sixth Form College	14.9	15.6
Small Admitted Bodies Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
National Museum of Labour History	16.3	18.1
Wigan Metropolitan Development Co (Inv) Ltd	16.3	18.1
Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale	16.3	18.1
APSE	16.3	18.1
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit	16.3	18.1
Birtenshaw	16.3	18.1
North Western Local Authorities Employers Organisation	16.3	18.1
Rochdale CAB	16.3	18.1
Chethams School Of Music	16.3	18.1

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Small Admitted Bodies Pool <i>(continued)</i>	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Oldham CAB	16.3	18.1
Manchester CAB	16.3	18.1
CLES	16.3	18.1
UNIAC	16.3	18.1
Manchester Centre For The Deaf	16.3	18.1
Rochdale Development Agency	16.3	18.1
Salford Foundation Ltd	16.3	18.1
Sparth Community Centre	16.3	18.1
Cloverhall Tenants Association Co-op Ltd	16.3	18.1
Stockport CAB	16.3	18.1
Tameside Citizens Advice Bureau	16.3	18.1
Marketing Manchester	16.3	18.1
Council For Voluntary Service Rochdale	16.3	18.1
Mechanics Centre Ltd	16.3	18.1
Midas Limited	16.3	18.1
Greater Manchester Sports Partnership	16.3	18.1
South Manchester Law Centre (To 31.08.14)	16.3	18.1
Rochdale Law Centre	16.3	18.1
Metro Rochdale Employees Credit Union Limited	16.3	18.1
Shopmobility Manchester	16.3	18.1
Dance Manchester	16.3	18.1
Cash Box Credit Union Ltd	16.3	18.1
Open College Network North West Region	16.3	18.1
Groundwork MSSTT [Ex-Manchester]	16.3	18.1
Groundwork MSSTT [Ex-Tameside] (to 31.01.14)	16.3	
Caritas Diocese Of Salford	16.3	18.1
Stockport College Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Stockport College Of Further & Higher Education	16.2	17.8
Stagecoach Manchester Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Stagecoach Manchester	23.6 + £91k	28.2
Stagecoach Services Limited	23.6	28.2 + £700k
Stockport MBC Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Stockport MBC	16.7	17.5
Life Leisure	16.7	17.5
Pure Innovations Ltd	16.7	17.5

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Stockport MBC Pool <i>(continued)</i>	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Stockport Homes Ltd	16.7	17.5
NPS Stockport Limited (To 31.01.14)	16.7	
Solutions SK Limited	16.7	17.5
Individual Solutions SK Limited (To 31.03.14)	16.7	
Marple Hall School	16.7	17.5
Carillion (AMS) Ltd (Ex NPS Stockport) (From 01.02.14)	16.7	17.5
Salford University Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Salford University	16.8	18.1
Tameside MBC Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Tameside MBC	18.3	19.0
Carillion Services Limited [Ex-Tam]	18.3	19.0
Carillion LGS Limited	18.3	19.0
Tameside College Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Tameside College	13.6	15.2
The Manchester College Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
The Manchester College	14.4	15.7
Trafford MBC Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Trafford MBC	17.9	18.9
Sale High School	17.9	18.9
Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College	17.9	18.9
Trafford Community Leisure Trust	17.9	18.9
May Gurney Fleet and Passenger Services Limited	17.9	18.9
Market Operations (From 01.10.14)		18.9
Trafford College	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Trafford College	18.4	18.7 + £255k
University of Manchester Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
The University of Manchester	18.3	22.9 + £661k

Scheme employers		Contribution Rate	
United Learning Trust Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
United Learning Trust (Manchester Academy)		12.9	13.9
United Learning Trust (Salford Academy)		12.9	13.9
United Learning Trust (Stockport Academy)		12.9	13.9
United Learning Trust (William Hulme's Grammar School)		12.9	13.9
Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited - ULT (To 31.12.13)		12.9	
United Learning Trust (Abbey Hey Primary) (From 01.12.13)		12.9	13.9
United Learning Trust (Cravenwood Community Primary) (From 01.04.14)			13.9
Wigan MBC Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Wigan MBC		18.6	19.6
Wigan & Leigh Housing Company Ltd		18.6	19.6
Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust		18.6	19.6
NPS North West Limited		18.6	19.6
Western Skills Centre Limited		18.6	19.6
Always There Homecare Limited		18.6	19.6
Proco NW Limited [From 01.04.2007]		18.6	19.6
Leigh Sports Village Ltd		18.6	19.6
Fred Longworth High School		18.6	19.6
Abraham Guest Academy Trust		18.6	19.6
Tyldesley Primary School		18.6	19.6
The Rowan Learning Trust (Hawkley Hall High School)		18.6	19.6
Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre		18.6	19.6
Byrchall High School Academy Trust		18.6	19.6
Community First Academy Trust (Platt Bridge)		18.6	19.6
Agilisys Limited (Ex Wigan)		18.6	19.6
Acorn Trust (From 01.09.13)		18.6	19.6
Standish St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy (From 01.07.13)		18.6	19.6
Monument Café (Ex Wigan)		18.6	19.6
The Keys Federation (From 01.01.15)			19.6
The Rowan Learning Trust (3 Towers Alternative Provision) (From 01.01.15)			19.6
Mellors Catering Services (Ex Wigan - Hindley High School) (From 01.08.13)		18.6	19.6
Premier Care Limited		18.6	19.6
CRI - Crime Reduction Initiatives (From 01.09.14)			19.6
Individual Employers		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
The University of Bolton		18.6	20.2
Manchester Metropolitan University		17.9	19.1
Meridian Healthcare Limited		19.6 + £70k	23.5 + £90k
Greater Manchester Probation Trust (to 31.05.14)		16.9	16.9

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Individual Employers <i>(continued)</i>	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Liverpool Hope University	16.0	17.1
Royal Northern College Of Music	16.3	17.2
Borough Care Services Ltd	21.7 + £124k	25.3 + £128k
First Manchester Ltd	22.5 + £957k	26.6 + £1,900k
Bolton College	18.4	18.0 + £84k
Oldham College	13.2	13.8
Hopwood Hall College	16.3	17.6
Cheadle & Marple 6th Form College	15.8	21.2 + £37k
Wigan & Leigh College	16.9	18.9
Tameside Sports Trust	15.1	15.9
New Charter Housing Trust Group	22.1	23.1
Positive Steps Oldham	14.4	14.4
Eastlands Trust (Formerly The Velodrome Trust)	15.3	17.8
The Ace Centre-North	12.8	12.8
Oldham Community Leisure Limited	12.0	17.6
Bowlee Park Housing Association	15.1	15.1
Manchester & District Housing Association	12.8	14.3
Trafford Housing Trust Ltd	18.0	18.0 + £370k
Northwards Housing Limited	14.0	15.2
Viridor Waste (Greater Manchester) Limited	20.6	20.6
The Swinton High School Academy Trust	17.8	17.8
Flixton Girls's School Academy Trust	17.9	18.5
Mellor Primary School	16.7	16.7
Broadoak Primary School	17.8	17.8
Cheadle Hulme Education Trust	16.7	16.7
Denton West End Primary School	18.3	18.3
Hazel Grove High School	16.7	16.8
Eagley Infant School	17.9	19.3
Eagley Junior School	17.9	19.9
Harwood Meadows Primary School	17.9	20.0
Oakwood Academy	17.8	18.9
Broughton Jewish Cassel Fox	17.8	18.1
Altrincham College of Arts	17.9	18.1
St Paul's (Astley Bridge) C of E Primary School	17.9	18.4
SS Simon and Jude C of E Academy Trust	17.9	17.9
Chapel Street Community Schools Trust (Atherton Community School)	18.6	16.6
Wigan UTC	18.6	18.6
Northern Education Trust (The Ferns)	17.9	17.9
St Anselms Catholic Multi Academy Trust (From 01.06.13)	18.3	18.3
Stockport Technical School	14.0	14.0

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Individual Employers <i>(continued)</i>	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
The Olive Tree Primary Bolton Limited (From 01.09.13)	15.0	15.0
The Manchester Collegiate Education Trust (From 01.09.13 to 31.08.14)	15.0	15.0
New Islington Free School (From 01.09.13)	15.0	15.0
Park Road Sale Primary (From 01.09.13)	18.3	18.3
Beis Yaakov Jewish High School	26.0	26.0
Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (St Matthew's C of E Primary) (From 01.01.14)	15.8	15.8
National Probation Service (From 01.06.14)		29.4
Collective Spirit Oldham (From 22.08.13)	16.9	16.9
The Kirkstead Education Trust (Hursthead Junior School) (From 01.06.14)		19.7
Focus Academy Trust (UK)Ltd (Old Trafford Community Primary) (From 01.04.14)		14.4
Essa Foundation Academies Trust (The Essa Primary) (From 01.09.14)		15.0
Taylor Shaw Ltd - Moorfield Primary School (Ex SMBC)	22.8	22.8
Taylor Shaw Ltd - Mellor Primary School (Ex SMBC)	16.9	16.9
Taylor Shaw Ltd - Romiley Primary School (Ex SMBC)	21.9	21.9
Big Life Schools (Longsight CP) (From 01.09.13)	17.2	17.2
Kingsway Community Trust (Cringles Brook Primary) (From 22.04.14)		13.6
The Eddie Davies Educational Trust (Bolton Wanderers FS) (From 01.09.14)		14.5
Gatley Academy Trust (Gatley Primary School) (From 01.09.14)		21.4
Greater Manchester Sustainable Engineering UTC (From 01.09.14)		13.0
Focus Academy Trust (UK) Ltd (Deeplish Primary Academy) (From 01.12.14)		24.5
Taylor Shaw Ltd - Kingsway High School, Stockport (From 01.12.14)		21.6
Sodexo - AGGS		17.5
Ashton West End Primary (From 01.03.15)		26.5
Addiction Dependency Solutions (Ex Bury MBC) (From 03.02.14)	13.2	13.2
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (From 01.04.14)		17.2
City South Manchester Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
City South Manchester Housing Trust Limited [Trfd]	17.3	17.3
City South Manchester Housing Trust Limited [New]	17.3	17.3
Bolton at Home Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Bolton at Home Ltd [Trfd Staff]	15.8	16.6
Bolton at Home Ltd [New Staff]	15.8	16.6
Bamford Academy	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Bamford Academy	17.1	17.1

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Bright Futures Educational Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Bright Futures Educational Trust	17.9	17.5
Bright Futures Educational Trust (Cedar Mount Academy)	16.6	17.5
Bright Futures Educational Trust (Gorton Mount Primary Academy)	16.6	17.5
Bright Futures Educational Trust (Melland High School)	16.6	17.5
Bright Futures Educational Trust (Stanley Grove Primary Academy)	16.6	17.5
Bright Futures Educational Trust (Connell 6th Form College) (From 01.09.13)	16.6	17.5
Eastlands Homes Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Eastlands Homes Partnership Ltd (New Staff) (To 31.03.14)	17.3	
Eastlands Homes Partnership Ltd (2009 Trfd)	17.3	17.3
First Choice Homes Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
FCHO Ltd (I & P) - Trfd Staff	15.6	16.4
FCHO Ltd (I & P) - New Staff	15.6	16.4
Loreto Grammar School Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Loreto Grammar School (Academy)	17.9	17.9
Museum of Science and Industry Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
National Museum of Science and Industry	18.1 + £85k	22.3
Parkway Green Housing Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Parkway Green Housing Trust (TSF Emp)	18.3	18.3
Parkway Green Housing Trust (New Employees)	18.3	18.3
Police Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester	14.1	15.7
Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester (Ex-Salford)	14.1	15.7
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing Limited [I&P][Trfd]	18.0	18.0
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing Limited [I&P][New]	18.0	18.0
Reddish Vale Academy Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Reddish Vale Academy Trust	16.7	16.7

Scheme employers	Contribution Rate	
Salford Academy Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Salford Academy Trust (Albion High School)	17.8	19.0
Salford Academy Trust (Dukesgate Primary School)	17.8	19.0
Salford Academy Trust (Marlborough Road Primary School)	17.8	19.0
Southway Housing Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Southway Housing Trust (Manchester) Limited [Trfd Staff]	18.6	18.6
Southway Housing Trust (Manchester) Limited [New]	18.6	18.6
St Ambrose Academy Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
St Ambrose College Academy Trust	17.9	17.8
The Dean Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
The Dean Trust (Ashton On Mersey School)	17.9	17.9
The Dean Trust (Broadoak School)	17.9	17.9
The Dean Trust (Forest Gate Academy)	17.9	17.9
West Hill School Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
West Hill School	18.3	18.9
Willow Park Housing Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Willow Park Housing Trust	19.4	20.4
Willow Park Housing Trust [2nd Agreement]	19.4	20.4
Wardle Academy Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Wardle Academy (From 01.02.15 - previously ROC Pool)		23.4
Wardle Academy (Kentmere Primary School) (From 01.02.15)		23.4
Enquire Learning Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
The Enquire Learning Trust (Hawthorns School) (From 01.06.13)	18.3	18.3
The Enquire Learning Trust (Lime Tree Primary Academy) (From 01.05.14)		13.0
The Enquire Learning Trust (Linden Road Primary Academy) (From 01.03.15)		TBC
Elmridge Academy Trust Pool	2013-14 %	2014-15 %
The Dunham Trust (Elmridge Primary School)	17.9	18.9
The Dunham Trust (Acre Hall Primary School) (From 01.07.13)	17.9	18.9

Scheme employers		Contribution Rate	
Bury College Education Trust Pool		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Bury College Education Trust (Radcliffe Primary School) (From 01.01.14)		13.0	13.0
Bury College Education Trust (Elton Community Primary School) (From 01.09.14)			13.0
CRC Pool (From 01.06.14)		2013-14 %	2014-15 %
Northumbria CRC			14.0
Durham Tees Valley CRC			14.0
Humberside, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire CRC			14.0
West Yorkshire CRC			14.0
Cheshire and Greater Manchester CRC			14.0
Merseyside CRC			14.0
South Yorkshire CRC			14.0
Staffordshire and West Midlands CRC			14.0
Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland CRC			14.0
Warwickshire and West Mercia CRC			14.0
Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire CRC			14.0
Dorset, Devon and Cornwall CRC			14.0
Hampshire and Isle of Wight CRC			14.0
Thames Valley CRC			14.0
Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire CRC			14.0
Norfolk and Suffolk CRC			14.0
Essex CRC			14.0
London CRC			14.0
Kent, Surrey and Sussex CRC			14.0
Cumbria and Lancashire CRC			14.0
Wales CRC			14.0

The LGPS at a glance

The information below describes the LGPS as it was during 2014/15.

