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Introduction

The purpose of the Annual Report is to provide information for contributors and other interested parties on the management and administration of the Pension Fund during the year.

The report for 2014/15 includes the accounts for the year, an outline of the City & County Council Pension Fund together with details of membership and changes to basic scheme details that have either taken place during the year or are proposed for the future. In addition, the report includes the Actuarial Statement applicable for the year and a report on Investments and Investment performance for the year.

The accounts included in the report have been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15* which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The key statistics for the Fund are illustrated in the three year profile of the Fund on page 3.

Three Year Profile of Statistics of the Fund

	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
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Income			
Contributions (Net)	69,317	74,687	80,506
Transfer Values (Net)	-	9,580	161
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Expenditure			
Pensions and Benefits (Net)	60,926	66,794	73,912
Transfer Values (Net)	1,723	-	-
Other (Net)	1,026	923	1,016
<hr/>			
Net new money	5,642	16,550	5,739
<hr/>			
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net Asset Value at 31 March	1,277,599	1,384,642	1,539,789
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Number of Contributors at 31 March	14,586	15,576	16,285
Number of Pensioners at 31 March	10,432	10,833	11,261
Number of Deferred Members at 31 March	8,815	9,663	9,801
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PART A

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The Pension Fund

The Pension Fund is governed by the Regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Superannuation Act 1972, and includes employees of the City and County of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and other bodies included in the Schedule in Appendix 1.

2014 saw a period of significant change in the LGPS, moving from a Final Salary scheme, where a member's benefits payable from the Fund were based on the level of their pensionable pay during the last 12 months before retirement and their LGPS membership, to a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, where a pension is calculated on the member's actual pay for each year they are in the scheme and added to their pension account, where it will be increased in line with inflation.

The main provisions of LGPS 2014 also include :

- Amending Normal Pension Age to equal the individual member's State Pension Age.
- An increase in Employees Contribution Rate for earners above £34,000
- Contribution Flexibility with the option to pay 50% contributions for 50% of pension benefits

The benefits payable and the employees' rates of contribution are set out in the Local Government Pensions Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014. The rates of contribution by employing authorities are based on actuarial valuation and are set out in Part D.

The principal benefits provided by the Fund are:

- Retirement pensions
- Tax free lump sums on retirement
- Lump sum death benefits
- Survivors' pensions (including children's)
- Deferred benefits, refunds or transfers of pension rights
- Pensions and lump sums payable on premature retirement due to ill health and early retirement/redundancy.

These benefits are statutory and are effectively guaranteed by Parliament. They do not depend on investment performance but the actuary will take account of how well the investments perform in setting the employers' contribution rate in the actuarial valuation.

Pensions are increased annually under the Pensions Increase Act as prescribed by Social Security legislation in line with the upgrading of various state benefits. For 2014/15 the increase was 2.7%.

Membership

Membership of the Fund is largely comprised of :

- Active members – contributors who are still working and paying money into the Fund.
- Deferred members – former members who have elected to retain their pension rights in the Scheme until such a time as they become payable.
- Pensioner members – in receipt of their pension.
- Survivor members (including children) – in receipt of a pension in respect of a former member.

Membership of the Scheme is automatic and is open to all employees irrespective of the number of hours or weeks worked; however, all employees have the right to choose a personal pension, the State Second Pension (S2P), formerly SERPS, or a Stakeholder Pension as an alternative or in addition to membership of the LGPS.

Active members of the Fund continues to grow and the latest statistics at Appendix 1 show the total membership of the Fund in 2014/15. Membership is monitored to assess trends and events, publications and employer engagement are utilised to ensure a robust membership.

Premature Retirement - Pension Costs

(a) Early Retirement

Employers are required to take immediate account of the costs of the financial strain on the Pension Fund where they grant early retirement.

The costs of cases actioned in a calendar year are recovered over a three year period commencing from the following April.

The actuarial cost of early retirements for the past two years was as follows :

Early Access to Pension				
Employing Body	2013/14		2014/15	
	No. of Cases	Cost £	No. of Cases	Cost £
City & County of Swansea	100	2,228,164	117	2,732,990
Neath Port Talbot CBC	79	776,766	130	2,365,540
Gower College Swansea	2	20,279	1	6,253
NPTC Group	7	29,578	2	15,601
University of Wales Trinity St Davids	1	54,320	4	38,939
Celtic Leisure	-	-	1	18,893
Grwp Gwalia			10	206,526
Total	189	3,109,107	265	5,384,742

(b) III Health Retirement

Employers do not have to pay separately for the Pension Fund costs for ill health as the employer's rate includes a percentage for such cases.

The actuarial cost of ill health retirees from current service for the past two years was :

Ill-Health Retirement	2013/14		2014/15	
	No. of Cases	Cost £	No. of Cases	Cost £
City & County of Swansea	23	2,166,936	21	1,908,691
Neath Port Talbot CBC	29	1,527,373	26	1,547,982
Gower College Swansea	1	12,181	3	512,583
NPT Homes	1	10,310	3	311,894
Neath Town Council	1	51,279	-	-
NPTC Group	5	288,247	-	-
Grwp Gwalia	-	-	2	100,251
Total	60	4,056,326	55	4,381,401

Administration

The Pension Section undertakes all aspects of the day-to-day administration of the Fund e.g. setting up new members, making changes to members' records as they occur and paying benefits at retirement.

The operational staff undertake regular training to ensure they remain up-to-date with their knowledge and understanding of the LGPS and a number of them have also completed their professional qualification in Pension Administration and Management.

The Pensioner Payroll is administered through the City & County of Swansea payroll system and pensions are paid monthly, in arrears, on the last banking day of each month.

IT Systems

The Pension Section administers the LGPS through a pension administration system, which also included document imaging and workflow procedures. All members' documentation received is scanned and indexed on the system.

The fund has invested in an electronic interface to transfer membership data from employers' payroll systems to the pensions administration system. This will be of benefit to both Fund and employer as it will enable clean data to be transferred in a timely manner thus improving the year end submission and ensuring compliance with the new requirements of LGPS 2014 and those of the Pensions Regulator's in their code of practice for accurate record keeping.

Managing Performance

The Section aims to:

- Provide a high quality cost effective service to all members and fund employers
- Be accessible, fair and helpful and treat everyone equally and courteously
- Communicate effectively where possible, using easy to understand language
- Be accountable by monitoring the quality of service and reporting on whether the standards have been achieved and regularly review the target times
- Consult members and fund employers wherever possible taking into account their views before making any changes

and uses a number of channels to achieve these objectives:

- A Pension Administration Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the LGPS regulations. The purpose of the Strategy is to formulate administrative arrangements between the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund and its participating employers to ensure that each employer is fully aware of its role and responsibilities and that the flow of data is improved by having clear communication in place.

To complement the Strategy, a Customer Charter has also been produced which gives information about the level of service the Fund aims to provide.

The documents are available on the Fund's website.

- The Fund has regularly published its own performance indicators. The standards are detailed in Appendix 6.
- Where areas of poor performance are identified, the Pension Section is working closely with the employers to provide the opportunity for necessary training and development and put in place appropriate processes to improve the level of service delivery in the future.
- During the year, the Section has communicated regularly with the relevant employers regarding the timeliness of providing retirement and early leaver data and is actively working with the Fund's two largest employers to implement software to enable data to be transferred to the Fund in a timely manner.
- The Fund continues to regularly participate in the National Fraud Initiative, a data matching exercise to ensure that public money is being spent properly. The Initiative is organised by the Audit Commission who require the provision of details of pensioners to compare against data provided by other public bodies to ensure :
 - No pensions are being paid to persons who are deceased or no longer entitled to them.
 - Occupational pension income is declared when any benefit (e.g. council tax or housing benefit) is applied for.
 - The best use of public funds.
 - The fund also uses an address tracing and mortality screening system to improve address quality and identify potential mortality cases across the deferred and

pensioner membership in the UK and has recently commenced similar processes with regard to its pensioner members who reside overseas.

Internal Dispute Resolution Process

If there is a complaint or dispute against either the Fund or a decision made by an employer concerning a matter relating to the LGPS, there is a provision for its resolution known as the Internal Dispute Resolution Process (IDRP).

Individual employers are responsible for considering stage 1 appeals against decisions made by them, with the Fund responsible for considering stage 1 appeals against its own decisions and all stage 2 appeals.

Should the appellant remain dissatisfied after the Stage 2 outcome, they may refer the complaint or dispute to the Pensions Ombudsman for determination.

An analysis of the dispute cases raised during the year to 31 March 2015 is as follows :

Stage	No. of Appeals	Appeals Upheld
Stage 1	6	2
Stage 2	3	0
Referred to Pensions Ombudsman	1	0

Communications

The fund is required to have a formal Communications Policy Statement under the regulations, which sets out the mechanisms used to meet its communicate needs (see Appendix 10).

During 2014/15, the Fund has continued to develop the way in which it communicates with its stakeholders, with the key communication activity being :

- Training for operational staff and employers and roadshows for members with regard to the new Scheme and other aspects of the LGPS.
- Employer Meetings – the Fund held annual consultative meetings to discuss the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts and to communicate strategic issues and significant legislative changes to operational staff.
- Collaboration with the other Welsh Pension Funds to produce Annual Benefit Statements and key communications material, thereby sharing expertise and costs.
- Newsletter sent to Pensioner members.
- The Funds website (www.swanseapensionfund.org.uk) which covers all aspects of the LGPS for its active members, councillor members, deferred members, pensioners and their dependants as well as an "Investment and Fund" section which provides details of the governance of the Fund. There is also a dedicated employer section that contains all information, including standard forms, which an employer needs to administer the LGPS.