For information as it is now and other general information, please see our website www.gmpf.org.uk

Eligibility for membership

Membership is generally available to employees of participating employers who have contracts of employment of three months or more, are under the age of 75 and who are not eligible for membership of other statutory pension schemes. Membership of the LGPS is therefore not open to Police Officers, firefighters, civil servants, etc who have their own pension schemes. Employees of admission bodies and designating bodies such as a town or parish council can only join if their employer nominates them for membership of the LGPS.

Employee contributions

The rate of contribution payable by members of the main scheme varies according to pay, ranging from 5.5% to 12.5%. The pay ranges to which each contribution rate applies are adjusted each April in line with changes in the cost of living. Members of the 50/50 option pay half the main scheme contributions and build up half the normal main scheme pension.

Extra benefits

Members can pay additional pension contributions (APCs) to increase their pension. They can also pay money purchase additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) into a scheme operated in conjunction with the Prudential, to provide extra pension, extra lump sum, extra death benefits or permutations thereof. Both APCs and AVCs are paid free of tax.

Retirement benefits

For each year of membership in the main scheme, an employee member builds up a pension of a 49th of the pay received during that year. This pension is then increased each year in line with inflation, to maintain its value in real terms. Someone in the 50/50 option builds up a pension of a 98th of the pay received during that year, which is again protected against inflation. Ill health pensions can also be awarded, based on one of three tiers, for those that satisfy the Scheme's criteria for permanent incapacity. Those in the 50/50 option have full ill-health and death cover. Membership that was built up before 1 April 2014 continues to provide benefits as it did at the time. Membership from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2014 therefore provides final salary pensions based on 60ths. Membership before that also provides final salary benefits, based on 80ths. Members can normally exchange some annual pension for a larger lump sum at a rate of 1:12, ie. every £1 of annual pension foregone produces £12 of lump sum. HMRC limits apply. *Generally a minimum of two years membership is required to draw retirement benefits.*

Age of retirement

Normal pension age is age 65 or State pension age, whichever is the later, but:

- Pension benefits are payable at any age if awarded due to ill health;
- Members may retire with unreduced benefits from age 55 onwards if their retirement is on grounds of redundancy or business efficiency;
- members who have left employment may request payment of benefits from age 55 onwards, but actuarial reductions may apply where benefits come into payment before normal pension age;
- Members who remain in employment may also ask to retire flexibly from age 55 onwards if they reduce their hours of work or grade. Employer consent is required and actuarial reductions may apply;
- Payment of benefits may be delayed beyond normal pension age but only up to age 75.

There are also various protections regarding membership that are linked to earlier normal retirement ages that applied in earlier versions of the Scheme.

Benefits on death in service

A lump sum death grant is payable, normally equivalent to three years assumed pay. The administering authority has absolute discretion over the distribution of this lump sum among the deceased's relatives, dependants, personal representatives or nominees. Pensions may also be payable to the member's spouse, civil partner, eligible cohabiting partner and eligible dependent children.

Benefits on death after retirement

A death grant is payable if less than ten years pension has been paid and the pensioner is under age 75 at the date of death, in which case the balance of ten years pension is paid as a lump sum. Pensions are also normally payable to the member's spouse, civil partner, eligible cohabiting partner and any eligible dependent children.

Cost of living increases

Career averaging pensions that are being built up, and pensions in payment, are increased annually to protect them from inflation. Pensions increases are currently in line with the Consumer Prices Index. Where a member has a guaranteed minimum pension (which relates to membership during SERPS prior to 5 April 1997), some of the pensions increase may be paid with the State pension.

Policy Statements



Funding Strategy Statement

April 2014



Funding Strategy Statement

Adopted 7 March 2014

For further information contact : Steven.Taylor@gmpf.org.uk

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Purpose
3. Solvency Issues and Target Funding Levels
4. Links to Investment Strategy
5. Key Risks & Controls

Annex – Responsibilities of Key Parties

Funding Strategy Statement

1 Introduction

This is the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund ("the Fund" or "GMPF"), which is administered by Tameside MBC ("the Administering Authority").

It has been prepared by the Administering Authority in collaboration with the Fund Actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, and after consultation with the Fund's employers and investment Advisors and is effective from 1 April 2014.

1.1 Regulatory Framework

Members' accrued benefits are guaranteed by statute and defined by the LGPS Regulations. Members' contributions are fixed in the Regulations at a level which covers only part of the cost of accruing benefits. Employers currently pay the balance of the cost of delivering the benefits to members. The FSS focuses on how employer liabilities are measured, the pace at which these liabilities are funded and, insofar as is practical, the measures to ensure that employers or pools of employers pay for their own liabilities.

The FSS forms part of a framework which includes:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 (regulations 76A and 77 are particularly relevant);
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (regulations 35 and 36);
- the Rates and Adjustments Certificate, which can be found appended to the Fund's triennial Actuarial Valuation report;
- actuarial factors for valuing early retirement costs and the cost of buying extra service;
- the Funds policy on admissions; and
- the Statement of Investment Principles.

Operating within this framework, the Fund Actuary carries out triennial valuations to set employers' contributions and provides recommendations to the Administering Authority when other funding decisions are required, for example when employers join or leave the Fund. The FSS applies to all employers participating in the Fund.

The key requirements relating to the FSS are that:

- After consultation with all relevant interested parties involved with the Fund, the administering authority will prepare and publish their funding strategy.
- In preparing the FSS, the Administering Authority must have regard to:
 - ◆ FSS guidance produced by CIPFA in 2004 and 2012.
 - ◆ Its statement of investment principles published under Regulation 12 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009.
 - ◆ The FSS must be revised and published whenever there is a material change in either the policy on the matters set out in the FSS or the Statement of Investment Principles.

The Fund's actuary must have regard to the FSS as part of the fund valuation process.

1.2 Reviewing the FSS

The FSS is reviewed in detail at least every three years in line with triennial valuations being carried out, with the next full review due to be completed by 31 March 2017.

The FSS is a summary of GMPF's approach to funding liabilities. It is not an exhaustive statement of policy on all issues. If you have any queries please contact Steven J Taylor in the first instance at:

steven.taylor@gmpf.org.uk

telephone: 0161-342 2880.

2 Purpose

2.1 Purpose of FSS

The then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) [now the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)] stated that the purpose of the FSS is:

- to establish a **clear and transparent fund-specific strategy** which will identify how employers' pension liabilities are best met going forward;
- to support the regulatory framework to maintain **as nearly constant employer contribution rates as possible**; and
- to take a **prudent longer-term view** of funding those liabilities.

These objectives are desirable individually, but may be mutually conflicting.

This statement sets out how the Administering Authority has balanced the conflicting aims of affordability of contributions, transparency of processes, stability of employers' contributions, and prudence in the approach to funding the scheme's liabilities across the range of employers participating in the Fund.

This is the framework within which the Fund's actuary carries out triennial valuations to set employers' contributions and provides recommendations to the Administering Authority when other funding decisions are required, such as when employers join or leave the Fund. The FSS applies to all employers participating in the Fund.

2.2 Purpose of the Fund

The Fund is a vehicle by which scheme benefits are delivered. The Fund:

- receives contributions, transfer payments and investment income;
- pays scheme benefits, transfer values and administration costs.

One of the objectives of a funded scheme is to reduce the variability of pension costs over time for employers compared with an unfunded (pay-as-you-go) alternative.

The roles and responsibilities of the key parties involved in the management of the pension scheme are summarised in the Annex.

2.3 Aims of the Funding Policy

The objectives of GMPF's funding policy include the following:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund as a whole and the solvency of each of the notional sub-funds allocated to individual employers;
- to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all benefits as they fall due for payment;
- to ensure that employers are aware of the risks and potential returns of the investment strategy;
- to help employers recognise and manage pension liabilities as they accrue, with consideration as to the effect on the operation of their business where the Administering Authority considers this to be appropriate;
- to try to maintain stability of employer contributions;
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the Council Tax payer from an employer ceasing participation or defaulting on its pension obligations;
- to address the different characteristics of the disparate employers or groups of employers to the extent that this is practical and cost-effective; and
- to maintain the affordability of the Fund to employers as far as is reasonable over the longer term.

3 Solvency Issues & Target Funding Levels

3.1 Derivation of employer contributions

Employer contributions are normally made up of two elements:

- a) the estimated cost of future benefits being accrued, referred to as the “*future service rate*”; plus
- b) an adjustment for the funding position (or “*solvency*”) of accrued benefits relative to the Fund’s solvency target, “*past service adjustment*”. If there is a surplus there may be a contribution reduction; if a deficit a contribution addition, with the surplus or deficit spread over an appropriate period.

The Fund Actuary is required by the regulations to report the *Common Rate of Employer’s Contribution*¹, for all employers collectively at each triennial valuation. It combines items (a) and (b) and is expressed as a percentage of pay. For the purpose of calculating the Common Contribution Rate, the surplus or deficit under (b) is currently spread over a period of up to 20 years.

The Fund Actuary is also required to adjust the *Common Contribution Rate* for circumstances which are deemed “*peculiar*” to an individual employer². It is the adjusted contribution rate which employers are actually required to pay. The sorts of peculiar factors which are considered are discussed in Section 3.5.

In effect, the *Common Contribution Rate* is a notional quantity. Separate future service rates are calculated for each employer, and together with individual past service adjustments according to employer-specific spreading and phasing periods, these constitute the “adjusted contribution rate”.

Contribution rates for scheduled bodies without council tax raising powers are to be set at the higher of: (i) the future service element of the Common Contribution Rate; and (ii) the employer’s adjusted contribution rate, unless otherwise agreed by the Administering Authority.

For some employers it may be agreed by all relevant parties to pool contributions, see Section 3.7.8.

A breakdown of each employer’s contributions following the 2010 valuation for the financial years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 can be found in the 31/3/10 Actuarial Valuation report (finalised in 2011). It includes a comparison of each employer’s rate with the *Common Contribution Rate*. It also identifies which employers’ contributions have been pooled with others.

The treatment of any costs of non ill-health and ill-health early retirements differs between employers who are either part of a pool involving a Local Authority employer, or a major employer grouping or not part of any pool, on the one hand, and employers who are part of a pure Non-Local Authority pool, on the other. The former have “early retirement allowances” for non ill-health and for ill-health early retirements built into their employer contribution rate and initially the aggregate of these two allowances are used to fund any such costs. Costs in excess of the aggregate of the “allowances” are met by separate lump-sum employer contributions.

The latter have no “allowance” for non ill-health early retirements but do have an “allowance” for ill-health early retirements built into their contribution rates. For these employers the costs of non ill-health early retirements are met by separate lump-sum employer contributions whilst the costs of ill-health early retirements in excess of the allowance are dealt with via an appropriate adjustment to their contribution rate at the next valuation. (cf Sub-Section 3.9.1)

As an alternative to the approach set out above, the Administering Authority will be permitting employers to take out their own insurance against the cost of ill-health early retirements. Where employers take out such insurance to the satisfaction of the Administering Authority, their contribution rate will be reduced by the lower of: (i) the insurance premium paid; and (ii) the allowance for ill-health early retirements that would otherwise have been included in their contribution rate.

Employers’ contributions are expressed as minima, with employers able to pay regular contributions at a higher rate. Employers should discuss with the Administering Authority before making one-off capital payments.

3.2 Solvency and Target Funding Levels

The Fund Actuary is required to report on the “solvency” of the whole fund at least every three years.

“Solvency” for ongoing employers is defined to be the ratio of the market value of assets to the value placed on accrued benefits on the Fund Actuary’s ongoing funding basis. This quantity is known as a funding level.

The ongoing funding basis has traditionally been used for each triennial valuation for all employers in the Fund. For those scheme employers where the administering authority believes they have a strong strength of covenant the ongoing funding basis will continue to apply.

¹ See Regulation 77(4)

² See Regulation 77(6)

Where an admission agreement for an Admission Body that is not a Transferee Admission Body and has no guarantor is likely to terminate within the next 5 to 10 years or lose its last active member within that timeframe, the fund reserves the right to set contribution rates by reference to liabilities valued on a gilts basis (i.e. using a discount rate that has no allowance for potential investment outperformance relative to gilts). The target in setting contributions for any employer in these circumstances is to achieve full funding on a gilts basis by the time the agreement terminates or the last active member leaves in order to protect other employers in the fund. This policy will increase regular contributions and reduce, but not entirely eliminate, the possibility of a final deficit payment being required when a cessation valuation is carried out.

The Fund also reserves the right to adopt the above approach in respect of those Admission Bodies with no guarantor, where the strength of covenant is considered to be weak but there is no immediate expectation that the admission agreement will cease.

The Fund Actuary agrees the financial and demographic assumptions to be used for each such valuation with the Administering Authority.