Legislative Changes in the LGPS during 2014/15

The Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) issued the following key Statutory Instruments, which were effective during 2014/15:

SI2013-2356 - The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. These Regulations set up a new legal regime for the LGPS and were effective from 1 April 2014.

SI2014-525 - The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014. These Regulations provide for the transition of existing LGPS members, as at 31 March 2014, into the new Scheme and were effective from 1 April 2014.

SI2014-1146 - The Local Government Pension Scheme (Offender Management) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which were effective from 1 June 2014, were made to facilitate the continued membership of the LGPS for probation staff, following restructure. Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) was appointed as the appropriate administering authority for all current and former staff involved in the provision of probation services. The City and County of Swansea Pension Fund does not contain any active members in the Probation Service due to a previous restructure; however it is currently working with GMPF to ensure the smooth transfer of pensioner and deferred records

SI2015-57 - The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 were effective in part from 20 February 2015 with the remainder effective from 1 April 2015. The regulations provide new governance arrangements for the Secretary of State to establish a national scheme advisory board and for administering authorities to establish local pension boards

SI2015-755 - The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015. The regulations were laid before Parliament on 19 March 2015 and are effective from 11 April 2015. They amend the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014, to provide clarity or improvement.

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1. Scope of Responsibility

- 1.1 The City and County of Swansea is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Authority also has a duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 1.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the City and County of Swansea is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.
- 1.3 The City and County of Swansea has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. A copy of the Code is on our website at <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/corporategovernance>. This statement explains how the Authority has complied with the Code.

2. The Purpose of the Governance Framework

- 2.1 The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.
- 2.2 The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Authority's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.
- 2.3 The governance framework has been in place at the City and County of Swansea throughout the year ended 31 March 2015 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts

3. The Governance Framework

- 3.1 The CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework identifies the following 6 fundamental principles of corporate governance
 - Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area
 - Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles
 - Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

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- Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk
- Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective
- Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

3.2 Council approved its Code of Corporate Governance on 19th June 2008 based on the 6 principles outlined above.

3.3 The key elements of the policies, systems and procedures that comprise the governance framework in the Council are shown below and linked to the 6 fundamental principles

3.4 Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area

- The **Council** is made up of 72 councillors who are democratically accountable to residents and have an overriding duty to the whole community. Council decides overall policies and sets the annual budget as well as receiving reports from Scrutiny Boards, Cabinet Members and Officers.
- The Council is required, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, to put in place a system to publish a **Councillors Annual Report** in relation to their activities. A template report has been agreed by the Democratic Services Panel and all reports submitted by Councillors are published on the Council's website.
- The forward looking **Corporate Plan** is produced under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and describes the Council's vision, priorities, values, principles and delivery. For each priority the Corporate Plan will identify
 - Why it is a priority?
 - What needs improving?
 - What we are going to do?
 - What difference our actions will make?
 - How we will measure progress?
- An **Annual Performance Review** is undertaken which provides a review of the progress made by the Council in meeting the priorities, actions and targets as set out in the Corporate Plan.
- The Wales Audit Office undertakes a **Corporate Assessment** of the Council on a 4 yearly basis as well as an annual programme of improvement studies and an audit of the Council's approach to improvement planning and reporting.
- The Council publishes a **Single Integrated Plan** which is developed by the Local Service Board following a Single Needs Assessment and Consultation Exercise.
- A **Code of Corporate Governance** based on the CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework has been adopted by the Council.
- A **Business Planning Process** exists which aims to more clearly align previously disparate budget and planning processes, such as equalities, sustainability, risk and workforce planning into a 4 year planning cycle with an annual review. Each Head of Service must produce a Business Plan and an e-learning tool and Business Planning Toolkit is available to ensure consistency across the Council.
- A **Medium Term Financial Plan** is approved by Council each year which details the major funding assumptions for the period and proposes a strategy to maintain a balanced budget.

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3.5 Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

- A **Council Constitution** exists which sets out the framework and rules governing the Council's business described in 16 Articles. The Constitution also includes a Scheme of Delegation and a number of Rules of Procedure, Codes and Protocols as well as the Councillors' Allowances Scheme.
- A **Constitution Working Group** exists to review all aspects of the Council Constitution and to make appropriate recommendations for change.
- Separate **Codes of Conduct** exist in the Council Constitution for **Members and Officers** which describe the high standard of conduct expected of them. There is also a **Member/Officer Protocol** which guides the relationship between them to ensure the smooth running of the Council.
- The **Chief Executive**, as Head of the Paid Service, leads the Council's officers and chairs the Executive Board
- A new **Corporate Management Structure** was put in place during 2013/14 to deliver thematic and cross cutting working across the Council and across partnerships. The Executive Board, Directors' Group and Leadership Group were established from 01/09/13 with specific roles and project portfolios.
- The Head of Finance and Delivery is designated the Council's **S151 Officer** and is responsible for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.
- The Council's financial management arrangements during 2014/15 complied with the governance requirements of the **CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010)**.
- An **Audit Panel** exists to review and scrutinise the Council's financial affairs, review and assess the risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements, oversee the internal and external audit arrangements and review the financial statements. Council adopted new terms of reference for the Audit Panel on 17/06/14 which are in line with the CIPFA model terms of reference for Audit Panels. The Audit Panel provides an annual report to Council which identifies the assurance it has gained over control, risk management and governance
- The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement has been designated as the Council's **Monitoring Officer** and is responsible for investigating and reporting on any allegations of contraventions to any laws, policies, procedures, regulations or maladministration and breaches of the Council's Constitution
- The Council is the Administering Authority for the **City and County of Swansea Pension Fund** and is responsible for all issues relating to the governance of the Pension Fund. This role is exercised by the **Pension Fund Panel**.
- Council established a **Local Pension Board** on 03/03/15 in line with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015. The role of the Board is to assist the Administering Authority in its role of scheme manager.

3.6 Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

- The Council has defined its **Values** as People Focus, Working Together and Innovation. A detailed description of each value and what it means to the Council is available on the Intranet.

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- The **Standards Committee** made up of 4 councillors and 5 independent members promotes and maintains high standards of conduct by Councillors, assists Councillors to observe their Code of Conduct, monitors the operation of the Code and deals with breaches of the Code of Conduct referred to them by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales
- The **Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy** applies to all councillors and employees. It outlines the Council's commitment to preventing, discouraging, detecting and investigating fraud and corruption whether attempted on the Council or from within the Council. The Policy is available on the Council's internet and intranet websites.
- A **Corporate Complaints Policy** based on the Welsh Government Model for complaints handling is in place and can be accessed through the Council's website. The policy governs the investigation of complaints from members of the public including complaints about service provision. A Corporate Complaints Annual Report is presented to Cabinet each year.
- A **Whistle Blowing Policy** exists which encourages and enables employees to raise serious concerns without fear of harassment or victimisation. The Policy is available to all staff in the online Employee Handbook.
- The **Internal Audit Section** operates in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the Council's operations. It helps the Council accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. A Corporate Fraud Team has been established under the Internal Audit Section with effect from 01/06/15 for an initial 2 year period. The Team is responsible for investigating all suspected cases of fraud, corruption and bribery across the Council.
- The Council has developed its **Information Management and Governance** arrangements with the aim of ensuring that information is managed as a corporate asset in a way that is efficient, effective, accessible, secure and compliant. An Information Management and ICT Strategy exists as well as a clear system of governance which includes specific roles and responsibilities for the Executive Board, Information Management and Technology Board, ICT Board, Information Management Board and the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Working Groups.
- Progress has also been made on the **Security and Sharing of Information**. An Information Asset Register has been created that identifies all the Council's systems that hold information. Details of each system include the owner, business requirement, sharing protocols, licence renewal dates, access restrictions and associated risks. The Council has also improved communication and trained staff with regards to the importance of securing information and the process of reporting actual or suspected data breaches. The Council is part of the Government Connected Secure Extranet (GCSx) that encrypts emails that hold certain data and transmits them through a secure connection ensuring the information is only shared with the intended recipient. The Council has also signed up to the Welsh Accord and is now listed on the WASPI website as a participating organisation for sharing information. All information risks are identified and managed via the risk register.

3.7 Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk

- The **Decision Making** process is clearly set out in the Constitution along with the scheme of delegation and the terms of reference of Cabinet, Committees, Scrutiny Boards, Panels, Forums and Groups.

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- The **Cabinet** (as Executive) is responsible for most day to day decisions and acts in line with the Council's overall policies and budget. Cabinet member portfolios were changed during 2014/15 following the election of a new Leader.
- A **Challenge Panel** consisting of 12 members considers any Cabinet decisions which have been 'called in' if the Presiding Member of the Council accepts that the call in is valid. The criteria used by the Presiding Member to decide on validity are tightly set and the Presiding Member receives appropriate advice from officers. The Challenge Panel considers whether the decision is a well founded and appropriate decision of Cabinet.
- All reports to Council and Cabinet must include paragraphs detailing the **Financial, Legal and Equality and Engagement Implications** of the report.
- The **Scrutiny Programme Committee** is responsible for developing the Council's Scrutiny Work Programme via a single workplan, holding Cabinet Members to account and providing challenge on specific themes. The Committee will set up informal **Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups** to undertake the detailed work of scrutiny and will appoint **Scrutiny Conveners** to chair the various Scrutiny Panels.
- The role of Scrutiny is to improve the performance of services, to provide an effective challenge to the Executive and to engage non-executive members in the development of policies, strategies and plans. A **Scrutiny Work Planning Conference** is held each year to choose topics for review and a **Scrutiny Annual Report** is presented to Council. The Annual Report is used to highlight the work carried out by scrutiny, show how scrutiny has made a difference and support continuous improvement for the scrutiny function.
- A **Corporate Risk Policy** is in place which describes how risk management is implemented in the Council to support the realisation of strategic objectives. A **Risk Management Framework** also exists which aims to help managers and members at all levels to apply risk management principles consistently across their areas of responsibility.
- Corporate, Directorate and Service **Risk Registers** are in place to capture risks that could affect the Council's business. Risk Management is subject to regular review by the Audit Committee.

3.8 Develop the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective

- An e-learning **Corporate Induction Course** has been developed for all new employees. A wide range of training is also available to staff via the Learning Pool and directly delivered courses.
- Councillors are encouraged to complete a Training Needs Analysis which is used to develop a detailed **Councillors Training Programme** delivered on an annual basis. A review of the annual training programme is presented to the Democratic Services Committee.
- Regular **Cabinet and Executive Board Away Days** are held where thematic issues are discussed such as Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future, One Swansea Plan and poverty and prevention.
- An **Employee Performance Management Policy** exists and is available to all staff in the online Employee Handbook. The policy establishes a process which contributes to the effective management of individuals and teams in order to achieve high levels of organisational performance.
- Monthly **One to One meetings** are held involving the Leader. Cabinet Members, Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, Chief Officers, Heads of Service and 3rd tier staff as part of the performance management process.

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- Each Corporate Director holds a monthly **Performance and Financial Monitoring** meeting where Chief Officers and Heads of Service report on progress in terms of continuous improvement and budgets
- The Council Constitution includes **Financial Procedure Rules** which govern the financial management of the Council.
- Financial Procedure Rules are supplemented by detailed **Accounting Instructions** which aid sound financial administration by setting out the principal controls and procedures to be followed by all departments for a range of functions. From time to time the Accounting Instructions are reviewed and ad hoc instructions may also be issued such as the current spending restrictions.
- The Council Constitution includes **Contract Procedure Rules** which govern the purchasing of goods and services and the letting of contracts with the aim of obtaining the best use of resources and value for money.

3.9 Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

- A **Consultation and Engagement Strategy** exists to ensure effective consultation and engagement with residents and partner organisations.
- The Swansea Voices Panel has been replaced by **Residents Telephone Surveys** of 200 residents. The surveys are undertaken every 2 months and cover topics such as the Council's reputation and performance in key areas. Consultation has also taken place on the annual budget and *Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future* as well as service specific consultation run directly by services. There is also a ward representative role for each councillor.
- The **Swansea Leader** newspaper is published every 2 months and delivered to every household in the area informing people about the Council's work and the progress it is making. An electronic version of the Swansea Leader is available on the Council's website.
- A wealth of **Information for Stakeholders** is available on the Council website including agendas, which are published in advance of meetings and minutes of all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Scrutiny Board meetings. Citizens can attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Scrutiny Boards except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed and the meeting is therefore held in private. The Council website was re-launched in 2014/15 with the aim of being task orientated, easier to navigate and more concise.
- Citizens also have the right to ask questions and time is set aside at each Council and Cabinet meeting for **Public Questions**.
- **Financial Monitoring Reports** which monitor the revenue and capital budgets are produced on a quarterly basis and reported to Cabinet.
- **Performance Monitoring Reports** are produced for Cabinet on a quarterly basis and an **Annual Performance Report** is also presented which allows performance to be reviewed and to inform executive decisions on resource allocation. The annual report also identifies any corrective action required to manage and improve performance and efficiency in delivering national and local priorities.

3.10 The Council's Annual Statement of Accounts identify that the Council has an interest in the companies shown below. The Annual General Meeting of the Council appoints councillors to sit on the Boards of the companies. The number of councillors appointed is shown against each company.

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- Swansea City Waste Disposal Co. Ltd (1 councillor)
- Wales National Pool Swansea Ltd (3 councillors)
- National Waterfront Museum Swansea Ltd (3 councillors)
- Swansea Stadium Management Co. Ltd (2 councillors)
- Bay Leisure Ltd (2 councillors)

- 3.11 A number of methods are in place to monitor the activities and performance of the companies including councillor/officer steering groups, strategic and operational meetings and management groups.
- 3.12 A Business and Partnership Unit exists in Cultural Services to monitor the activities of externally funded partner providers and an Annual Report on Leisure Partnerships is presented to Council each year.

4. Review of Effectiveness

- 4.1 The City and County of Swansea has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the executive managers within the Authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Chief Auditor's annual report, and also by comments made by the external auditor and other review agencies and inspectorates.
- 4.2 The processes for maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework within the Council include the following broad headings.

4.3 Internal Control Self-Assessment

- Each **Head of Services** has provided a **signed Senior Management Assurance Statement** for 2014/15 which provides assurance over the internal controls, risk management and government framework for their area of responsibility.

4.4 Internal Sources of Assurance

The following provide assurance based, partly, on reports covering 2013/14 as the reports for 2014/15 are not yet available. The 2014/15 reports will be reflected in the next Annual Governance Statement.

- The **Annual Performance Review 2013/14** was approved by Cabinet on 23/09/14. The report also included the Council's response to the proposals for improvement made by the Wales Audit Office in its Annual Improvement Report 2014.
- The **Standards Committee** met on 8 occasions during 2014/15 and the **Standards Committee Annual Report 2013/14** was presented to Council on 04/11/14.
- The **Corporate Complaints Policy** was in place throughout 2014/15 and the **Complaints Annual Report 2013/14** was presented to Cabinet on 23/09/14. The Annual Report highlighted a number of service improvements which had been introduced as a result of compliant investigations.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The following provides assurance based on reports covering 2014/15

- The forward looking **Corporate Plan 2015-17** '*Delivering for Swansea*' produced in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 was adopted by Council on 24/02/15. The Plan describes the Council's vision, 5 key priorities and 3 clear values.
- The One Swansea Plan and Delivery Framework 2014 '*Place, People, Challenges and Change*' was adopted by Council on 15/07/14 as the **Single Integrated Plan**. The Plan is the overarching strategic plan for Swansea and is closely aligned with the Corporate Plan. The Delivery Framework shows how the Plan will make a difference and helps to monitor, focus and coordinate activity.
- The **Audit Committee** met on 10 occasions during 2014/15 and followed a structured workplan which covered all areas of the Committee's responsibilities. The Committee includes a lay member as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. The lay member is also the Chair of the Committee. The Committee received the Internal Audit Annual Report 2013/14 as well as quarterly Internal Audit Monitoring Reports for 2014/15 showing progress against the Annual Internal Audit Plan.
- The **Audit Committee Annual Report 2014/15** was presented to Council on 27/08/15 and outlined the assurance the Committee had gained over control, risk management and governance from various sources over the course of 2014/15.
- The **Internal Audit Annual Report 2014/15** was reported to the Audit Committee on 18/08/15 and included the Chief Auditor's opinion that based on the audit reviews undertaken in 2014/15, Internal Audit can give reasonable assurance that the systems of internal control were operating adequately and effectively and that no significant weaknesses were identified.
- The **Scrutiny Programme Committee and Panels** met throughout 2014/15 and were supported by the Scrutiny Support Unit. The **Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15** was presented to Council on 23/07/15. The report highlighted the work carried out by Scrutiny, showed how Scrutiny had made a difference and supported continuous improvement for the Scrutiny function. The report also identified 6 improvement outcomes that will be addressed in 2015/16.
- The annual **Scrutiny Work Planning Conference 2015/16** was held on 08/06/15 and a report on the **Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16** was agreed by the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 13/07/15.
- The **Constitution Working Group** met once during 2014/15 to agree the suitability of the prospective Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.
- The **Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 – 2018/19** was approved by Council on 24/02/15. The Plan outlined the significant shortfall in funding faced by the Council over the period and the strategy to be adopted to address the shortfall.
- The **Corporate Risk Management Policy and Framework** has operated throughout 2014/15 and the Head of Finance and Delivery presented an annual review of Risk Management to the Audit Committee on 09/04/15.
- Each Corporate Director held monthly **Performance and Financial Monitoring** meetings where Chief Officers and Heads of Service reported on progress in terms of continuous improvement and budgets.
- Quarterly **Performance Monitoring Reports** were presented to Cabinet during 2014/15 and an **Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2014/15** was approved by Cabinet on 16/07/15.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- Quarterly **Financial Monitoring Reports** were presented to Cabinet throughout 2014/15. A **Mid Term Budget Statement** was also presented to Cabinet on 21/10/14 which set out the latest position with regard to the 2014/15 Revenue and Capital Budgets together with an initial assessment of the 2015/16 Revenue and Capital funding positions and an updated Medium Term Financial Plan.
- All reports presented to Cabinet and Council during 2014/15 had been reviewed by Finance, Legal and Access to Services staff and included the appropriate paragraphs detailing the **Financial, Legal and Equality and Engagement Implications** of the report.
- The **Pension Fund Committee** met on 6 occasions during 2014/15 and dealt with all issues relating to the governance of the Pension Fund.