The Fund operates an identical target funding level for all ongoing employers of 100% of its accrued liabilities valued on the ongoing basis. The time horizon of the funding target for Community and Transferee Admission Bodies will vary depending on the expected duration of their participation in the Fund. Please refer to Section 3.8 for the treatment of departing employers.

3.3 Ongoing Funding Basis

The demographic assumptions are intended to be best estimates of future outcomes within GMPF as advised by the Fund Actuary, based on past experience of LGPS funds and of GMPF. It is acknowledged that future life expectancy and, in particular, the allowance for future improvements in mortality, is uncertain. Employers should be aware that their contributions are likely to increase in future if longevity exceeds the funding assumptions.

The approach taken is considered reasonable in light of the long term nature of the Fund and the statutory guarantee underpinning members' benefits. The demographic assumptions vary by type of member and so reflect the different member profiles of employers.

The key financial assumption is the anticipated return on the Fund's investments. The investment return assumption makes allowance for anticipated returns from equities in excess of gilts. There is, however, no guarantee that equities will out-perform gilts. The risk is greater when measured over short periods such as the three years between formal actuarial valuations, when the

actual returns and assumed returns can deviate sharply.

In light of the statutory requirement for the Fund Actuary to consider the stability of employer contributions, it is normally appropriate to restrict the degree of change to employers' contributions at triennial valuation dates.

Given the very long-term nature of the liabilities, a long term view of prospective returns from equities is taken. For the 2013 valuation, the Main Fund assumption is that GMPF's investments will deliver an average real additional return of 1.8% a year in excess of the return available from investing in index-linked government bonds at the time of the valuation. Based upon the asset allocation of the Main Fund as at 31 March 2010, this is equivalent to taking credit for excess returns on equities of 2.4% p.a. over and above the gross redemption yield on index linked gilts on the valuation date and for excess returns of 0.4% p.a. on the non-equity assets (excluding gilts).

The same financial assumptions are adopted for the majority of employers. The anticipated future return on investments may vary between employers who follow different investment strategies. However, only variations which lead to reductions in the anticipated returns as compared with the position of the majority of employers are allowed.

3.4 Future Service Contribution Rates

The future service element of the employer contribution rate is traditionally calculated on the ongoing valuation basis, with the aim of ensuring that there are sufficient assets built up to meet future benefit payments in respect of future service. The approach used to calculate each employer's future service contribution rate depends on whether or not new entrants are being admitted. Employers should note that it is only Admission Bodies and some resolution bodies that may have the power not to admit automatically all eligible new staff to GMPF, depending on the terms of their Admission Agreements and employment contracts. It should be noted that employers within a pool will pay the contribution rate applicable to the pool as a whole.

Where it is considered appropriate the Administering Authority reserves the right to set a future service rate by reference to liabilities valued on a gilts basis (most usually for admission bodies that are not a Transferee Admission Bodies and that have no guarantor in place).

3.4.1 Employers that admit new entrants

The employer's future service rate will be based upon the cost (in excess of members' contributions) of the benefits which employee members earn from their service each year. Technically these rates will be derived using the Projected Unit Method of valuation with a one year control period.

If future experience is in line with assumptions, and the employer's membership profile remains stable, this rate should be broadly stable over time. If the membership of employees matures (e.g. because of lower recruitment) the rate would rise.

3.4.2 Employers that do not admit new entrants

Certain Admission Bodies have closed the scheme to new entrants. This is expected to lead to the average age of employee members increasing over time and hence, all other things being equal, the future service rate is expected to increase as the membership ages.

To give more long term stability to such employers' contributions, the Attained Age funding method is adopted. This will limit the degree of future contribution rises by paying higher rates at the outset. However, the Administering Authority may choose to adopt the Projected Unit Method where the circumstances relating to an employer appear to warrant such treatment and where the employer has been advised of the impact of the use of this basis.

Both funding methods are described in the Actuary's report on the valuation.

Both future service rates will include expenses of administration to the extent that they are borne by the Fund.

3.5 Adjustments for Individual Employers

Adjustments to individual employer contribution rates are applied both through the calculation of employer-specific future service contribution rates and the calculation of the employer's funding level.

The combined effect of these adjustments for individual employers applied by the Fund Actuary relate to:

- past contributions relative to the cost of accruals of benefits;
- different liability profiles of employers (eg mix of members by age, gender, manual/non manual, part-time/full-time);
- the effect of any differences in the valuation basis on the value placed on the employer's liabilities;

- any different deficit/surplus spreading periods or phasing of contribution changes;
- the difference between actual and assumed rises in pensionable pay;
- the difference between actual and assumed increases to pensions in payment and deferred pensions;
- the difference between actual and assumed retirements on grounds of ill-health from active status;
- the difference between actual and assumed amounts of pension ceasing on death;
- the savings in early retirement provisions;
- the effect of more or fewer leavers than assumed;

Over the period between each triennial valuation.

Actual investment returns achieved by following each investment strategy between each valuation are applied proportionately across all relevant employers as appropriate. Transfers of liabilities between employers within the Fund occur automatically within this process, with a sum broadly equivalent to the reserve required on the ongoing basis being exchanged between the two employers, unless the circumstances dictate otherwise.

The Fund Actuary does not allow for certain relatively minor events occurring in the period since the last formal valuation [where Hymans Robertson calculates asset shares – see Section 3.6 below], including, but not limited to:

- the actual timing of employer contributions within any financial year;
- the effect of the premature payment of any deferred pensions on grounds of incapacity.

These effects are swept up within a miscellaneous item in the analysis of surplus, which is split between employers in proportion to their liabilities.

3.6 Asset Share Calculations for Individual Employers

The Administering Authority does not account for each employer's assets separately. The Fund Actuary is required to apportion the assets of the whole fund between the employers at each triennial valuation using the income and expenditure figures provided for certain cash flows for each employer. This process adjusts for transfers of liabilities between employers participating in GMPF, but does make a number of simplifying assumptions. The split is calculated using an actuarial technique known as "analysis of surplus". The methodology adopted means that there will inevitably be some difference between the asset shares calculated for individual employers and those that would have resulted had they participated in their own ring-fenced section of GMPF.

The asset apportionment is capable of verification but not to audit standard. The Administering Authority recognises the limitations of this approach.

Currently, this approach allocates assets to an acceptable level of accuracy across employers. However, due to the increasing number of employers in the Fund and their diversity, the Fund is working with the actuary to develop an accounting system that will track assets for each employer to an auditable standard and will be more transparent than the current approach.

3.7 Stability of Employer Contributions

3.7.1 Solvency Issues and Target Funding Levels

A key challenge for the Administering Authority is to balance the need for stable, affordable employer contributions with the requirement to take a prudent, longer-term view of funding and ensure the solvency of the Fund. With this in mind, there are a number of prudential strategies that the Administering Authority may deploy in order to maintain employer contribution rates at as nearly a constant rate as possible. These include:

- use of extended deficit recovery periods; [3.7.2 & 3.7.3]
- phasing in of contribution increases / decreases; [3.7.4 – 3.7.6]
- the pooling of contributions amongst employers with similar characteristics; [3.7.7]
- managing employer contribution rates based on longer term modelling of liabilities (“Managed Rate Approach”); [3.7.8]
- capping of employer contribution rate increases / decreases within a pre-determined range (“Stabilisation”); [3.7.9]

In addition to these strategies for improving the stability of employer contributions, the Administering Authority may, at its absolute discretion, permit greater “flexibility” around the employer’s contributions provided that the employer has provided additional “security” to the satisfaction of the Administering Authority. Such greater “flexibility” may include a reduced rate of contribution, and extended deficit recovery period, or permission to join a pool with another body (e.g. a relevant and agreeable Local Authority). Additional “security” may include, but is not limited to, provision of a suitable financial bond, a legally-binding guarantee from an appropriate third party, or security over an employer owned asset of sufficient value.

The degree of greater “flexibility” extended to a particular employer is likely to take into account factors such as:

- the extent of the employer’s deficit;
- the amount and quality of the security offered;
- the employer’s financial security and business plan;
- whether the admission agreement is likely to be open or closed to new entrants.

After including investment income, the Fund currently has a positive net cash inflow. Therefore, the Fund can take a medium to long term view on determining employer contribution rates to meet future liabilities through operating a fund with an investment strategy that reflects this long term view. This allows short term investment markets volatility to be managed so as not to cause volatility in employer contribution rates.

The LGPS regulations require that the longer term funding objectives are to achieve and maintain assets to meet the projected accrued liabilities. The role of the Fund Actuary in performing the necessary calculations and determining the key assumptions used, is an important feature in determining the funding requirements. The approach to the actuarial valuation and key assumptions used at each triennial valuation forms part of the consultation undertaken with the FSS.

3.7.2 Deficit Recovery Periods

The Administering Authority recommends to the actuary to adopt specific deficit recovery periods for all employers when calculating their contributions.

The deficit recovery period starts at the commencement of the revised contribution rate (1 April 2014 for the 2013 valuation). The Administering Authority would normally expect the same deficit recovery period to be used at successive triennial valuations, but would reserve the right to propose alternative recovery periods, for example to improve the stability of contributions.

Where an employer’s workforce/payroll is expected to decline, the Administering Authority may choose to specify that any deficit contributions are payable as periodic lump sum cash amounts rather than as a percentage of payroll.

Type of employer	Maximum length of deficit recovery period
Statutory bodies with tax raising powers and other Govt 'supported' employers	A period not exceeding 20 years
Community Admission Bodies with funding guarantees, subject to the approval of the guarantor and the agreement of the Administering Authority	A period not exceeding 20 years
Transferee (Best Value) Admission Bodies	The period from the start of the revised contributions to the end of the employer's contract or as otherwise agreed with the parent Local Authority letting the contract
Community Admission Bodies that are closed to new entrants e.g. Bus Companies, whose admission agreements continue after the last active member retires	A period equivalent to the expected future working lifetime of the remaining scheme members allowing for expected leavers, or such other period agreed by the employer and approved by the Administering Authority
All other types of employer	a period equivalent to the expected future working lifetime of the remaining scheme members

The Administering Authority normally targets the recovery of any deficit over a period not exceeding 20 years. However, these are subject to the maximum lengths set out in the table above.

This maximum period is used in calculating each employer's minimum contributions. Employers may opt to pay higher regular contributions than these minimum rates. For employers that are in deficit at this valuation, there will be no reduction in contribution rates. This will lead to shorter deficit recovery periods for some employers.

3.7.3 Surplus Spreading Periods

Any employers deemed to be in surplus may be permitted to reduce their contributions below the cost of accruing benefits, by spreading the surplus element over 15 years or such other period agreed with the employer and approved by the Administering Authority.

However, to help meet the stability requirement, employers may prefer not to take such reductions.

3.7.4 Phasing in of Contribution Rises

Phasing in periods will be influenced by the perceived credit worthiness of the employer and this will normally be a maximum of 3 years, and statutory bodies with tax raising powers a maximum of 4 years. Increases of less than 2% will be phased in over a maximum of 3 years.

3.7.5 Phasing in of Contribution Reductions

Any contribution reductions will be phased in over 6 years for all employers except Transferee Admission Bodies who may adopt a shorter period.

3.7.6 The Effect of Opting for Longer Spreading or Phasing-In

Employers which are permitted and elect to use a longer deficit spreading period than was used at the 2010 valuation or to phase-in contribution changes will be assumed to incur a greater loss of investment returns due to the fact that their assets will build up at a slower rate by opting to defer repayment. Thus, deferring paying contributions is expected to lead to higher contributions in the long-term (depending on the actual financial and demographic performance of the Fund relative to valuation assumptions).

However any adjustment is expressed for different employers, the overriding principle is that the discounted value of the contribution adjustment adopted for each employer will be equivalent to the employer's deficit.

3.7.7 Pooled Contributions

3.7.7.1 Smaller Employers

The Administering Authority allows smaller employers [of similar types] to pool their contributions as a way of sharing experience and smoothing out the effects of costly but relatively rare events such as ill-health retirements or deaths in service. The normal maximum number of active members to participate in a pool is set at 50.

Community Admission Bodies that are deemed by the Administering Authority to have closed to new entrants are not permitted to participate in a pool except with the approval of the relevant Local Authority and/or Administering Authority. Transferee Admission Bodies may only participate in pooling with the relevant parent Local Authority.

Employers who do not wish to continue with current/historic pooling arrangements have been requested to discuss the issue with the Administering Authority.

As at the 2010 valuation separate pools were operated for FE Colleges, Town and Parish Councils and for smaller Admission Bodies.

3.7.7.2 Other Contribution Pools

In some cases, schools are pooled with their funding Council, subject to their joint agreement.

Some Admission Bodies with guarantors are pooled with their Council.

Those employers that have been pooled are identified in the Rates and Adjustment Certificate which is detailed in the 31/3/13 Actuarial Valuation report (finalised in 2014).

3.7.8 Managed Rate Approach

There can be occasions when, despite the deployment of the foregoing approaches such as pooling, phasing and the extension of deficit recovery periods, the theoretical employer contribution rate is not affordable or achievable. This can occur in times of tight fiscal control or where budgets have been set in advance of new employer contribution rates being available.

To help manage contributions, the Administering Authority has commissioned the Fund Actuary to carry out modelling for a number of employers that are considered to have a sufficient strength of covenant so as not to pose an excessive default risk to the Fund over the deficit recovery period. For such employers the modelling takes into account the deficit recovery period allowed for the employer, the employer status and funding level and any other factors deemed relevant by the Administering

Authority and Fund Actuary. The modelling explores and recommends a suitable contribution strategy for an employer such that there is an acceptable likelihood of the employer having sufficient assets to meet all future benefit payments by the end of the relevant deficit recovery period allowed by the Administering Authority for that type of employer.