4.5 External Sources of Assurance

- The Wales Audit Office undertook a **Corporate Assessment** of the Council in November 2014. The assessment sought to answer the *question 'is the Council capable of delivering its priorities and improved outcome for citizens?'* The assessment report was presented to Council on 23/07/15 and concluded that *'the Council can demonstrate improvement across a range of key services and has developed a clear framework for managing future challenges'*. The report made the following proposals for improvement which will be addressed by the Council.
 - Implement planned changes to the reporting arrangements for the key corporate priorities and identify a smaller number of outcomes intended to ensure delivery of the Council's new priorities.
 - Ensure records of delegated decisions made by officers are accurately recorded.
 - Increase the pace of implementation of improvements to performance reporting arrangements to provide a balanced range of readily accessible information that assists decision making.
 - Ensure service business plans consistently incorporate workforce and asset management requirements as expected in corporate guidance.
- The Council invited the WLGA to facilitate a **Peer Review** in September 2014. The Peer Review had 3 key areas of focus i.e. Delivery, Change and Governance which were felt to be critical to organisational development and delivery in challenging times. The Peer Review identified both areas of strength and areas for improvement and made 20 recommendations in its report. The Council has prepared an action plan to address the recommendations which was approved by Cabinet on 14/04/15
- The Appointed Auditor's **Annual Audit Letter** was sent to the Leader on 28/11/14 and presented to the Audit Committee on 15/01/15. The letter stated that *'The Council complied with its responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources'*. The letter also stated that an unqualified audit opinion had been issued on the accounting statements confirming that they present a true and fair view of the Council's, Group's and Pension Fund's financial position and transactions.
- The **Wales Audit Office's Report of Deficiencies in Internal Controls 2013/14** was presented to the Audit Committee on 27/11/14. The report stated that no significant deficiencies in internal control had been identified. However, 19 recommendations were made regarding deficiencies identified although none were considered to be a significant risk. The report also identified that all 15 recommendations made in relation to 2012/13 had been implemented.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- PwC on behalf of the Wales Audit Office presented the **Audit of Accounting Statements – Report to Those Charged with Governance** for 2013/14 to Cabinet on 23/09/14. The report highlighted any significant issues to those charged with governance that needed to be considered prior to the approval of the financial statements.
- The Council is subject to **Statutory External Inspections** by various bodies including Wales Audit Office, ESTYN and CSSIW. ESTYN visited 20 educational establishments during 2014/15 with inspection reports being provided to the Governing Body. Work continued to implement the recommendations arising from ESTYN's Inspection Report 2013/14 and a report to Cabinet on 14/04/15 showed that good progress had been made implementing 2 recommendations but only limited progress on 3 recommendations. The report highlighted the further work that would be carried out to address the recommendations where only limited progress had been made. The CSSIW Performance Evaluation Report 2013/14 for Swansea concluded that *'The Council is making significant progress with its plans for transformational change within adult and children's services and has gained strong political and corporate support for the changes being undertaken.'* The report goes on to say *'there are strategic business plans in place for both adult and children's services which align to the council's single integrated plan.'*

- 4.6 The Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 08/05/14 appointed the required number of councillors to sit on the Boards of the companies included in the Council's Statement of Accounts. A number of changes were made to the Council's representatives on the various Boards at the Council meetings held on 30/09/14, 02/12/14 and 03/03/15.
- 4.7 The Annual Report on Leisure Partnerships for 2014/15 is due to be presented to Council in October 2015. The report will review the Wales National Pool Swansea, National Waterfront Museum Swansea, Liberty Stadium and the LC in detail and provide information on the monitoring arrangements in place.
- 4.8 We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework and that the arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework. The areas already addressed and those to be specifically addressed with new actions planned are outlined below.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

5 Significant Governance Issues

5.1 The following table shows the significant governance issues which were identified during the review of effectiveness undertaken when preparing the Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 and the action taken during the year to address the issues

Issue	Proposed Action	Action Taken
Develop a rationalised set of priorities for the Council.	Develop a Corporate Plan with a reduced set of corporate priorities and performance indicators focussing on what matters to Swansea.	A rationalised set of priorities were included in the Corporate Plan 2015-17 <i>Delivering for Swansea</i> . The 5 priorities are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding vulnerable people • Improving pupil attainment • Creating a vibrant and viable City and economy • Tackling poverty • Building sustainable communities
Issue	Proposed Action	Action Taken
	Publish an annual review of performance where the Council sets out its view of its performance delivering its improvement priorities in a more accessible way e.g. case studies highlighting actual improvements.	The Annual Review of Performance 2013/14 was written in a way that was accessible to the general public, complied with statutory guidance and addressed the previous proposals for improvement made by the Wales Audit Office
Review of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance	The Code of Corporate Governance was approved by Council in June 2008 and it is proposed to review and update the Code.	Review postponed pending outcome of Corporate Governance Review being undertaken by Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

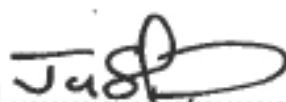
5.2 The following table identifies issues which have been raised during the review of effectiveness and the proposed action to be taken during 2015/16 to address the issues

Issue	Proposed Action
WLGA Peer Review Governance Issues – Corporate Governance Review 1. Formal briefing of Cabinet members with emphasis on proactively engaging them in decisions rather than briefing them too late in the decision making process. 2. Clarify the role of Cabinet Advisory Committees in the Constitution. 3. Ensure that scrutiny is closely orientated towards the Council's top priorities.	<p>The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement is to undertake a 'whole system' review of how we make decisions, to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member decision making, including Cabinet Member delegation, briefings, role of CACs and impact of scrutiny • Officer decision making, including the requirement to consult • Legal, EIA, audit, HR etc. considerations • Programme management, including boards <p>The review is focussed on the options available to allow the Council to move to a more agile, business like and quicker approach to governance both at Member and Officer level</p>
Issue	Proposed Action
4. Consider reducing the time that Cabinet has to respond to scrutiny recommendations	<p>There are many aspects of the processes that reinforce an old, risk averse approach. A set of principles need to be agreed that underpin future decision making processes</p> <p>This review will pick up a wide range of specific actions, as well as current actions to clarify roles and responsibilities. Further work is likely to pick up wider aspects of corporate governance.</p>


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<p>WLGA Peer Review Governance Issues – Local Service Board</p> <p>1. LSB could develop a small number of priorities which partners commit resources to and tackle on a task and finish or rolling basis.</p> <p>2. Communicate the role, purpose and activities of LSB to members looking to involve them in the work of the LSB including ward projects and local engagement or consultation.</p>	<p>‘Reinvent’ the Local Service Board or a ‘city partnership’ with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A smaller number of delivery focused priorities • A more radical approach to joint working and pooling of staff and resources • Greater engagement of Members in local projects <p>The Single Swansea Plan (SSP) has agreed priorities but there is a need to refocus efforts on delivery. The SSP is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>The opportunities around community budgets are significant, but will be subject to a willingness by all partners to give up some sovereignty and to work differently to achieve better outcomes.</p>
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- 5.3 We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review

Signed 
Date 17/9/15

Chief Executive

Signed 
Date 17 Sept 2015

Deputy Leader

PART B

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Pension Fund and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Section 151 Officer.
- To manage its affairs in an economic, efficient and effective manner and to safeguard its assets.

The Section 151 Officer's Responsibilities

The Section 151 Officer of the City and County of Swansea is responsible for the preparation of the Pension Fund's statement of accounts which is required to present fairly the financial position of the Fund at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the relevant year.

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Section 151 Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent
- complied with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15.

The Section 151 Officer has also :

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Section 151 Officer's Certificate

The Statement of Accounts on pages 25 to 49 summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2014/15 financial year and its position at year-end 31 March 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15* which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector and present fairly the financial position of the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund at 31 March 2015 and the income and expenditure for the year there ended.

 24/7/15

Independent Auditor's Statement to the Members of the Administering Authority of City & County of Swansea Local Government Pension Fund

I have examined the pension fund accounts and related notes contained in the 2015 Annual Report of the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund to establish whether they are consistent with the pension fund accounts and related notes included in the Statement of Accounts produced by the City & County of Swansea for the year ended 31 March 2015 which were authorised for issue on 24 September 2015. The pension fund accounts comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement.

Respective responsibilities of the Administering Authority and the Independent Auditor

The Administering Authority, the City & County of Swansea is responsible for preparing the Annual Report. My responsibility is to report my opinion on the consistency of the pension fund accounts and related notes contained in the Annual Report with the pension fund accounts and related notes included in the Statement of Accounts of the Administering Authority. I also read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any misstatements or material inconsistencies with the pension fund accounts.

This other information comprises the administration report, the investment report, the actuarial report, the statement of investment principles, the funding strategy statement, the governance compliance statement and the communications strategy.

I conducted my work based on the requirements of Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My report on the pension fund accounts and related notes included in the Statement of Accounts produced by the City & County of Swansea describes the basis of my opinion on those accounts.

Opinion

In my opinion the pension fund accounts and related notes included in the Annual Report of the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund are consistent with the pension fund accounts and related notes included in the Statement of Accounts produced by the City & County of Swansea for the year ended 31 March 2015 which were authorised for issue on 24 September 2015 on which I issued an unqualified opinion.



For and on behalf of :
Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Date : 29th September 2015

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15

1. Introduction

The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund is administered by the City & County of Swansea. However it is a separate statutory fund and its assets and liabilities, income and expenditure are not consolidated into the accounts of the Authority. That is, the Pension Fund's assets and liabilities are distinct.

The summarised accounts of the Pension Fund shown here comprise three main elements:-

- The Fund Account which shows income and expenditure of the Fund during the year, split between payments to/contributions from members and transactions relating to fund investments.
- The Net Assets Statement which gives a snapshot of the financial position of the Fund as at 31 March 2015.
- The Notes to the Account designed to provide further explanation of some of the figures in the statements and to give a further understanding of the nature of the Fund.

2. Summary of transactions for the year

Where the money comes from:-

	£'000
Contributions and transfers in	83,254
Other	91
	<u>83,345</u>



And where it goes.....