3.7.9 Stabilisation

In addition, for certain employers where it is considered to be cost effective relative to the benefits to the employer, the Administering Authority can commission the Fund Actuary to carry out more extensive modelling to explore the long term effect on the Fund of capping future contribution increases and decreases. The results of such modelling will indicate whether or not it is justifiable to limit employer contribution rate changes within a fixed range in each future year (for example, +1% / -1% per year change in employers' contribution rates). Stabilisation is considered if the following conditions are met:

- the Administering Authority is satisfied that the status of the employer merits adoption of a stabilised approach; and
- there are no material events occurring after the modelling work is carried out which render the stabilisation unjustifiable.

In the interests of stability and affordability of employer contributions, the Administering Authority, on the advice of the Fund Actuary, believes that this stabilisation approach demonstrates that stabilising contributions as described above can still be viewed as a prudent longer-term approach. However, employers whose contribution rates have/are "stabilised" and are therefore paying less than their theoretical contribution rate should be aware of the risks of this approach and should consider making additional payments to the Fund if possible.

3.8 Admission Bodies ceasing

Admission Agreements for Transferee contractors are assumed to expire at the end of the contract unless otherwise agreed by the relevant local authority and Administering Authority.

Admission Agreements for other employers are assumed to terminate for any of the following reasons unless otherwise agreed by the relevant local authority and Administering Authority:

- Last active member ceasing participation in the LGPS;
- The insolvency, winding up or liquidation of the admission body;
- Any breach by the Admission Body of any of its obligations under the agreement that they have failed to remedy to the satisfaction of the Fund;

- A failure by the admission body to pay any sums due to the Fund within the period required by the Fund; or
- The failure by the admission body to renew or adjust the level of the bond or indemnity or to confirm appropriate alternative guarantor as required by the Fund.

In addition either party can voluntarily terminate the admission agreement by giving the appropriate period of notice as set out in the Admission Agreement to the other party (or parties in the case of a Transferee Admission Body).

If an Admission Body's admission agreement is terminated, the Administering Authority may instruct the Fund Actuary to carry out a special valuation to determine whether there is any deficit depending on the circumstances and terms of the admission agreement.

The assumptions adopted to value the departing employer's liabilities for this valuation will depend upon the circumstances. For example:

- For Transferee Admission Bodies, the assumptions would be those used for an ongoing valuation to be consistent with the assumptions used to calculate the initial transfer of assets to accompany the active member liabilities transferred. Where a lower risk investment strategy has been adopted, the assumptions used in the calculation of the cessation liabilities will be consistent with that investment strategy.
- For admission bodies that are not Transferee Admission Bodies where its participation is voluntarily ended either by themselves or the Fund, or which triggers a cessation event, the Administering Authority must look to protect the interests of other ongoing employers and will require the actuary to adopt valuation assumptions which, to the extent reasonably practicable, protect the other employers from the likelihood of any material loss emerging in future. Where there is a guarantor, the cessation valuation will normally be calculated using an ongoing valuation basis appropriate to the investment strategy. Where a guarantor does not exist then, in order to protect other employers in the Fund, the cessation liabilities and final deficit will normally be calculated using a "gilts cessation basis" with no allowance for potential future investment outperformance and with an allowance for further future improvements in life expectancy. This approach results in a higher value being placed on the liabilities than would be the case under a valuation on the ongoing funding basis and could give rise to significant payments being required.
- For Admission Bodies with guarantors, it is possible that any deficit could be transferred to the guarantor in which case it may be possible to simply transfer the former Admission Bodies members and assets to the guarantor, without needing to crystallise any deficit.

Under (a) and (b), any shortfall would be levied on the departing Admission Body as a capital payment.

In the event that the Fund is not able to recover the required payment in full directly from the Admission Body or from any bond or indemnity or guarantor, then:

- In the case of Transferee Admission Bodies the awarding authority will be liable. At its absolute discretion, the awarding authority may agree to recover any outstanding amounts via an increase in the awarding authority's contribution rate over an agreed period;
- In the case of admission bodies that are not Transferee Admission Bodies and have no guarantor, the unpaid amounts fall to be shared amongst all of the employers in the Fund. This will normally be reflected in contribution rates set at the formal valuation following the cessation date.

As an alternative to (b) above where the ceasing Admission Body is continuing in business the Fund, at its absolute discretion, reserves the right to enter into an agreement with the ceasing Admission Body to accept an appropriate alternative security to be held against any funding deficit and to carry out the cessation valuation on an ongoing valuation basis.

This approach would be monitored as part of each triennial valuation and the Fund reserves the right to revert to a "gilts cessation basis" and seek immediate payment of any funding shortfall identified.

3.9 Early Retirement Costs

3.9.1 *Non Ill Health early retirements*

The overall position in relation to non ill-health early retirements is as set out in Section 3.1.

It is assumed that members' benefits on age retirement are payable from the earliest age that the employee could retire without incurring a reduction to their benefit and without requiring their employer's consent to retire. Members receiving their pension unreduced before this age other than on ill-health grounds are deemed to have retired "early".

The additional costs of premature retirement are calculated by reference to these ages.

Any additional lump-sum contributions which are required to be made under Section 3.1 arising from non ill-health early retirements become due immediately upon the award of an early retirement. The Administering Authority may agree that an employer be permitted to spread the payment over a period not exceeding 3 years (or the period until the member's normal retirement date if this is shorter). The Administering Authority reserve the right to require payment of these costs over a shorter period, and possibly immediately, depending on the circumstances of the employer.

3.9.2 Ill health early retirement and death in service costs

The Fund monitors each employer's, or pool of employers, ill health early retirement experience on an ongoing basis. This information is used to determine any necessary lump-sum employer contributions pursuant to the practice outlined in section 3.1.

3.10 Employers with no remaining actives

In general an employer ceasing in the Fund due to the departure of the last active member, will pay a cessation debt on an appropriate basis and consequently have no further obligation to the Fund. Thereafter it is expected that one of two situations will eventually arise:

- a) The employer's asset share runs out before all its ex-employees' benefits have been paid. In this situation the other Fund employers will be required to contribute to pay all remaining benefits: this will be done by the Fund actuary apportioning the remaining liabilities on a pro-rata basis at successive formal valuations;
- b) The last ex-employee or dependant dies before the employer's asset share has been fully utilised. In this situation the remaining assets would be apportioned pro-rata by the Fund's actuary to the other Fund.

In exceptional circumstances the Fund may permit an employer with no remaining active members to continue contributing to the Fund. This would require the provision of a suitable security or guarantee, as well as a written ongoing commitment to fund the remainder of the employer's obligations over an appropriate period. The Fund would reserve the right to invoke the cessation requirements in the future, however. The Administering Authority may need to seek legal advice in such cases, as the employer would have no contributing members.

3.11 Policies on bulk transfers

Each case will be treated on its own merits, but in general:

- The Fund will seek the most cost effective method of transfer to keep professional and administration costs as low as possible;
- The maximum amount the Fund will pay on a bulk transfer is an amount equal to the asset share held by the transferring employee's employer and is capped at the value of the transferring employee's liabilities;
- When a transfer takes place such that the transferring employer will no longer have any active membership then the transfer amount may be limited by the need for the Fund to meet the liabilities of any ex-employees of the employer;

- The Fund will not grant added benefits to members bringing in entitlements from another Fund unless the asset transfer is sufficient to meet the added liabilities;
- The Fund may permit shortfalls to arise on bulk transfers if the Fund employer has suitable strength of covenant and commits to meeting that shortfall in an appropriate period. This may require the employer's Fund contributions to increase between valuations.

4 Links to Investment Strategy

Funding and investment strategy are inextricably linked. Investment strategy is set by the Administering Authority, after consultation with the employers and after taking investment advice.

4.1 Investment Strategy

The investment strategies currently being pursued are described in GMPF's Statement of Investment Principles.

The investment strategies are set for the long-term, but the principal strategy (for the "Main Fund") is reviewed annually, to ensure that it remains appropriate to the relevant liability profile and takes account of major movements in market valuations. The Administering Authority has adopted a Main Fund benchmark, which sets the proportion of assets to be invested in key asset classes such as equities, bonds and property. As at 31 March 2013, the proportion to be held in equities and property was broadly 75% of the total Main Fund assets.

The investment strategy of lowest risk would be that which provides cashflows which replicate the expected benefit cashflows (ie the liabilities). Equity investment would not be consistent with this. This strategy informs policy for part of the Fund where liabilities are mature and employers have agreed such an approach.

The Main Fund's benchmark includes a significant holding in equities in the pursuit of long-term higher returns than from a liability matching strategy. The Administering Authority's strategy recognises the relatively immature liabilities relevant to the Main Fund and the secure nature of most employers' covenants.

The same investment strategy is currently followed for all employers covered by the Main Fund. The Administering Authority offers employers the opportunity to pursue a more cautious investment strategy than the Main Fund norm.

4.2 Consistency with Funding Basis

For employers covered by the Main Fund, the funding basis adopts an asset outperformance assumption of 1.8% pa over and above the redemption yield on index linked gilts. The Main Fund's current bespoke investment strategy is broadly 75% held in real assets and 25% in monetary assets. For employers pursuing a more cautious investment strategy than the Main Fund norm, a lower asset outperformance assumption may be adopted as appropriate. Both the Fund Actuary and the investment adviser to the Fund consider that the funding basis fulfils the requirement to take a "prudent longer-term" approach to funding.

The Administering Authority is aware that in the short term – such as the three yearly assessments at formal valuations – the proportion of the assets invested in equities brings the possibility of considerable volatility and there is a material chance that in the short-term, and

even the medium-term, asset returns will fall short of the outperformance target. The stability measures described in Section 3 will damp down, but not remove, the effect on employers' contributions.

The Fund does not hold a contingency reserve to protect it against the volatility of equity investments.

4.3 Balance between risk and reward

Prior to implementing its current investment strategies, the Administering Authority considered the balance between risk and reward by altering the level of investment in potentially higher yielding, but more volatile, asset classes like equities. This process was informed by the use of Asset-Liability techniques to model the range of potential future solvency levels and contribution rates.

In the light of the admission of Transferee contractors on different terms to other employers and the 2010 valuation results which showed the sensitivity of individual employers' contributions to changes in investment returns, the Administering Authority is reviewing whether its "dual strategy" approach should be refined. Enabling other investment strategies will require investment in new systems and higher ongoing costs which would have to be borne by the employers. The potential benefits of multiple investment strategies need to be assessed against the costs. The Fund is currently considering the option of more bespoke investment strategies.

4.4 Intervaluation Monitoring of Funding Position

The Administering Authority monitors investment performance on a quarterly and annual basis. There is also detailed monitoring of new liabilities arising from early and ill-health retirements, the costs of which are met by employers. In addition, the Fund Actuary routinely assesses the funding position quarterly, taking account of actual experience compared to the financial assumptions underlying the valuation. Formally, the Administering Authority reports back to employers at the GMPF Annual General Meeting.

5 Key Risks & Controls

5.1 Types of Risk

The Administering Authority's has an active risk management programme in place. The measures that the Administering Authority has in place to control key risks are summarised below under the following headings :

- financial;
- demographic;
- regulatory; and
- governance.

5.2 Financial Risks

Risk	Summary of Control Mechanisms
Fund assets fail to deliver returns in line with the anticipated returns underpinning valuation of liabilities over the long-term	<i>Only anticipate long-term return on a relatively prudent basis to reduce risk of under-performing.</i> <i>Analyse progress at three yearly valuations for all employers.</i> <i>Use of interim valuations.</i>
Inappropriate long-term investment strategy	<i>Set Fund-specific benchmark, informed by Asset-Liability modelling of liabilities.</i> <i>Examine scope for extending employer-specific investment strategies.</i> <i>Annual review of investment strategy incorporates consideration of alternative approaches.</i>
Fall in risk-free returns on Government bonds, leading to rise in value placed on liabilities	<i>Some investment in bonds helps to mitigate this risk and there is scope for employers to increase bond exposure.</i>
Active investment manager under-performance relative to benchmark	<i>Short term (quarterly) investment monitoring analyses market performance and active managers relative to their index benchmark.</i> <i>Regular reporting to employers describes Main Fund performance.</i> <i>If appropriate, the Fund Actuary will be asked to evaluate the implications.</i>
Pay and price inflation significantly more than anticipated	<i>The focus of the actuarial valuation process is on real returns on assets, net of price and pay increases.</i> <i>Inter-valuation monitoring, as above, gives early warning.</i> <i>Some investment in bonds, particularly index-linked, also helps to mitigate this risk.</i> <i>Employers pay for their own salary awards and are reminded of the geared effect on pension liabilities of any bias in pensionable pay rises towards longer-serving employees.</i>
Effect of possible increase in employer's contribution rate on service delivery and admission/scheduled bodies	<i>Seek feedback from employers on scope to absorb short-term contribution rises.</i> <i>Mitigate impact through deficit spreading and phasing in of contribution rises.</i> <i>Consult employers on possibility of paying more (extra administration and higher regular contributions) to enable employer-specific investment strategies to give greater certainty of cost.</i>
Orphaned employers give rise to added costs for the Fund	<i>The Fund seeks a cessation debt (or security/guarantor) to minimise the risk of this happening in the future.</i> <i>If it occurs, the Actuary calculates the added cost spread pro-rate among all employers.</i>

5.3 Demographic Risks

Risk	Summary of Control Mechanisms
Pensioners living longer.	Set mortality assumptions with some allowance for future increases in life expectancy. Fund Actuary monitors combined experience of around 50 LGPS funds to look for early warnings of lower pension amounts ceasing than assumed in funding. Administering Authority encourage any employers concerned at costs to promote later retirement culture. Each 1 year rise in the average age at retirement would save roughly 5% of pension costs.
Deteriorating patterns of ill health and other early retirements	The Fund has adopted a compulsory self-insurance mechanism to meet the strains that arise from ill-health early retirement costs.

5.4 Regulatory Risk

Risk	Summary of Control Mechanisms
Changes to regulations, e.g. more favourable benefits package, potential new entrants to scheme, e.g. part-time employees	The Administering Authority is alert to the potential creation of additional liabilities and administrative difficulties for employers and itself.
Changes to national pension requirements and/or HM Revenue and Customs rules e.g. changes arising from Public Sector Reform	The Administering Authority considers all consultation papers issued by CLG and comments where appropriate. It will consult employers where it considers that it is appropriate. The results of the most recent reforms have been built into the 2013 valuation. Any changes to member contribution rates or benefit levels will be carefully communicated with members to minimise possible opt-outs or adverse actions. Copies of all submissions are available for employers to see at www.gmpf.org.uk with effect from January 2005.

5.5 Governance Risk

Risk	Summary of Control Mechanisms
Administering Authority unaware of structural changes in an employer's membership (e.g. large fall in employee members, large number of retirements).	The Administering Authority monitors membership movements on an annual basis, via a report from the administrator to the Pension Fund Management Panel.
Administering Authority not advised of an employer closing to new entrants.	The Actuary may be instructed to consider revising the rates and Adjustments certificate to increase an employer's contributions (under Regulation 38) between triennial valuations. Deficit contributions may be expressed as monetary amounts (see Actuarial Valuation report).

5.5 Governance Risk continued

Risk	Summary of Control Mechanisms
Administering Authority failing to commission the Fund Actuary to carry out a termination valuation for a departing Admission Body and losing the opportunity to call in a debt.	<i>In addition to the Administering Authority monitoring membership movements on an annual basis, it requires employers with Transferee Admission Agreements to inform it of forthcoming changes.</i> <i>It also operates a diary system to alert it to the forthcoming termination of Transferee Admission Agreements.</i>
An employer ceasing to exist with insufficient funding or adequacy of a bond.	<i>The Administering Authority believes that it would normally be too late to address the position if it was left to the time of departure.</i> <i>The risk is mitigated by :</i> <i>• Seeking a funding guarantee from another scheme employer, or external body, where-ever possible.</i> <i>• Alerting the prospective employer to its obligations and encouraging it to take independent actuarial advice.</i> <i>• Vetting prospective employers before admission.</i> <i>• Where permitted under the regulations requiring a bond to protect the scheme from the extra cost of early retirements on redundancy if the employer failed.</i> <i>• Offering lower risk investment strategies – with higher employer contributions - for Transferee Admission Bodies to reduce the risk of volatile contributions and a significant debt crystallising on termination.</i>

END OF MAIN BODY OF FSS

ADOPTED BY THE PENSION FUND MANAGEMENT PANEL : 7 March, 2014

Annex - Responsibilities of Key Parties

The Administering Authority should:

- operate the Fund as per the LGPS Regulations;
- effectively manage any potential conflicts of interest arising from its dual role as Administering Authority and a Fund employer;
- collect employer and employee contributions, and investment income and other amounts due to the Fund;
- ensure that cash is available to meet benefit payments as and when they fall due;
- pay from the Fund the relevant benefits and entitlements that are due;
- invest surplus monies (i.e. contributions and other income which are not immediately needed to pay benefits) in accordance with the Fund's Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) and LGPS Regulations;
- communicate appropriately with employers so that they fully understand their obligations to the Fund;
- take appropriate measures to safeguard the Fund against the consequences of employer default;
- manage the valuation process in consultation with the Fund's actuary;
- prepare and maintain a FSS and a SIP, after consultation;
- notify the Fund's actuary of material changes which could affect funding (this is covered in a separate agreement with the actuary); and
- monitor all aspects of the fund's performance and funding and amend the FSS/SIP as necessary and appropriate.

The individual employer should:

- deduct contributions from employees' pay correctly;
- pay all contributions, including their own as determined by the actuary, promptly by the due date;
- exercise discretions within the regulatory framework;
- make additional contributions in accordance with agreed arrangements in respect of, for example, augmentation of scheme benefits, early retirement strain; and
- notify the administering authorities promptly of all changes to membership or, as may be proposed, which affect future funding.

The Fund Actuary should:

- prepare valuations, including the setting of employers' contribution rates. This will involve agreeing assumptions with the Administering Authority, having regard to the FSS and LGPS Regulations, and targeting each employer's solvency appropriately;
- provide advice relating to new employers in the Fund, including the level and type of bonds or other forms of security (and the monitoring of these);
- prepare advice and calculations in connection with bulk transfers and individual benefit-related matters;
- assist the Administering Authority in considering possible changes to employer contributions between formal valuations, where circumstances suggest this may be necessary;
- advise on the termination of Admission Bodies' participation in the Fund; and
- fully reflect actuarial professional guidance and requirements in the advice given to the Administering Authority.

Other parties:

- investment advisers (either internal or external) may be asked to assist in ensuring that the Fund's SIP remains appropriate, and consistent with this FSS;
- investment managers, custodians and bankers will typically all play their part in the effective investment (and dis-investment) of Fund assets, in line with the SIP;
- auditors will comply with their auditing standards and sign off annual reports and financial statements as appropriate;
- governance advisers may be appointed to advise the Administering Authority on efficient processes and working methods in managing the Fund;
- legal advisers (either internal or external) will assist in ensuring the Fund's operation and management remains fully compliant with all regulations and broader local government requirements, including the Administering Authority's own procedures.

END OF ANNEX

Governance Policy

2015



Governance Policy

Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) – Governance Policy Statement

1. Constitution

The Administering Authority operates within the Council's Governance arrangements.

The statutory officer roles required are an integral part of the Fund's governance arrangements, these are:

- Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive);
- Monitoring Officer (Executive Director – Governance [Borough and Fund Solicitor]; and
- Chief Finance Officer (Assistant Executive Director – Finance [Borough Treasurer])

Further details of the Council's Governance arrangements can be found on the Council's website at www.tameside.gov.uk/constitution.

2. Delegation

Tameside MBC delegates its function in relation to maintaining the GMPF to the following:

- Pension Fund Management Panel
- Pension Fund Advisory Panel
- Pension Fund Working Groups
- The Executive Director of Pensions.

3. Frequency of meetings

The Pension Fund Management Panel, the Pension Fund Advisory Panel and the Pension Fund

Working Groups meet at least quarterly.

4. Pension Fund Management Panel

Terms of Reference

Carries out a similar role to that of the trustees of a pension scheme. It is the key decision maker for:

- Investment Management
- Monitoring investment activity and performance
- Overseeing administrative activities
- Guidance to officers in exercising delegated powers.

The detailed terms of reference are reviewed annually by Tameside MBC and the current detailed delegations are contained in the Tameside MBC Constitution referred to below under the heading "ACCESS TO INFORMATION".

Structure

Consists of local Councillors, plus a representative of the Ministry of Justice (following selection of the Fund as the sole administering authority for the

probation service's LGPS interests). The majority of the Councillors are drawn from Tameside MBC and the other Councillors nominated by the remaining 9 local authorities within Greater Manchester acting through the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities. Currently all local authorities are represented on the Management Panel.

All members have voting rights.

5. Pension Fund Advisory Panel

Terms of Reference

To work closely with the Pension Fund Management Panel and to advise on all matters.

The detailed terms of reference are reviewed annually by Tameside MBC and the current detailed delegations are contained in the Tameside MBC Constitution referred to below under the heading "ACCESS TO INFORMATION".

Structure

Consists of 10 local Councillors one drawn from each of the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, a representative of the Ministry of Justice and a minimum of 2 employee representatives nominated by the North West T.U.C. Current and long standing practice is to have 6 employee representatives.

All the elected members and employee representatives have voting rights.

6. Pension Fund Working Groups

Terms of reference

The Fund utilises Working Groups to consider in detail specific aspects of the Fund's activities and the monitoring of performance.

There are currently six Working Groups which consider particular areas of GMPF activities and make recommendations to the Pension Fund Management and Advisory Panels. The GMPF activities covered by the working groups are:

- Policy and Development
- Investment Monitoring and ESG
- Pensions Administration
- Alternative Investments
- Employer Funding and Viability
- Property

Structure

Membership of the Working Groups is drawn from the members of the Management and Advisory Panels. Each Working Group is chaired by a Tameside MBC Councillor

7. Executive Director of Pensions

Terms of Reference

- Responsible for implementing the decisions of the Pension Fund Management Panel and for the day-to-day management of the affairs of the GMPF;
- The Executive Director of Pensions is the administrator of the Fund and acts as the link for members, advisers and investment managers between meetings; and
- The delegated powers of the Director of Pensions are reviewed annually and the current powers are contained in the Tameside MBC Constitution referred to below under the heading "ACCESS TO INFORMATION".

In addition GMPF also has the following governance arrangements in place

8. External advisers

Three external advisers assist the Pension Fund Advisory Panel in particular regarding investment related issues.

9. Internal control

Tameside MBC provide internal audit arrangements to GMPF both as a tool of management and with direct reporting to the relevant Working Group, Panel and the Local Board.

10. External review

Tameside MBC including the GMPF is subject to external audit. The external auditors are appointed by the Audit Commission. This helps ensure that public funds are properly safeguarded and accounted for and are used economically, efficiently and effectively in accordance with the statutory and regulatory requirements. An audit opinion is given separately on the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts.

11. Annual Report and Accounts, Annual General Meeting and Bi Annual Pensioner Forum

Annually a Report and Accounts is produced for approval by the Pension Fund Management Panel at its meeting in September each year. The report currently includes the following sections:

- Chair's Introduction
- Management Structure
- Investment Report
- Statement of Accounts
- Scheme Administration
- Actuarial Statement and Employer Contributions
- Scheme at a glance

The Policy Statement comprising:

- Funding Strategy
- Statement of Investment Principles
- Governance Policy
- Governance Compliance Statement
- Core Belief Statement
- Communications Policy
- Pensions Administration Strategy

The Annual Report and Accounts is published on the Fund's website.

An Annual General Meeting, to which all employers are invited, is held within 7 months of the year end, usually early September.

Every two years GMPF hosts a Pensioners Forum. The Annual Report and Accounts are a key element of the Pensioner Forum.

12. GMPF Local Board

The GMPF Local Pension Board has been established to assist the Management Panel. In particular to assist:

- secure compliance with the Regulations, any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme, and requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme; and
- ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.

13. Risk management

Risk awareness is embedded into the performance management process. Risk Management will continue to feature in the training planned for all GMPF managers. Working Groups, Panel and the Local Board consider risk management issues.

14. Communication with employers

Meetings are held with GMPF employers at which administrative matters are discussed and updates provided on funding, investment matters and other key issues. Training events are also provided for employers and support is also provided by the Pensions Office.

15. Access to information

Via the GMPF website at **www.gmpf.org.uk** the GMPF Annual Report and Accounts can be accessed:

Via the Tameside MBC website at **www.tameside.gov.uk** Tameside MBC Constitution may be accessed which contains the Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation relating to the GMPF.

All of the above mentioned documents are also available in hard copy form upon request.

A close-up, artistic photograph of a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook is open, showing several pages. The pages are white with horizontal lines. Some pages have pieces of paper or documents placed on them. The spiral binding is visible on the left side. The entire image has a purple tint. The text 'Governance Compliance Statement' and '2014' is overlaid on the top left of the image.

Governance Compliance Statement

2014

GMPF Governance Compliance Statement

Principle A - Structure

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets clearly rests within the main committee established by the appointing council.		✓
(b) That representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main or secondary committee established to underpin the work of the main committee.	✗	
(c) That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.		✓
(d) That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.		✓

Principal A(b) – Structure

Reason for non-compliance:

In addition to the 10 local authorities within the Greater Manchester area the GMPF also has in excess of 300 non-local authority employers whose activities are diverse. It is considered impractical for each or groups of the non-local authority organisations to be separately represented on the GMPF.

To compensate for the lack of direct participation, the Fund holds an AGM to which all employers are invited and they have the opportunity to ask questions. For non local authority employers, meetings are held half yearly. This provides an opportunity for administrative, investment and funding issues to be raised.

Meetings can also be held with individual or groups of employers as required.

At the Advisory Panel, there are 6 representatives of Scheme Members appointed by the North West TUC. These representatives also participate in the Fund's Working Groups.

Principle B - Representation

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) That all key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented within the main or secondary committee structure. These include:		
(i) employing authorities (including non-scheme employers, eg, admitted bodies);		
(ii) scheme members (including deferred and pensioner scheme members);		
(iii) where appropriate, independent professional observers; and		
(iv) expert advisors (on an ad-hoc basis).		
(b) That where lay members sit on a main or secondary committee, they are treated equally in terms of access to papers and meetings, training and are given full opportunity to contribute to the decision making process, with or without voting rights.		

Principal B – Representation

Reason for non-compliance:

Principle B(a)(i) – see explanation provided previously at Principle A(b).

Principle B(a)(iii) – GMPF considers that the roles envisaged by DCLG for an independent professional observer are already adequately catered for within the Fund's current governance arrangements through the participation in the Advisory Panel of 3 expert external advisors from diverse professional backgrounds.

Principle C - Selection and role of lay members

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) That committee or panel members are made fully aware of the status, role and function they are required to perform on either a main or secondary committee.		
(b) That at the start of any meeting, committee members are invited to declare any financial or pecuniary interest related to specific matters on the agenda.		
C(a) Induction training is provided to new members. All members participate in mandatory training sessions and support is also provided for voluntary additional training. The induction of new members includes a copy of the Annual Report, that sets out the Management Arrangements and a summary of the responsibilities of the Management and Advisory Panels.		