	£'000
Pensions payable	53,452
Lump sum benefits	20,460
Refunds and transfers out	2,703
Administrative Expenses	991
	<u>77,606</u>

	£'000
Net new money into the Fund	5,739
Net return on Investments	149,408
Increase in Fund value	<u>155,147</u>

Fund Account For The Year Ended 31st March

2013/14		2014/15	
£'000		£'000	£'000
	Contributions and benefits :		
	Contributions receivable :		
58,554	Employers contribution	3	63,647
16,133	Employees contribution	3	16,859
12,705	Transfers in	4	
110	Other income	5	
<u>87,502</u>			<u>83,345</u>
	Benefits payable :		
-49,588	Pensions payable	6	-53,452
-17,206	Lump sum benefits	6	-20,460
	Payments to and on account of leavers :		
-11	Refunds of contributions	7	-116
-3,125	Transfers out	7	-2,587
-1,022	Administrative expenses	8	
<u>16,550</u>	Net additions from dealing with members		<u>5,739</u>
	Returns on investments		
24,456	Investment income	9	24,444
77,463	Change in market value of investments	12	132,522
-11,426	Investment management expenses	8	-7,558
<u>90,493</u>	Net returns on investments		<u>149,408</u>
<u>107,043</u>	Net increase in the Fund during the year		<u>155,147</u>
1,277,599	Opening Net Assets of the Fund		1,384,642
1,384,642	Closing Net Assets of the Fund		1,539,789

Net Assets Statement As At 31st March

31st March 2014 £'000			31st March 2015 £'000
	Investments at market value:	Note	
1,335,099	Investment Assets	11	1,484,960
13,866	Cash Funds	12	18,128
29,232	Cash Deposits	12	22,512
2,063	Other Investment Balances – Dividends Due	12	2,527
1,380,260	Sub Total		1,528,127
15,097	Current Assets	16	18,591
-10,715	Current Liabilities	16	-6,929
<u>1,384,642</u>	Net assets		<u>1,539,789</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 49 summarise the transactions of the Fund and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the Pension Fund Committee. The financial Statements do not take account of liabilities and other benefits which fall due after the period end. The actuarial position of the Fund, which does take account of such liabilities, is dealt with in the Statement of the Actuary in the Annual Report of the Pension Fund and a summary is included in Part D of this report and these accounts should be read in conjunction with this information.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2014/15 financial year and its position at year-end 31 March 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15* which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The financial statements do not take account of liabilities and other benefits which fall due after the period end.

2. Accounting Policies

The following principle accounting policies, which have been applied consistently (except as noted below), have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements:

(a) Contributions

Normal contributions, both from the employees and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis in the month employee contributions are deducted from the payroll.

Early Access contributions from the employers are accounted for in accordance with the agreement under which they are paid, or in the absence of such an agreement, when received. Under current rules, employers can exercise discretion to give access to a person's pension rights early (other than for ill health). Where this is done, the additional pension costs arising are recharged to the relevant employer and do not fall as a cost to the Fund. Under local agreements some Employers have exercised the right to make these repayments over three years incurring the relevant interest costs. As a result total income is recognised in the Fund Account with amounts outstanding from Employers within debtors.

Other Contributions relate to additional pension contributions paid in order to purchase additional pension benefits.

(b) Benefits

Where members can choose whether to take their benefits as a full pension or as a lump sum with reduced pension, retirement benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis on the later of the date of retirement and the date the option is exercised.

Other benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis on the date of retirement, death or leaving the Fund as appropriate.

(c) Transfers to and from other Schemes

Transfer values represent the capital sums either receivable in respect of members from other pension schemes of previous employers or payable to the pension schemes of new employers for members who have left the Fund. They are accounted for on a cash basis or where Trustees have agreed to accept the liability in advance of receipt of funds on an accruals basis from the date of the agreement.

(d) Investments

i) The net assets statement includes all assets and liabilities of the Fund at the 31st March.

Accounting Policies cont'd

- ii) Listed investments are included at the bid price of the quoted prices as at 31st March.
- iii) Investments held in quoted pooled investment vehicles are valued at the closing bid price at 31st March if both bid and offer price are published; or, if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the fund, net of applicable withholding tax.
- iv) Unquoted securities are valued by the relevant investment managers based on the Fund's share of the net assets or a single price advised by the Fund Manager, in accordance with generally accepted guidelines.
- v) Unit trusts are valued at the Managers' bid prices at 31st March.
- vi) Accrued interest is excluded from the market value of fixed interest securities but is included in accrued investment income.
- vii) Investment management fees are accounted for on an accrual basis.
- viii) Transaction costs are included in the cost of purchases and sales proceeds.
- ix) Investments held in foreign currencies have been translated into sterling values at the relevant rate ruling as at 31st March.
- x) Property Funds/Unit Trusts are valued at the bid market price, which is based upon regular independent valuation of the underlying property holdings of the Fund/Unit Trust.

(e) Financial Instruments

Pension Fund assets have been assessed as fair value through profit and loss in line with IAS19.

(f) Cash and Cash Funds

Cash comprises cash in hand and cash deposits. Cash funds are highly liquid investments held with Investment Managers.

(g) Investment Income

Investment income and interest received are accounted for on an accruals basis. When an investment is valued ex dividend, the dividend is included in the Fund account. Distributions from pooled investment vehicles are automatically reinvested in the relevant fund.

(h) Other

Other expenses, assets and liabilities are accounted for on an accruals basis.

3. Analysis of Contributions

Total Contributions 2013/14 £'000		Total Contributions 2014/15 £'000	
<u>Administering Authority</u>			
41,711	City & County of Swansea	44,048	
<u>Admitted Bodies</u>			
11	Babtie	0	
235	Celtic Community Leisure	397	
13	Colin Laver Heating Limited	12	
20	Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council	20	
100	Wales National Pool	109	
89	Capgemini	77	
2,027	NPT Homes	2,427	
7	Phoenix Trust	1	
1,182	Grwp Gwalia	1,320	
3,684	Total Admitted Bodies	4,363	
<u>Scheduled Bodies</u>			
6	Cilybebyll Community Council	7	
25	Coedffranc Community Council	17	
1,637	Gower College	1,696	
1,639	NPTC Group	1,764	
74	Neath Town Council	66	
24,490	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	26,901	
21	Margam Joint Crematorium Committee	26	
6	Pelenna Community Council	5	
14	Pontardawe Town Council	15	
34	Swansea Bay Port Health Authority	40	
26	Swansea City Waste Disposal	0	
1,320	University of Wales Trinity St Davids	1,558	
29,292	Total Scheduled Bodies	32,095	
74,687	Total Contributions Receivable	80,506	

3. Analysis of Contributions (continued)

Total Employer/Employee contributions comprises of:

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
Employers		
55,436	Normal	58,258
9	Other	4
3,109	Early Access	5,385
58,554	Total	63,647
Employees		
16,105	Normal	16,824
28	Other	35
16,133	Total	16,859
74,687	Total Contributions Receivable	80,506

4. Transfers In

Transfers in comprises of:

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
8,900	Group transfers from other schemes *	1,060
3,805	Individual transfers from other schemes	1,688
12,705	Total	2,748

* Group Transfers from other schemes is in respect of Coleg Powys, who have merged with Neath Port Talbot College (a scheduled body within this Scheme) with effect from 1st August 2013, to form Neath Port Talbot College Group. The total estimated figure of £9.96m, is as a result of a review of the valuation by the Actuary for the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund in March 2015.

5. Other Income

Other income comprises of:

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
89	Bank Interest	82
21	Early Access - Interest	9
110	Total	91

6. Benefits Payable

The lump sum benefits paid comprise of:

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
49,588	Pensions	53,452
15,349	Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	19,106
1,857	Lump sum death benefits	1,354
66,794	Total	73,912

7. Payments to and on account of leavers

Transfers out and refunds comprise of:

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
11	Refunds to members leaving service	116
3,125	Individual transfers to other schemes	2,587
3,136	Total	2,703

8. Administrative and Investment Manager Expenses

All administrative and investment management expenses are borne by the Fund:

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
Administrative Expenses		
659	Support Services & Employee Costs	661
45	Actuarial Fees	10
43	Advisors Fees	43
58	External Audit Fees	48
25	Performance Monitoring Services Fees	26
23	Printing & Publications	24
166	Other	175
3	Pension Fund Committee	4
1,022		991
Investment Manager Expenses		
4,378	Management Fees	5,769
6,915	Performance Fees	1,668
133	Custody Fees	121
11,426		7,558
12,448	Total	8,549

9. Investment Income

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
13,433	U.K. Equities	11,736
6,619	Overseas Equities	7,695
3,055	Managed Fund – Fixed Interest	3,528
1,006	Pooled Investment vehicles - Property Fund	1,434
341	Pooled Investment vehicles - Private Equity	48
2	Interest	3
24,456	Total	24,444

The assets under management by Legal and General are managed wholly in a pooled investment vehicle. The pooled investment vehicles are a combination of equity, bond and money market unit funds which operate on an 'accumulation' basis, i.e. all dividends and investment income are automatically reinvested back into their relevant funds and not distributed as investment income. Therefore, the Fund value and change in market value on these funds will reflect both capital appreciation / depreciation plus reinvested investment income.

10. Taxation

a) United Kingdom

The Fund is exempt from Income Tax on interest dividends and from Capital Gains Tax but now has to bear the UK tax on other income. The Fund is reimbursed V.A.T. by H.M. Customs and Excise and the accounts are shown exclusive of V.A.T.

b) Overseas

The majority of investment income from overseas suffers a withholding tax in the country of origin.

11. Investment Assets

	31 st March 2014			31 st March 2015		
	UK £'000	Overseas £'000	Total £'000	UK £'000	Overseas £'000	Total £'000
Equities						
Quoted	324,568	313,060	637,628	363,504	359,488	722,992
Pooled investment vehicles						
Managed Funds:						
Quoted:						
Equity	0	13,467	13,467	0	14,424	14,424
Fixed Interest	0	117,200	117,200	0	111,608	111,608
Unquoted:						
Equity	128,747	194,470	323,217	128,442	234,906	363,348
Fixed Interest	52,409	11,862	64,271	57,746	14,814	72,560
Index-linked	20,720	0	20,720	26,518	0	26,518
Property Unit Trust	6,107	0	6,107	5,661	0	5,661
Property Fund	31,056	31,560	62,616	35,184	34,555	69,739
Hedge Fund	0	49,060	49,060	0	51,522	51,522
Global Tactical						
Asset Allocation	0	15,529	15,529	0	15,426	15,426
Private Equity	0	25,284	25,284	0	31,162	31,162
Total pooled investment vehicles	239,039	458,432	697,471	253,551	508,417	761,968
Total equities and pooled investment vehicles	563,607	771,492	1,335,099	617,055	867,905	1,484,960

11. Investment Assets (Continued)

An analysis of investment assets based on the economic exposure to each class of investments is shown below :

31st March 2014 £'000	Investment Assets	31st March 2015 £'000
181,471	Fixed Interest	184,168
20,720	Index Linked Securities	26,518
453,315	U.K. Equities	491,946
520,997	Overseas Equities	608,818
68,723	Property	75,400
49,060	Hedge Funds	51,522
25,284	Private Equity	31,162
15,529	Global Tactical Asset Allocation (GTAA)	15,426
<u>1,335,099</u>	Total Investment Assets	<u>1,484,960</u>

(e) Reconciliation of movements in investments

		Value at 31 st March 2014	Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Value at 31 st March 2015
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Equities						
	Aberdeen	99,347	13,608	-12,444	8,663	109,174
	JPM	225,307	206,478	-202,529	39,489	268,745
	Schroders	326,441	69,081	-56,342	20,317	359,497
	L&G	323,217	10,656	-13,780	43,255	363,348
		974,312	299,823	-285,095	111,724	1,100,764
Property						
UK						
	Schroders	37,163	1,108	-1,928	4,502	40,845
Overseas						
	Partners	19,080	5,010	-2,821	2,130	23,399
	Invesco	12,480	0	-519	-805	11,156
		68,723	6,118	-5,268	5,827	75,400
Fixed Interest						
Fixed Interest						
	L&G	64,271	3,160	-3,155	8,284	72,560
	Goldman	117,200	3,529	0	-9,121	111,608
		181,471	6,689	-3,155	-837	184,168
Index-Linked						
	L&G	20,720	2,580	-625	3,843	26,518
		20,720	2,580	-625	3,843	26,518
Hedge Funds						
	Blackrock	25,684	0	-370	1,316	26,630
	Fauchier	23,376	0	-380	1,896	24,892
		49,060	0	-750	3,212	51,522
Private Equity						
	HarbourVest	25,284	8,950	-11,665	8,593	31,162
		25,284	8,950	-11,665	8,593	31,162
Global Tactical Asset Allocation						
	Blackrock (BGI)	15,529	0	-167	64	15,426
		15,529	0	-167	64	15,426
Cash funds						
	L&G	13,830	4,872	-3,708	95	15,089
	Schroders	36	3,360	-358	1	3,039
		13,866	8,232	-4,066	96	18,182
TOTAL		1,348,965	332,392	-310,791	132,522	1,503,088
Cash		29,232				22,512
Other Investment Balance - Dividends Due		2,063				2,527
TOTAL		1,380,260			132,522	1,528,127

12. Reconciliation of movements in investments (continued)

Transaction costs are included in the cost of purchase and sales proceeds. Identifiable transaction costs incurred in the year relating to segregated investments amounted to £233k (2013/14: £388k). Costs are also incurred by the Fund in relation to transactions in pooled investment vehicles. Such costs are taken into account in calculating the bid/offer spread of these investments and are not separately identifiable.

13. Concentration of Investments

The following investments represented more than 5% of the Plan's net assets at 31 March 2015:

	Value as at the 31st March 2014 £'000	Proportion of Net Asset %	Value as at the 31 st March 2015 £'000	Proportion of Net Asset %
L&G UK Equity Index	128,747	9.3	128,442	8.4
Goldman Sachs Global Libor Plus II	117,200	8.5	111,608	7.3
L&G North America Equity Index	76,747	5.5	96,721	6.3

14. Realised Profit on the Sale of Investments

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
15,280	U.K. Equities	12,266
27,909	Overseas Equities	20,755
0	Property Fund	906
3	Cash Fund	0
43,192	Net Profit / Loss (-)	33,927

15. Fixed Interest and Index Linked Investments

The fixed interest and index-linked investments are comprised of:

31 st March 2014 £'000		31 st March 2015 £'000
115,086	UK Public Sector	121,764
87,105	Other	88,922
202,191	Total	210,686

16. Current Assets and Liabilities

The amounts shown in the statement of Net Assets are comprised of:

31 st March 2014		31 st March 2015
£'000		£'000
	Current Assets	
613	Contributions - Employees	654
2,011	Contributions – Employers	2,167
2,120	Early Access Contributions Debtor	4,168
9,232	Transfer Values	10,349
1,121	Other	1,253
15,097		18,591
	Current Liabilities	
-4,321	Investment Management Expenses	-956
-3,873	Commutation and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	-3,428
-688	Lump Sum Death Benefits	-436
-895	Transfers to Other Schemes	-530
-538	Payroll Deductions - Tax	-577
0	SLA Recharge	-620
-400	Other	-382
-10,715		-6,929
4,382	Net	11,662

Analysed as:

31 st March 2014		31 st March 2015
£'000		£'000
	Current Assets	
774	Central Government Bodies	1,386
13,655	Other Local Authorities	16,105
2	Public Corporations & Trading Funds	0
666	Other Entities & Individuals	1,100
15,097		18,591
	Current Liabilities	
-38	Central Government Bodies	-33
-2,677	Other Local Authorities	-1,209
-8,000	Other Entities & Individuals	-5,687
-10,715		-6,929
4,382	Net	11,662

16. Current Assets and Liabilities (continued)

Early Access Debtor

	Instalment Due 2015/16 £'000	Instalment Due 2016/17 £'000	Instalment Due 2017/18 £'000	Instalment Due 2018/19 £'000	Total £'000
Principal Debtor	3,665	241	241	21	4,168
Interest Debtor	17	19	19	2	57
Total (Gross)	3,682	260	260	23	4,225

17. Capital and Contractual Commitments

As at 31 March 2015 the Scheme was committed to providing additional funding to certain managers investing in unquoted securities. These commitments amounted to £38.7m (2013/14: £40.3m).

18. Related Party Transactions

£661k (£659k 13/14) paid to the City & County of Swansea for the recharge of Administration, I.T., Finance and Legal Services during the year.

Contributions received from admitted and scheduled bodies are detailed on page 30.

The City & County of Swansea acts as administering Authority for the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund (formerly the West Glamorgan Pension Fund).

Transactions between the Authority and the Pension Fund mainly comprise the payment to the Pension Fund of employee and employer payroll superannuation deductions, together with payments in respect of enhanced pensions granted by Former Authorities.

The Pension Fund currently has 32 scheduled and admitted bodies. Management of the Pension Scheme Investment Fund is undertaken by a panel. The panel is advised by two independent advisors.

Governance

There are 7 Council members of the Pensions Committee who are active members in the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund. The benefit entitlement for the Councillors is accrued under the same principles that apply to all other members of the Fund.

19. Other Fund Documents

The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund is required by regulation to formulate a number of regulatory documents outlining its policy. Attached at the Appendices are :

- Statement of Investment Principles
- Funding Strategy Statement
- Governance Statement
- Communication Policy

20. Additional Voluntary Contributions

Some members of the Fund paid voluntary contributions to the Fund's AVC providers, The Prudential, to buy extra pension benefits when they retire. These contributions are invested in a wide range of assets to provide a return on the money invested. Some members also still invest and have funds invested with the legacy AVC providers, Equitable Life and Aegon.

The Pension Fund accounts do not include the assets held by The Prudential, Equitable Life or Aegon. AVC's are not included in the accounts in accordance with section 4(2)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3093) but are disclosed as a note only.

AVC Provider	Value of Funds at 01/04/13 £'000	Purchases at Cost (Contributions In/Out) £'000	Sale Proceeds £'000	Change in Market Value £'000	Value of Funds at 31/03/14 £'000
Prudential	2,738	1,504	-1,172	142	3,212
Aegon	1,440	54	-112	61	1,443
Equitable Life	373	2	-43	15	347
Totals	4,551	1,560	-1,327	218	5,002

21. Membership

The Pension Fund covers our employees, (except for teachers, for whom separate pension arrangements apply) and other bodies included in the schedule.

Detailed national regulations govern the rates of contribution by employees and employers, as well as benefits payable. At 31st March 2015 there were 16,285 contributors, 11,261 pensioners and 9,801 deferred pensioners.

Membership statistics	31/03/11 Number	31/03/12 Number	31/03/13 Number	31/03/14 Number	31/03/15 Number
Contributors	14,524	14,179	14,586	15,576	16,285
Pensioners	9,600	10,027	10,432	10,833	11,261
Deferred Pensioners	7,614	8,204	8,815	9,663	9,801
Total	31,738	32,410	33,833	36,072	37,347

See Appendix 1 for current year analysis.

22. Fair Value of Investments

Financial Instruments

The Fund invests mainly through pooled vehicles with the exception of three segregated equity mandates. The managers of these pooled vehicles invest in a variety of financial instruments including bank deposits, quoted equity instruments, fixed interest securities, direct property holdings and unlisted equity and also monitor credit and counterparty risk, liquidity risk, and market risk.