Principle D - Voting

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) The policy of individual administering authorities on voting rights is clear and transparent, including the justification for not extending voting rights to each body or group represented on main LGPS committees. All members of the Management and Advisory Panels have voting rights.		✓

Principle E - Training/facility/time/expenses

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) That in relation to the way in which statutory and related decisions are taken by the administering authority, there is a clear policy on training, facility time and reimbursement of expenses in respect of members involved in the decision-making process.		✓
(b) That where such a policy exists, it applies equally to all members of committees, sub-committees, advisory panels or any other form of secondary forum.		✓
(c) That the administering authority considers the adoption of annual training plans for committee members and maintains a log of all such training undertaken.		✓

Principle F - Meetings (frequency/quorum)

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) That an administering authority's main committee or committees meet at least quarterly.		✓
(b) That an administering authority's secondary committee or panel meet at least twice a year and is synchronised with the dates when the main committee sits.		✓
(c) That an administering authority who does not include lay members in their formal governance arrangements, must provide a forum outside of those arrangements by which the interests of key stakeholders can be represented.		✓

Principle G - Access

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) That subject to any rules in the council's constitution, all members of main and secondary committees or panels have equal access to committee papers, documents and advice that falls to be considered at meetings of the main committee.		✓

Principle H - Scope

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) That administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.		✓

Principle I - Publicity

	Not compliant	Fully compliant
(a) That administering authorities have published details of their governance arrangements in such a way that stakeholders with an interest in the way in which the scheme is governed, can express an interest in wanting to be part of those arrangements.		✓

Core Belief Statement

Adopted: 6 March 2009



Core Belief Statement

This is the Core Belief Statement ("the Statement") of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund ("the Fund" or "GMPF"), which is administered by Tameside MBC ("the Administering Authority").

It has been prepared by the Administering Authority in collaboration with the Fund Actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, and after consultation with the Fund's investment Advisors and Managers.

The objective of the Statement is to set out the Fund's key investment beliefs. These beliefs will form the foundation of discussions, and assist decisions, regarding the structure of the Fund, strategic asset allocation and the selection of investment managers.

1. Investment governance

- 1.1 The Fund has the necessary skills, expertise and resources to internally manage some assets, such as property, private equity and cash.
- 1.2 Investment consultants, independent advisors and officers are a source of expertise and research to inform Management Panel decisions.
- 1.3 The Fund is developing its governance structure in order to implement tactical views more readily, but acknowledges that market timing is very difficult.
- 1.4 There can be a first mover advantage in many areas, but it is difficult to exploit and requires the Fund to be willing to take on 'unconventional risks'.

2. Long term approach

- 2.1 The strength of the employers' covenant allows a longer term deficit recovery period and for the Fund to take a long term view of investment strategy.
- 2.2 The most important aspect of risk is not the volatility of returns but the risk of absolute loss and of not meeting the objective of facilitating low, stable contribution rates for employers.
- 2.3 Illiquidity and volatility are shorter term risks which offer potential sources of additional compensation to the long term investor. Moreover, it is important to avoid being a forced seller in short term markets.
- 2.4 Participation in economic growth is a major source of long term equity return.

- 2.5 Over the long term, equities are expected to outperform other liquid assets, particularly government bonds.
- 2.6 Well governed companies that manage their business in a responsible manner will produce higher returns over the long term.

3. Appropriate investments

- 3.1 Allocations to asset classes other than equities and government bonds (eg corporate bonds, private equity and property) offer the Fund other forms of risk premia (eg additional solvency risk/illiquidity risk).
- 3.2 Diversification across asset classes and asset types will tend to reduce the volatility of the overall Fund return.
- 3.3 In general, allocations to bonds are made to achieve additional diversification. However, for a number of those scheme employers with mature liabilities, the Fund does pursue a bond driven liability based strategy.

4. Management strategies

- 4.1 Passive management provides low cost exposure to equities and bonds and is especially attractive in efficient markets.
- 4.2 Active managers can add value over the long-term, particularly in relatively inefficient markets and the Fund believes that by following a rigorous approach it is possible to identify managers who are likely to add value.
- 4.3 The Fund believes that the case for value investing is compelling, but that it may result in prolonged periods of over and underperformance in comparison to a style neutral approach.
- 4.4 Active managers are expensive and fees should be aligned to the interests of the Fund rather than performance of the market.
- 4.5 Active management performance should be monitored over multi-year rolling cycles and assessed to confirm that the original investment process on appointment is being delivered and that continued appointment is appropriate.
- 4.6 Employing a range of management styles can reduce the volatility of overall Fund returns but can also reduce overall outperformance.

*Version 1.0, adopted by the Pension Fund Management Panel for Tameside MBC as administering authority for Greater Manchester Pension Fund : March 6, 2009.
SJT/PFIG, March 2009.*



Statement of Investment Principles

Adopted: 11 June 2010

Statement of Investment Principles

1. Background

- 1.1 This Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 ("the Regulations"). The Regulations require administering authorities to prepare, publish, and when appropriate revise, a written statement recording the investment policy of the pension fund; they also stipulate certain key issues which must be covered in the Statement.
- 1.2 The terms of appointments of any external fund managers are required to include a provision that the fund manager must take account of, and shall not contravene, this Statement in undertaking its management role.
- 1.3 The Local Government Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") was established by statute to provide death and retirement benefits for all eligible employees. The Scheme is a contributory, defined benefit occupational pension scheme.
- 1.4 Tameside MBC ("the Council") became the administering authority of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund ("the Pension Fund" or "the Fund") in 1987 after the abolition of the Greater Manchester County Council in 1986. The Fund covers all ten district councils of Greater Manchester and numerous other smaller employers.
- 1.5 The Statement outlines the broad investment principles governing the investment policy of the Pension Fund. In preparing the Statement, the Council has consulted those persons it considered appropriate.

2. Organisation and management arrangements of the Fund

- 2.1 The investment powers of the Council under the Scheme are given in the Regulations. Amongst other matters, the Regulations require the Council to have regard to both the suitability and diversification of its investments and to take proper advice in making decisions regarding the investment matters of the Fund.
- 2.2 The Council has delegated all its functions as administering authority of the Pension Fund to the Pension Fund Management Panel ("the Management Panel" or "the Panel") which routinely meets on a quarterly basis and whose

Terms of Reference are detailed in the Council's "Constitution". Amongst other matters, the Panel decides on the investment policy most suitable to meet the liabilities under the Scheme and has ultimate responsibility for the investment strategy.

- 2.3 The Management Panel has in turn appointed a Pension Fund Advisory Panel and external professional Advisors, and has dedicated internal Officers of the Fund to advise it on the exercise of its delegated powers. There are also a small number of Working Groups which report quarterly to the Panel on specialist matters.
- 2.4 The Director of Pensions exercises certain delegated powers as specified in the Constitution and provides the link between the Panel, the external professional Advisors and the Fund's investment managers. Each year a Fund "Business Plan" is submitted by the Director of Pensions to the Management Panel for consideration.
- 2.5 A primary objective of the Council is to maintain a low and stable employer contribution rate. This is to be achieved by attempting to maximise the long-term investment return whilst not exceeding an acceptable degree of risk.
- 2.6 The assets of the Fund are separated into two distinct parts – a Main Fund and a Designated Fund. This separation has been made in order to reflect a major difference in liability profiles between most of the employers of the Fund and that of a small number of other employers of the Fund.
- 2.7 Having taken appropriate advice, the Management Panel has decided that a bespoke benchmark, which is biased towards equity is a suitable investment benchmark for the management of the Main Fund. Detail on the Main Fund's bespoke benchmark is included in the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts. This benchmark will be reviewed annually and when appropriate in response to significant changes in the investment environment. The Designated Fund has a bespoke benchmark which is heavily orientated towards UK index linked stock.

- 2.8 The Management Panel has delegated the management of the majority of the Main Fund's securities portfolio to regulated, external, professional fund managers whose activities are defined and constrained by detailed Fund Manager Agreements. The remainder of the Main Fund (including property, venture capital/private equity and elements of UK cash) and the Designated Fund are managed internally by Officers of the Fund. The 'Treasury Management' of all UK cash is undertaken by Officers of Tameside MBC.
- 2.9 The Main Fund is largely actively managed but has a significant element, which is passively managed on a pooled basis. The appointed external fund managers have been given individual differing active multi-asset (ex property) discretionary benchmarks reflecting their perceived skills and the relative efficiency of markets. These individual benchmarks are detailed in the Fund Manager Agreements and have been chosen so as to be consistent with the overall bespoke benchmark determined for the Main Fund.
- 2.10 Each of the Main Fund's external active fund managers has been set the target of achieving a rolling three year average performance which exceeds the average performance of their individual benchmark by 1% per annum. The Fund anticipates that in two years out of three the external active fund managers' annual performance will be within 4½% of the annual performance of their individual benchmark.
- 2.11 The fees of both of the external active fund managers consist of two elements: a fixed base fee together with a performance element which is capped at a prudent level of outperformance. The fees of the Main Fund's external passive fund manager consists of an ad-valorem base fee with no performance element.
- 2.12 The Designated Fund is passively managed on a segregated basis.
- 2.13 The investment returns of the Main Fund, its underlying component portfolios and the Designated Fund are calculated quarterly by an external, third party professional performance measurement company appointed directly by the Council.

- 2.14 The Management Panel monitors the performance of the appointed external fund managers at each of its quarterly meetings. The performance of the specialist portfolios managed internally by Officers of the Fund is monitored annually by the Panel.

3 The types of investments to be held

- 3.1 The Regulations require the Council to have regard to the suitability of investments and define the types of investments which the Fund is permitted to hold. The Fund operates with the lower limits on investments as defined by Regulation 14(2), except for "contributions to partnerships" where it has resolved to work to a limit of 10% under regulation 14(3). This decision was taken in order to facilitate the Fund implementing its strategic allocation to private equity, infrastructure, property and other investments where pooled vehicles offer the preferred access. This decision complies with the Regulations and will remain in place until revoked.
- 3.2 In addition to the Regulations, the Council has decided to further restrict the types of investment which the appointed external fund managers may hold and to restrict the type and extent of investment activity which they are permitted to undertake. These further detailed restrictions are extensive and are documented in a Schedule to each of the Fund Manager Agreements.
- 3.3 Fund assets currently include a UK and overseas spread of equity, fixed interest bonds (including those issued by Governments, companies and other entities), index linked bonds, venture capital/private equity and property. The Main Fund's external active fund managers are permitted limited use of certain derivatives. The Fund supplements its investment income by participating in a Commission Recapture program.

4 The Balance between different Types of Investments

- 4.1 The Regulations require the Council to have regard to the diversification of its investments.
- 4.2 The overall bespoke benchmark of the Main Fund comprises a mix of different assets (broadly 75% real assets and 25% monetary assets) which is sufficient to provide adequate diversification for the Main Fund. The Fund's Annual Report and Accounts contains more detail on the overall Main Fund benchmark.
- 4.3 The strategic balance of investments takes account of the risk/return characteristics of each asset class and in particular the potential for enhanced long term returns from equity and the higher level of short term volatility associated with that asset class. The overall bespoke benchmark provides a reasonable long-term balance appropriate to the liabilities relevant to the Main Fund and its funding position.
- 4.4 For the Main Fund, tactical asset allocation is delegated to the appointed external fund managers who must operate within asset class and country restrictions which are documented in a Schedule to the Fund Manager Agreements.
- 4.5 The bespoke benchmark of the Designated Fund has also been specifically chosen in the context of the relevant liabilities and funding position.

5 Risk: measurement and management

- 5.1 The Management Panel recognises that risk is inherent in any investment activity. The overall approach is to seek to reduce risk to a minimum where it is possible to do so without compromising returns (eg in operational matters), and to limit risk to prudently acceptable levels otherwise (eg in investment matters).
- 5.2 Operational risk is minimised by :
- Having custody of the Fund's financial assets provided by a regulated, external, third party, professional custodian appointed directly by the Council with control and liability issues thoroughly addressed in a Custody Agreement;
 - Having the deeds of direct property investments held securely by the Fund's Legal Section;

- Documenting control and liability issues relating to the relationships with the appointed external fund managers in the Fund Manager Agreements;
- Having an external, third party, accounting provider independently maintain complete accounting records relating to the investment activity of the appointed external fund managers and to the entitlements (eg income) arising from the Fund's securities portfolios;
- Officers of the Council's Internal Audit and of the Fund's Investments Group receiving reports on and reviewing the internal operating procedures of the appointed external custodian, fund managers and accounting provider; and
- Subjecting internal investment management activity to close Internal Audit scrutiny.

5.3 Investment risk is constrained by :

- Diversifying across investment managers;
- Diversifying across types of investment;
- Restricting external appointed fund manager investment activity as documented in a Schedule to the Fund Manager Agreements;
- Selecting appropriate investment benchmarks in order to control the risk that the assets will not be sufficient to meet the liabilities whilst also having a strong likelihood of achieving a good return;
- Taking appropriate internal and external professional advice on the investment activity of both the externally managed securities portfolios and of the internally managed portfolios;
- Quarterly, formal, Management Panel monitoring of asset allocation against the investment benchmarks and asset class restrictions; and
- Quarterly, formal, Management Panel monitoring of investment manager and overall Fund activity and performance

5.4 Some risks lend themselves to being measured (eg using such concepts as 'Active Risk' and such techniques as 'Asset Liability Modelling') and where this is the case, the Fund employs the relevant approach to measurement. The Fund reviews new approaches to measurement as these continue to be developed.