Financial Instruments – Gains and Losses

Gains and losses on Financial Instruments have been disclosed within notes 9, 12 and 14 of the Pension Fund accounts.

Fair Value – Hierarchy

The fair value hierarchy introduced as part of the new accounting Code under IFRS7 requires categorisation of assets based upon 3 levels of asset valuation inputs :

- Level 1 - quoted prices for similar instruments
- Level 2 - directly observable market inputs other than Level 1 inputs
- Level 3 - inputs not based on observable market data.

The following table shows the position of the Fund's assets at 31st March 2014 and 2015 based upon this hierarchy.

FAIR VALUE - HIERARCHY

	Market Value £'000	31 March 2014			Market Value £'000	31 March 2015		
		Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000		Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000
Equities								
UK Equities	324,568	324,568	-	-	363,504	363,504	-	-
Overseas Equities	313,060	313,060	-	-	359,488	359,488	-	-
Pooled Investment Vehicles								
Fixed-Interest Funds	117,200	-	117,200	-	111,608	-	111,608	-
UK Equity	128,747	-	128,747	-	128,442	-	128,442	-
Overseas Equity	207,937	-	207,937	-	249,330	-	249,330	-
Fixed Interest	64,271	-	64,271	-	72,560	-	72,560	-
Index-linked	20,720	-	20,720	-	26,518	-	26,518	-
Property Unit Trust	6,107	-	6,107	-	3,039	-	3,039	-
Property Fund	62,616	-	31,056	31,560	72,361	-	37,806	34,555
Hedge Fund	49,060	-	-	49,060	51,522	-	-	51,522
Global Tactical Asset Allocation	15,529	-	-	15,529	15,426	-	-	15,426
Private Equity	25,284	-	-	25,284	31,162	-	-	31,162
Cash	43,098	43,098	-	-	40,640	40,640	-	-
Other Investment Balances - Dividends Due	2,063	2,063	-	-	2,527	2,527	-	-
Total	1,380,260	682,789	576,038	121,433	1,528,127	766,159	629,303	132,665

23. Investment Risks

As demonstrated above, the Fund maintains positions indirectly via its fund managers in a variety of financial instruments including bank deposits, quoted equity instruments, fixed interest securities, direct property holdings, unlisted equity products, commodity futures and other derivatives. This exposes the Fund to a variety of financial risks including credit and counterparty risk, liquidity risk, market risk and exchange rate risk.

Procedures for Managing Risk

The principal powers to invest are contained in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 and require an Administering Authority to invest any Pension Fund money that is not needed immediately to make payments from the Pension Fund. These regulations require the Pension Fund to formulate a policy for the investment of its fund money. The Administering Authority's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The Pension Fund annually reviews its Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) and corresponding Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), which set out the Pension Fund's policy on matters such as the type of investments to be held, balance between types of investments, investment restrictions and the way risk is managed.

The Fund continues to review its structure. A key element in this review process is the consideration of risk and for many years now the Fund has pursued a policy of lowering risk by diversifying investments across asset classes, investment regions and fund managers. Furthermore alternative assets are subject to their own diversification requirements and some examples are given below :

- Private equity – by stage, geography and vintage where funds of funds are not used
- Property – by type, risk profile, geography and vintage (on closed-ended funds)
- Hedge funds – multi-strategy and/or funds of funds.

Manager Risk

The Fund is also well diversified by manager with no single active manager managing more than 25% of Fund assets. On appointment, fund managers are delegated the power to make such purchases and sales as they deem appropriate under the mandate concerned. Each mandate has a benchmark or target to outperform or achieve, usually on the basis of 3-year rolling periods. An update, at least quarterly, is required from each manager and regular meetings are held with managers to discuss their mandates and their performance on them. There are slightly different arrangements for some of the alternative assets. Some private equity and property investment is fund rather than manager-specific, with specific funds identified by the investment sub group after careful due diligence. These commitments tend to be smaller in nature than main asset class investments but again regular performance reports are received and such investments are reviewed with managers at least once a year.

23. Investment Risks (Continued)

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation or commitment that it has entered into with the Fund. As noted above almost all the Fund's

investment are through pooled vehicles and a number of these are involved in derivative trades of various sorts, including futures, swaps and options. Whilst the Fund is not a direct counterparty to such trades and so has no direct credit risk, clearly all derivative transactions incorporate a degree of risk and the value of the pooled vehicle, and hence the Fund's holding, could be impacted negatively by failure of one of the vehicle's counterparties. However, part of the operational due diligence carried out on potential manager appointees concerns itself with the quality of that manager's risk processes around counterparties and seeks to establish assurance that these are such as to minimise exposure to credit risk.

There has been no historical experience of default on the investments held by the Pension Fund.

Within the Fund, the areas of focus in terms of credit risk are bonds and some of the alternative asset categories :

- The Fund's active fixed interest bond portfolio is £111,608k is managed (by Goldman Sachs) on an unconstrained basis and has a significant exposure to credit, emerging market debt and loans. At 31st March 2015, the Fund's exposure to non-investment grade paper was 16.1% of the actively managed fixed income portfolio.
- On private equity the Fund's investments are almost entirely in the equity of the companies concerned. The Funds private equity investments of £31,162k are managed by HarbourVest in a fund of funds portfolio.

On hedge fund of funds and multi-strategy vehicles, underlying managers have in place a broad range of derivatives. The Fund's exposure to hedge funds through its managers at 31st March 2015 is set out below with their relative exposure to credit risk :

	March 2015 £'000	Credit Exposure
Permal	24,892	18.5%
Blackrock	26,630	22.4%

Liquidity Risk

The Pension Fund has its own bank accounts. At its simplest, liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations when they fall due, especially pension payments to its members. At a strategic level the Administering Authority, together with its consulting actuary, reviews the position of the Fund triennially to ensure that all its obligations can be suitably covered. Ongoing cash flow planning in respect of contributions, benefit payments, investment income and capital calls/distributions is also essential. This is in place with the Fund's position updated much more regularly.

23. Investment Risks (Continued)

Specifically on investments, the Fund holds through its managers a mixture of liquid, semi-liquid and illiquid assets. Whilst the Fund's investment managers have substantial discretionary powers regarding their individual portfolios and the management of their cash positions, they hold within their pooled vehicles a large value of very liquid securities, such as equities and bonds quoted on major stock exchanges, which can easily be realised. Traditional equities and bonds now comprise 83% of the Fund's value and, whilst there will be some slightly less liquid elements within this figure (emerging market equities and debt for example), the funds investing in these securities offer monthly trading at worst – often weekly or fortnightly.

On alternative assets the position is more mixed. Whilst there are a couple of quoted vehicles here, most are subject to their own liquidity terms or, in the case of property, redemption rules. Closed-ended funds such as most private equity vehicles and some property funds are effectively illiquid for the specified fund period (usually 10 years), although they can be sold on the secondary market, usually at a discount.

The table below analyses the value of the Fund's investments at 31st March 2015 by liquidity profile :

	Amounts at 31st March 2015 £000s	Within 1 month £000s	1-3 months £000s	4-12 months £000s	> 1 Year £000s
Equities					
UK Equities	363,504	363,504	0	0	0
Overseas Equities	359,488	359,488	0	0	0
Pooled Investment Vehicles					
Fixed-Interest Funds	111,608	111,608	0	0	0
UK Equity	128,442	128,442	0	0	0
Overseas Equity	249,330	249,330	0	0	0
Fixed Interest	72,560	72,560	0	0	0
Index-linked	26,518	26,518	0	0	0
Property Unit Trust	3,039	0	0	3,039	0
Property Fund	72,361	0	0	37,806	34,555
Hedge Fund	51,522	0	0	51,522	0
Global Tactical Asset Allocation	15,426	0	0	15,426	0
Private Equity	31,162	0	0	0	31,162
Deposits with banks and other financial institutions	40,640	40,640	0	0	0
Other Investment Balances - Dividends Due	2,527	2,527	0	0	0
Total	1,528,127	1,354,617	0	107,793	65,717

23. Investment Risks (Continued)

It should be noted that different quoted investments are subject to different settlement rules but all payments/receipts are usually due within 7 days of the transaction (buy/sell) date. Because the Fund uses some pooled vehicles for quoted investments these are often subject to daily, weekly, 2-weekly or monthly trading dates. All such investments have been designated “within 1 month” for the purposes of liquidity analysis. Open-ended property funds are subject to redemption rules set by their management boards. Many have quarterly redemptions but these can be held back in difficult markets so as not to force sales and disadvantage continuing investors. For liquidity analysis purposes, a conservative approach has been applied and all such investments have been designated “within 4-12 months”.

Closed-ended funds have been designated illiquid for the purposes of liquidity analysis. However, these closed-ended vehicles have a very different cash flow pattern to traditional investments since the monies committed are only drawn down as the underlying investments are made (usually over a period of 5 years) and distributions are returned as soon as underlying investments are exited (often as early as year 4). In terms of cash flow, therefore, the net cash flow for such a vehicle usually only reaches a maximum of about 60-70% of the amount committed and cumulative distributions usually exceed cumulative draw downs well before the end of the specified period, as these vehicles regularly return 1½ to 2½ times the money invested. At the same time, it has been the Fund's practice to invest monies on a regular annual basis so the vintage year of active vehicles ranges from 2000 to 2013.

This means that, whilst all these monies have been designated closed-ended and thereby illiquid on the basis of their usual “10-year life”, many are closer to maturity than implied by this broad designation. As can be seen from the table, even using the conservative basis outlined above, around 88% of the portfolio is realisable within 1 month and 96% is realisable within 12 months.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial institution will fluctuate because of changes in market price. The Fund is exposed to the risk of financial loss from a change in the value of its investments and the consequential danger that its assets will fail to deliver returns in line with the anticipated returns underpinning the valuation of its liabilities over the long term.