6 The expected return on investments

- 6.1 There is a broad expectation that in the longer term the return on equity will be greater than on other assets.
- 6.2 The overall Main Fund return is expected to be broadly in line with the overall bespoke benchmark. Over the last twenty years this benchmark has averaged a return which is comfortably ahead of both price and earnings inflation over the same period. However over any shorter period, such as one or five years, actual Main Fund returns may vary significantly from the benchmark and indeed benchmark returns may vary significantly from their long-term averages.
- 6.3 Over the long term appropriate to the liabilities of the Scheme it is expected that the investment returns of both the Main Fund and the Designated Fund will be at least in line with the assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations.

7 The Realisation of Investments

- 7.1 General investment principles require that issues of liquidity and marketability be considered in making any investment decision. Current employer and employee contributions are expected to broadly match or exceed pension payments. In addition the Fund also receives significant investment income. Thus it is not expected that there will be any material need to realise investments in the foreseeable future other than to seek higher returns.
- 7.2 The vast majority of the Pension Fund's assets are readily marketable. However some investments, such as property and more so venture capital/private equity, are less easy to realise in a timely manner. Such relative illiquidity is not considered to have any significant adverse consequences for the Fund.
- 7.3 The Council would inform the appointed external fund managers of any projected need to withdraw funds in order to enable the fund managers to plan an orderly realisation of assets if this proves necessary.

8 Socially Responsible Investment

- 8.1 The Council holds a policy of not interfering in the day to day investment decisions of its investment managers and does not actively invest in nor disinvest from companies solely or largely for social or ethical or environmental reasons.
- 8.2 As a responsible investor, the Council wishes to promote corporate social responsibility, good practice and improved company performance amongst all companies in which it invests. On environmental issues, the Council wishes to promote and encourage compliance with its own "UK Environmental Investment Code". The Fund's appointed external fund managers are encouraged to operate a policy of constructive shareholder engagement with companies.
- 8.3 The Council endeavours to be a socially responsible investor wherever possible but does so within the duties placed upon it under statute and under general trust law principles to manage the Scheme in the best financial interests of the Scheme members and beneficiaries.
- 8.4 From time to time the Fund will pursue certain specific issues direct with investee companies, either individually or, more usually, collectively with other institutional investors via its membership of the 'Local Authority Pension Fund Forum' or the 'Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change', or by means of other ad-hoc groupings.

9 The Exercise of Investment Rights

- 9.1 The exercise of rights which are not voting rights (eg dividend entitlements, rights issues etc) are delegated by the Council to the investment managers of the Pension Fund as part of their normal investment responsibilities.
- 9.2 The Council wishes to exercise the voting rights attaching to its investments to promote and support good corporate governance principles.
- 9.3 The Council requires the appointed external active fund managers to vote on behalf of the Fund at every opportunity in the UK and when reasonably practicable and commercially prudent overseas.

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- 9.4 In casting the Fund's votes in the UK, the appointed external active fund managers are mandated to implement the Fund's bespoke "UK Voting Guidelines". Any overseas votes exercised must be cast in line with the spirit of the Guidelines.
 - 9.5 The appointed external passive fund manager votes in respect of the Fund at every opportunity in the UK, routinely in respect of the largest 100 US companies and in exceptional circumstances elsewhere overseas.
 - 9.6 In casting votes in respect of the Fund in the UK, the appointed external passive fund manager normally implements its own 'Voting Policy'. However the fund manager will vote in respect of the Fund according to the Fund's instructions on a case by case basis should the Fund so require.

10 Stocklending

- 10.1 The Fund itself has participated in a prudently structured Stocklending program via its Custodian since March 2003.
- 10.2 The Fund does not lend UK and US Equities and does not take Cash as collateral. The maximum volumes of stock "on loan" are set at a lower level than the Regulations permit. All loans must be pre-collateralised and be subject to recall upon demand.
- 10.3 Certain pooled vehicles within which the Fund invests may undertake an amount of Stocklending on behalf of the pooled vehicle investors. Where this occurs, the extent of the activity is disclosed by the pooled vehicle. The Fund considers this aspect of the pooled vehicle when making investment decisions.

11 Compliance with the guidance given by the Secretary of State (Six CIPFA/Myners Principles)

- 11.1 The Appendix hereto states the extent to which the Fund complies with the guidance given by the Secretary of State and the six principles of investment practice set out in the CIPFA document : "Investment Decision Making and Disclosure in the Local Government Pensions Scheme : A Guide to the Application of the Myners Principles" (2009).
- 11.2 The Appendix also gives reasons for not complying where the Fund does not do so.

Appendix to Statement of Investment Principles

The Secretary of State guidance (Six CIPFA/Myners Principles for Investment Decision Making and Disclosure in the LGPS)

Principle	Compliance
Effective decision making	The Fund considers that it is compliant with this principle. See Section 2) [in particular 2.1 - 2.4]. The Management Panel has decided against a focused 'investment subcommittee' approach to investment decision-making in favour of maintaining the Fund's long-standing inclusive approach. The training needs of Panel members are periodically considered by the Panel and suitable training arrangements are made. The Fund is developing its approach to the CIPFA skills and knowledge framework for members of the Management Panel and to the adoption of training plans.
Clear objectives	The Fund considers that it is compliant with this principle. See Sections 2) [in particular 2.5 - 2.12], 3), 4) and 5). The Management Panel is developing a performance measurement framework to measure the overall performance of its advisors.
Risk and liabilities	The Fund considers that it is compliant with this principle. See Sections 2) [in particular 2.7], 3), 4) and 5). The Management Panel has an active risk management programme in place. The key risks and the measures to control them are detailed in the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. The Fund is considering how to further develop its approach to assessing overall risk, mitigating unrewarded risk wherever possible, and identifying any residual risk.
Performance assessment	The Fund considers that it is not fully compliant with this principle. See Sections 2) [in particular 2.10, 2.13, and 2.14] and 5.4. The Management Panel currently undertakes informal assessment of its own decisions and the advice of the advisors to, and officers of, the Fund and is developing its approach to formal assessment in these areas.
Responsible ownership	The Fund considers that it is not fully compliant with this principle. See Sections 8) and 9). Each appointed external active fund manager reports on its policy and activity in this area to the Fund's specialist "Ethics and Audit Working Group" on an annual basis. The Fund is developing its approach to measuring the effectiveness of its strategy. The Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) which promotes the investment interests of local authority pension funds and seeks to maximise their influence as shareholders while promoting corporate social responsibility and high standards of corporate governance among the companies in which they invest. The Fund is considering its position on the Institutional Shareholders Committee's Code on the Responsibilities of Institutional Investors.
Transparency and reporting	The Fund considers that it is fully compliant with this principle. See Sections 2), 4) and, in particular, 6). The Fund's Statement of Investment Principles and Governance Compliance Statement are published on the Fund's website together with a full list of the Fund's holdings at year end. The results of monitoring the Fund's investments managers are contained in the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts which is also published on the website. All three documents are freely available in hardcopy to interested parties and their availability is publicised widely amongst scheme members.

END OF APPENDIX (11/06/10)

Communications Policy

2014



Communications Policy

Introduction

This statement is published to state the Greater Manchester Pension Fund's strategy of engagement with its stakeholders and to satisfy legislation⁽¹⁾ to prepare, maintain and publish a written statement setting out our policy concerning the following aspects of our communications activities:

- 1: Communications with contributing members**
- 2: Communications with deferred members**
- 3: Communications with pensioner members**
- 4: Member self service (Mypension)**
- 5: Communications with members' representatives**
- 6: Communications with prospective members**
- 7: Communications with employing authorities**
- 8: Consultation & engagement strategy**

The Statement of Communications Policy will be revised and republished following any material change in policy.

1 Communications with contributing members

1.1: Pension Statements

Once a year we send all members a pension statement direct to their home address. This summarises the basic information we hold about them such as date of birth, pay for pension purposes and normally gives estimates of the current and future value of the member's benefits. It also includes an estimate of the current value of survivors' pension benefits.

1.2: Pension Power newsletter

Usually twice a year we produce a newsletter, the main purpose of which is to satisfy disclosure requirements⁽²⁾ by informing contributing members about changes in the regulations of the LGPS. Because of its nature, this publication is not produced at fixed times, but rather in response to changes in the regulations, with reference to the time restrictions imposed by the Disclosure Regulations. It is supplied as a link to an online 'e-magazine' or mailed to members' home addresses, depending on their mailing preferences.

1.3: Website

Information about the Scheme is held on the website. We also publish newsflashes and bulletins on the website to provide topical updates about the Scheme, and members can sign up for our email alert service to keep abreast of these.

1.4: Twitter account

GMPF has a Twitter account, and from time to time we tweet snippets of information. You can find it at: @GMPF_LGPS.

1.5: Roadshows & seminars

We run information sessions in members' places of work. These are run on demand in conjunction with employers, for a minimum of 20 employees. We run more specialist sessions for members affected by issues such as a public services transferring to a private organisation. We also participate in pre-retirement courses, which are organised by a number of our employers.

1.6: Literature

The main point of reference for members to find out about the key aspects of the LGPS is our Members Guide. This is supported by a range of literature, which goes into more detail on topics such as making a nomination or topping up benefits. A different Guide is produced for councillor members to whom different rules apply, regarding the calculation of benefits.

1.7: Pensions helpline

We provide two helplines: 0161 301 7100 for pensioners and 0161 301 7000 for other members.

2 Communications with deferred members

A member who has left their employer and who has left their benefits on hold is classed as a deferred member. The two main ways of communicating with this class of member are as follows:

2.1: Pension statements

Once a year we send deferred members a pension statement direct to their home address. This summarises the basic information we hold about them and gives the up to date value of their benefits.

2.2: Newsletters

As the need arises we send a separate newsletter to all deferred members. This satisfies disclosure requirements by informing them about those changes in the regulations of the LGPS that affect them. Because of its nature, this publication

⁽¹⁾ Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

⁽²⁾ Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2013.

is not produced at fixed times, but rather in response to changes in the regulations, with reference to the time restrictions imposed by the Disclosure Regulations. This newsletter is mailed to home addresses.

2.3: Pensions helpline

Deferred members can also telephone the helpline.

3 Communications with pensioner members

Pensioner members include retired members and dependants, for example widows. The main ways we communicate with this class of member are as follows:

3.1: Pensions Payslip

All pensioners receive a combined payslip and P60 when the April pension payment is made. Mailed with this is the Pensions Grapevine newsletter (see 3.2). All pensioner members will receive a May payslip and will also receive a payslip at any other time where the amount of net pension changes by more than £5.

3.2: Pensions Grapevine newsletter

This newsletter is mailed direct to home addresses. It is produced once a year and is sent with the April payslips. It includes information regarding the amount of pensions increase, tax codes, a summary of the Fund's finances and other information of relevance to pensioners.

3.3: Pensioners' Forum

This event is held every other year and gives pensioners an opportunity to visit information stands staffed by specialists in various fields such as tax, State benefits and will making. Presentations are made by staff from GMPF and visiting speakers, covering the Fund's finances, pensioner matters and other items.

3.4: Pensioners' helpline

Pensioners can telephone 0161 301 7100.

4 Member self service (Mypension)

There are currently issues with the third party software which facilitates our member self service. Once these are remedied, members will be able to register for Mypension, allowing them, via a PIN, to see data relating to themselves, such as pension payments.

5 Communications with members' representatives

Materials available to members are available on request to their representatives. Also, as new literature is produced, samples are sent to the six employee representatives that are members of the Pension Fund Advisory Panel.

6 Communications with prospective members

6.1: Basic information

It is a requirement under the Disclosure Regulations that all prospective members are given basic information about the Scheme. In view of this we ask all GMPF employers to give a copy of the Members' Guide (see 1.6) to every prospective member, either in hard copy form or as a website link. This should be done with their letter of appointment.

7 Communications with Employing Authorities

7.1: Annual General Meeting

We hold our AGM within 7 months of year end (generally in September) and an invitation is extended to every employer. The AGM includes a presentation summarising the Annual Report & Accounts.

7.2: Meetings/employer training

We host meetings to keep our employing authorities up to date with developments in the Scheme, and - for Local Authorities - to give them a forum to discuss common issues, good practice and so on.

As the need arises we host more specialist seminars on subjects such as auto-enrolment, and open these to representatives from all employers.

7.3: Employers' Website

We have a separate website for employers where they can access information of a more technical nature and download forms, copies of some presentations and so on.

7.4: Employer alerts

We issue employer alerts, which cover many aspects of the Scheme Regulations.

7.5: Employers' helpline

Employers also have a dedicated helpline which they can call upon for guidance: 0161 301 7200.

8 Consultation & engagement strategy

8.1: The strategy

The different types of member are consulted from time to time. A selection of each member group receives a questionnaire, in order to express satisfaction levels with our service, to make suggestions for improvement and any other comments.

8.2: Member groups

- Representative groups are selected and up to 2000 questionnaires issued. The groups are:
- New Members
- Long-term active members
- New pensioners
- Long-term pensioner members
- Deferred Members
- Non-members & Leavers

8.3: Results

The results are reported to the Pensions Administration Working Group and published on the GMPF and Tameside websites. Recommendations for service improvement are considered and added to the Business Plan if appropriate.

A close-up, sepia-toned photograph of a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook is open, showing several pages. Some pages are blank, while others have faint, illegible handwriting. The spiral binding is visible on the left side. The overall tone is warm and vintage.

Pension Administration Strategy

1 October 2014

Pension Administration Strategy

1: The Regulations

2: Review of the Pensions Administration Strategy (PAS)

3: Scheme employer duties & responsibilities

4: Pensions Office duties & responsibilities

5: Unsatisfactory performance

Commencement date for this revised PAS: 1 October 2014.

This PAS recognises that for administration costs to be minimised, and the mutual service to the member to be maximised, Scheme employers¹ and the administering authority must co-operate closely.

1 The Regulations

1.1 This PAS is made under regulation 59 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013. Related legislation includes:

- The LGPS (Benefits, Membership & Contributions) Regulations 2007
 - The LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008
 - the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings & Amendments) Regulations 2014
 - the LGPS Regulations 1997
 - the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000
 - the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2013 ("the Disclosure Regulations")
 - the Pensions Act 1995
 - the Pensions Act 2004
 - the Pensions Act 2008
 - the Data Protection Act 1998
 - the Occupational Pension Schemes (Preservation of Benefit) Regulations 1991
 - the Occupational Pension Schemes (Scheme Administration) Regulations 1996
 - the Finance Act 2004
 - the Automatic Enrolment (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2013
- including amendments to any of these Regulations.

This PAS is complemented by the *Pensions Office Guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme*².

2 Review of the PAS

2.1 This PAS will be reviewed at least triennially and will be revised following any material change in policies that relate to the PAS.

¹ Scheme employer means a body listed in Schedule 2 of the LGPS Regulations 2013 employing an employee who is eligible to be a member and includes an admission body.

² The Pensions Office Guide 2014 is currently being developed and will be available later this year.

3 Scheme employer Duties & Responsibilities

- 3.1 Each Scheme employer (*the employer*) shall nominate a person who will act as the Pensions Office's primary contact. There may be separate contact persons for Pension Fund Accountancy.
- 3.2 Authorised officers whose names and specimen signatures are held by the Pensions Office (the Office) must sign all documents and/or instructions received from an employer. In signing a document an authorised officer is not merely certifying that the form comes from the employer stated, but also that the information being provided is correct. Consequently if an authorised officer is certifying information that someone else has compiled, for example leaving information including a final salary pay, career average pay, assumed pay, (s)he should satisfy him/herself that the information is correct.
- 3.3 It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that details of the nominated representative and authorised signatures are correct, and to notify the Office of changes to either immediately.
- 3.4 The employer shall provide the Office with year-end information to 31 March each year in an approved format no later than 7 May or the next working day. Such information should be accompanied by a statement, duly signed by an authorised officer. This statement must show for each employment of each of the Scheme employers, employees who have been active members of Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) during the Scheme year (1 April to 31 March), the information needed for each employment. (For example, employee and employer contributions and additional contributions, cumulative pensionable pay etc.)³. The information should distinguish those amounts representing deductions for voluntary contributions, with those for ARCs and APCs/SCAPCs being differentiated, and the employees paying those voluntary contributions.
- 3.5 During the year the employer should forward notifications to the Office, with 90% compliance or better (excluding retirements), as summarised in the table on the following page:
- 3.6 Regarding the Data Protection Act 1998, the employer will protect from improper disclosure any information about a member contained (where applicable) on Altair, and also notifications of a member's pension details and any other item sent from the Office. It will also only use information supplied or made available by the Office for the operation of the LGPS.
- 3.7 Regarding the Disclosure Regulations, the employer will issue to all new employees eligible to join GMPF, at the time of appointment, a copy of the members' guide to the pension scheme (*your pension – a simple guide for new members*). This may be in the form of:
- directing all new members to GMPF's Members' website, where the guide is available to view and/or download; or
 - issuing a booklet; or
 - issuing a PDF.

Text for inclusion in appointment emails/letters is referred to in section 2.17 of the Pensions Office Guide to the LGPS 2008⁶.

³ This is to check the sum of the amounts on the statements provided during the scheme year tally with the amounts shown on the year-end statement. The information is also needed to ensure the member's pension record is correct and up to date and because the information may be needed to produce the annual benefit statements and pension savings statements.

Summary of Scheme employer Duties & Responsibilities

New starters [P1, New starters 2014 spreadsheet]	Within two months of the employee joining, or such shorter period as required by any auto-enrolment obligations (generally this tends to be before or within six weeks of the employee's automatic enrolment date).
Change in member's details [FORM P5]	Within 2 months of the event. Changes that are notified electronically, either on-line or via a spreadsheet (for example changes in sections via the P5s spreadsheet), should also be made within two months of the event.
Early leavers [FORM P48 & EM48]	Outside of 3 months of joining: within 2 months of the employee leaving their employment or opting out of the scheme.
Early leavers [Spreadsheet PF48s or P1 or form P48]	Within 3 months of joining: within 1 month of the employee opting out or if leaving their employment, within two months of the event.
Retirements generally	With retirements it is recognised that some members retire with little or no notice and so the 90% performance standard will not apply. Nonetheless where possible it is the mutual desire of employer and Office to pay the tax-free retirement lump sum (cleared funds), into the member's bank account on the first day of retirement. Consequently, retirement notifications (Forms P71, P71f, P71i and EM71e) should be received by the Office at least a month before the member's retirement date where possible. Where the statutory underpin applies, notifications should be received a further two weeks earlier.
Ill health retirement	Regarding ill health retirements, some employers give notice whilst others make payments in lieu instead. With the latter it is understood that P71i or EM71e forms will be sent necessarily after the member has left. When a P71i or EM71e is not forwarded prior to retirement, it should be forwarded as soon as possible thereafter.
Early retirement at member's choice	Regarding early retirement at member's choice, if we receive a P71 for a member who has left their employment and is 55+ we will assume the employer has received an election on the Office's behalf from the member to receive immediate payment of benefits. This also applies for retirement after normal pension age (NPA) ⁴ .
Flexible retirement	Regarding flexible retirement, if we receive a P71f for a member where their employer has agreed, under their discretion policy, to flexible retirement, we will assume the employer has received an election on the Office's behalf from the member to receive immediate payment of all or part of that member's benefits ⁵ .
Disclosure Regulations	Great care must also be taken to avoid breaking the Disclosure Regulations. Consequently when a retirement takes place before NPA the latest a P71, P71f, P71i or EM71e is to be received in the Office is no later than one month after the date of retirement. Where a retirement takes place on or after NPA, the Office must receive the P71, P71f, P71i or EM71e no more than ten working days after the date of retirement.
Death in service [FORMS 74a to 74d]	within 3 working days of all the information being gathered, for example birth and marriage certificates.

⁴ Under Regulation 32 of the LGPS Regulations 2013, written notices to receive the immediate payment of benefits in these cases are to the administering authority. In the actuality however the member will usually sign to receive immediate benefits as part of the employer/employee retirement process.

⁵ See footnote 4.

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- 3.8 The employer will ensure that both employee and employer contributions are deducted at the correct rate, including any contributions that are due on leave of absence with reduced or no pay and any additional contributions GMPF request the employer to collect. Contributions (but not additional voluntary contributions) should be paid to GMPF on a monthly basis by BACS payment to GMPF's bank account. (Bank details are provided on the form P8 – Payment Advice). The P8 form should be completed (there are guidance notes on the form), certified by an authorised officer and emailed to contributions@tameside.gov.uk in advance of the payment. All contributions (but **not** additional voluntary contributions) should be paid to GMPF by the first working day of the month following the month of deduction. If a completed P8 is not provided for the payment then it cannot be allocated. This will register as a late payment and interest may be charged. If payment of contributions is overdue by more than one month the employer will be required to pay interest⁷.
- 3.9 The employer will pay any additional voluntary contributions to the in-house additional voluntary contributions provider within one week of them being deducted. Under the Pensions Act 2004 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Scheme Administration) Regulations 1996, the Pensions Regulator may be notified if contributions are not received by the 19th of the month (or 22nd of the month if paid electronically) following that in which they were deducted.
- 3.10 In the event of the Office being fined by the Pensions Regulator, this fine will be passed on to the relevant employer where that employer's action or inaction (for example the failure to notify a retirement within the time limits described above), caused the fine.
- 3.11 From time to time Tameside MBC auditors may request member data or may ask to attend at employer offices to carry out audits regarding, for example, the calculation of final salary pays, career average pays and assumed pays. Employers are requested to co-operate with these activities.
- 3.12 Employers' discretions policies: employers are required to formulate, publish and keep under review a policy statement in relation to the exercise of a number of discretions under the LGPS. The policies need to be in place and published at employers by 30 June 2014. A copy of the policies should be forwarded to GMPF as soon as possible thereafter and by no later than two months after 30 June 2014. Any subsequent revisions to the policies must be published and copied to GMPF within one month of the change in policy.
- 3.13 The employer will act on behalf of the administering authority regarding receiving elections for looking back in time pay figures. Ordinarily these elections should be made no later than one month prior to the date on which the member stops active membership. However, in the event of a member leaving with less than a month's notice, this requirement will be waived.
- 3.14 The employer will reply:
- (i) to postings queries raised by the Office by 6 July each year⁸;
 - (ii) to queries about pay (excluding retirements⁹), within 15 working days; and
 - (iii) other queries, especially those raised at the point of retirement, as soon as possible.
- 3.15 Employers with a link into Altair will be expected to use all of its features, for example, to calculate early retirement estimates and to answer queries that have been raised via *Work Flow* (formerly known as *Task Manager*).

⁶ This will be updated in the 2014 Guide.

⁷ Paragraph 3.8 will be affected by the Public Service Pensions (Record Keeping and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2014 which come into force on 1 April 2015. This part of the PAS will be updated to make sure compliant with the regulations.

⁸ This is derived from a HMRC requirement and is needed to enable GMPF to generate pension savings statements in relation to the annual allowance where members have exceeded the annual allowance in GMPF. This deadline is also needed to enable GMPF to issue annual benefit statements by the statutory deadline of 31 August.

⁹ Pay queries in relation to retirements should be responded to as soon as possible from the date the query was made by GMPF and by no later than 15 working days.

4 Pensions Office Duties & Responsibilities

- 4.1 The Office will act for the employer regarding:
- the issue of notifications of a member's pension details, with the employer continuing to be responsible for employer decisions, and the Office for administering authority decisions;
 - the determination of benefits following the death of a deferred beneficiary or pensioner;
 - the payment of annual or spouses' compensation, and any adjustments due arising from, for example, re-employment;
 - asking the member, within 3 months of joining GMPF (or us being notified), for a statement in writing listing all the person's previous periods of membership of a public service pension scheme.
- 4.2 To issue forms, newsletters, booklets and such other materials as are necessary for the administration of the Scheme and compliance with disclosure requirements.
- 4.3 To support employers by way of:
- employer bulletins/alerts;
 - the *Pensions Office Guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme*;
 - technical notes;
 - the GMPF employers' website;
 - Pensions Officer Meetings, with employers being invited to submit agenda items;
 - day to day contact.
- 4.4 To provide technical guidance by way of an employer bulletin within 2 months of any Regulatory changes.
- 4.5 There is also an open invitation for employer Pensions Officers and other representatives to visit the Office, subject to notice, to discuss any aspect of co-operation.
- 4.6 To produce postings queries for employers within one month of the receipt of a complete and correct year-end return.
- 4.7 To produce annual benefit statements for despatch to contributors by 31 August each year (assuming receipt of accurate year-end information from the employer by 7 May).
- 4.8 Pension savings statements to be issued each year to members who have exceeded the annual allowance, within six months of the end of the tax year, by 6 October (assuming receipt of all information needed from the employer by 6 July), or if requested by the member, pension savings statements to be issued by the later of three months from the request and six months from the end of the tax year (6 October).
- 4.9 Annual benefit statements to be issued to deferred members by 31 May.
- 4.10 Regarding the standards shown on the following page, to operate at 90% (or better) performance for non-statutory standards and 100% for statutory standards. A day is a working day:

Work flow	Standard
1 Letters/emails from members (or member's representatives) answered or acknowledged	5 days
2 New starters processed	10 days
3 Changes in details processed	10 days
4 Calls to the Helpline answered in office hours	100%
5 Annual benefit statements for deferred members issued	By 31 May
6 Annual benefit statements for active members issued	By 31 August¹⁰
7 Postings queries for employers issued	Within 1 month¹¹
8 Technical guidance issued to employers via bulletins	Within 2 months of any Regulatory changes
9 Pension savings statements issued	By 6 October¹²
10 Estimates for divorce processed	10 days
11 Non-LGPS transfers into GMPF processed	15 days
12 Non-LGPS transfer out quotations processed	10 days
13 Non-LGPS transfer out payments processed	10 days
14 Internal and concurrent transfers processed	10 days
15 Refund payments made	10 days
16 Deferred benefits calculated	10 days
17 Annuity quotations calculated	5 days
18 APC/SCAPC illustrations calculated	10 days
19 AVC amendments noted on Altair	10 days
20 New retirement benefit options sent	10 days¹³
21 New retirements processed for payment	5 days¹⁴
22 Deferred benefits processed for payment	5 days¹⁵
23 Notification of a death processed	5 days
24 Dependants' pensions processed for payment	5 days
25 Death grants processed for payment	5 days
26 Tax-free retirement lump sum processed by Payroll	5 days
27 Payments ended due to death	By noon on the eve of payday
28 Changes to bank details made	By payroll cut off date

5 Unsatisfactory performance

- 5.1 Where an employer materially fails to operate in accordance with the standards described in this PAS, which leads to extra costs being incurred by the administering authority, the administering authority may issue a written notice to the employer requiring that these extra costs be met by the employer.

¹⁰ Where year-end returns have been received on time.

¹¹ Where complete and correct year-end returns have been received.

¹² Where the member has exceeded the annual allowance (limit currently £40,000) and information needed has been received on time, or where member has requested a statement, by the later of three months from the request and 6 October.

¹³ Or within 20 days of the retirement date if the retirement notification is received sufficiently in advance.

¹⁴ Or within 10 days of the retirement if the election is received sufficiently in advance.

¹⁵ See footnote 13.

Useful contacts

General members' enquiries



Greater Manchester Pension Fund
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Special thanks to all the organisations who supplied information or photographs for this report.

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