Market risk is comprised of two elements :

- The risks associated with volatility in the performance of the asset class itself (beta).
- The risks associated with the ability of managers, where allowed, to move away from index weights and to generate alpha, thereby offsetting beta risk by exceeding market performance.

The table below sets out an analysis of the Fund's market risk positions at 31 March 2015 by showing the amount invested in each asset class and through each manager within each main asset class, the index used as a benchmark, the target set for managers against this benchmark:

23. Investment Risks (Continued)

Asset Class	Asset Allocation	Fund Manager		Benchmark	Performance target
		Passive	Active		
UK Equities	34% +/- 5%	14% L&G	20% Schroders	FTSE allshare	+3% p.a. over rolling 3 year
Overseas Equities	34% +/- 5%	13% L&G	21% JP Morgan & Aberdeen Aberdeen	MSCI World all share (ex UK) MSCI Frontier Markets Index	+3% p.a. over rolling 3year +% p.a. over rolling 3year
Global Fixed Interest	15% +/- 5%	6% L&G	9% Goldman Sachs	Libor	LIBOR +3%
Property	5% +/- 5%	-	5% Schroders, Partners & Invesco	IPD UK Pooled Property Fund Index	+ 1% p.a. over rolling 3 year, 8% absolute return
Hedge Funds	5% +/- 5%	-	5% Blackrock & Permal (formerly Fauchier)	LIBOR	+4%
Private Equity	3% +/- 5%	-	3% Harbourvest	FTSE allshare	+3% p.a. over 3 year rolling
Global Tactical Asset Allocation	2% +/- 5%	-	2% BGI/Blackrock	LIBOR	+4% over 3 yr rolling
Cash	2% +/- 5%	-	2% In house and cash flows offund managers	7day LIBID	=
TOTAL	100%	33%	67%		

The risks associated with volatility in market values are managed mainly through a policy of broad asset diversification. The Fund sets restrictions on the type of investment it can hold through investment limits, in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009. The Fund also adopts a specific strategic benchmark (details can be found in the Fund's SIP) and the weightings of the various asset classes within the benchmark form the basis for asset allocation within the Fund. Under normal conditions there is quarterly rebalancing to this strategic benchmark within fixed tolerances.

This allocation, determined through the Fund's asset allocation strategy, is designed to diversify and minimise risk through a broad spread of investments across both the main and alternative asset classes and geographic regions within each asset class.

Market risk is also managed through manager diversification – constructing a diversified portfolio across multiple investment managers. On a daily basis, managers will manage risk in line with the benchmarks, targets and risk parameters set for the mandate, as well as their own policies and processes. The Fund itself monitors managers on a regular basis (at least quarterly) on all these aspects.

23. Investment Risks (Continued)

Price Risk

Price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. Except for shares sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of financial instruments. Possible losses from shares sold short is unlimited.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Council to ensure it is within limits specified in the fund investment strategy.

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment returns movement during the financial year and in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, the Council has determined the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible. Had the market price of the fund investments increased/decreased in line with the potential market movements, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price as at 31st March 2015 would have been as follows:

Price Risk

Asset Type	Value (£)	% Change	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
UK Equities	491,946	10.52%	543,699	440,193
Overseas Equities	608,818	9.35%	665,742	551,894
Bonds & Index-Linked	210,686	2.67%	216,311	205,061
Cash	40,640	0.01%	40,644	40,636
Property	75,400	3.00%	77,662	73,138
Alternatives	98,110	4.06%	102,093	94,127
Other Investment Balances	2,527	0.00%	2,527	2,527
Total Assets	1,528,127	6.64%	1,629,595	1,426,659

The % change for Total Assets includes the impact of correlation across asset classes

And as at 31 March 2014

Price Risk

Asset Type	Value (£)	% Change	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
UK Equities	453,315	12.59%	510,387	396,243
Overseas Equities	520,997	12.13%	584,194	457,800
Bonds & Index-Linked	202,191	2.47%	207,185	197,197
Cash	43,098	0.02%	43,107	43,089
Property	68,723	2.61%	70,517	66,929
Alternatives	89,873	3.00%	92,569	87,177
Other Investment Balances	2,063	0.00%	2,063	2,063
Total Assets	1,380,260	8.35%	1,495,512	1,265,008

The % change for Total Assets includes the impact of correlation across asset classes

23. Investment Risks (Continued)

Currency Risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the functional currency of the Fund (£UK). The Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than £UK.

In consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, the Council has determined that the following movements in currencies are reasonably possible. The following represents a sensitivity analysis associated with foreign exchange movements as at 31st March 2015:

Currency Risk (by currency)

Currency	Value (£'000)	% Change	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
Australian Dollar	4,585	8.87	4,992	4,178
Brazilian Real	4,706	11.69	5,256	4,156
Canadian Dollar	10,030	6.65	10,697	9,363
Chinese Renminbi Yuan	10,870	7.91	11,730	10,010
Danish Krone	1,608	6.19	1,707	1,509
EURO	93,099	6.15	98,824	87,374
Hong Kong Dollar	7,953	7.74	8,569	7,337
Indian Rupee	5,092	10.78	5,641	4,543
Indonesian Rupiah	2,688	11.65	3,001	2,375
Israeli Shekel	832	7.35	893	771
Japanese Yen	55,482	11.02	61,599	49,365
Mexican Peso	2,717	9.42	2,973	2,461
Norwegian Krone	640	8.64	695	585
Peruvian New Sol	798	6.97	854	742
Singapore Dollar	4,864	5.89	5,151	4,577
South African Rand	1,899	10.72	2,103	1,695
South Korean Won	6,927	6.62	7,385	6,469
Swedish Krona	7,672	7.30	8,232	7,112
Swiss Franc	21,024	9.34	22,988	19,060
Taiwan Dollar	5,201	6.62	5,545	4,857
Thai Baht	674	8.08	728	620
Turkish Lira	586	9.85	644	528
US Dollar	196,965	7.78	212,292	181,638
North America Basket	96,721	7.41	103,891	89,551
Europe ex UK Basket	53,891	5.66	56,939	50,843
Asia Pacific ex Japan Bask	22,034	6.44	23,453	20,615
Emerging Basket	52,894	6.80	56,489	49,299
Total Currency *	672,452	5.81	711,488	633,416

* The % change for Total Currency includes the impact of correlation across the underlying currencies

23. Investment Risks (Continued)

And as at 31 March 2014

Currency Risk (by currency)

Currency	Value (£'000)	% Change	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
Australian Dollar	5,099	9.80%	5,599	4,599
Brazilian Real	8,090	12.69%	9,117	7,063
Canadian Dollar	9,422	6.04%	9,991	8,853
Danish Krone	1,415	6.26%	1,504	1,326
EURO	89,647	6.31%	95,304	83,990
Hong Kong Dollar	6,029	7.98%	6,510	5,548
Indian Rupee	5,766	10.84%	6,391	5,141
Indonesian Rupiah	2,094	11.05%	2,325	1,863
Israeli Shekel	628	6.94%	672	584
Japanese Yen	36,631	11.54%	40,858	32,404
Mexican Peso	2,357	10.03%	2,593	2,121
Norwegian Krone	745	8.79%	810	680
Singapore Dollar	3,181	5.71%	3,363	2,999
South African Rand	2,236	11.31%	2,489	1,983
South Korean Won	6,251	6.56%	6,661	5,841
Swedish Krona	6,347	7.03%	6,793	5,901
Swiss Franc	27,523	7.42%	29,565	25,481
Taiwan Dollar	4,873	5.63%	5,147	4,599
US Dollar	162,996	8.07%	176,150	149,842
Other	7,091	5.21%	7,460	6,722
North America Basket	76,747	7.61%	82,587	70,907
Europe ex UK Basket	50,213	6.01%	53,231	47,195
Asia Pacific ex Japan Basket	18,817	6.11%	19,967	17,667
Emerging Basket	43,402	6.37%	46,167	40,637
Total Currency*	577,600	5.13%	607,210	547,990

**The % change for Total Currency includes the impact of correlation across the underlying currencies*

Interest Rate Risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represents the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Actuary, as part of their triennial valuation and dictated by the Funding Strategy Statement, will only anticipate long-term return on a relatively prudent basis to reduce risk of under-performing. Progress is analysed at three yearly valuations for all employers.

24. Further Information

The accounts outlined within the statement represent the financial position of the City and County of Swansea's Pension Fund at 31 March 2015 and any further enquires may be forwarded to the Chief Treasury & Technical Officer, Room 1.4.2, Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN.

PART C

INVESTMENT REPORT

Pension Fund – Budget Forecast

Pension Fund - Budget 2014/15

	Actual 2014/15	Estimate 2015/16
Membership Numbers		
Contributors	16,285	17,017
Pensioners	11,261	11,706

Income	Actual 2014/15 £'000	Estimate 2015/16 £'000
Employer Contributions	63,647	65,000
Employee Contributions	16,859	17,500
Transfers In	2,748	1,148
Other Income	91	100
Investment Income	24,444	25,000

Expenditure

Pensions Payable	53,452	57,700
Lump Sum Benefits	20,460	21,000
Refunds	116	100
Transfers Out	2,587	2,500
Administrative Expenses	991	1,000
Investment Expenses	7,558	8,000

Investment Strategy

The Strategic Aim of the Fund is to achieve the maximum return consistent with acceptable levels of risk and the long term nature of the Fund's liabilities.

Fund monies that are not currently needed to meet pension and benefit payments are invested in approved securities and the Fund receives income from these investments. The powers to invest are contained within the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations that permit a wide range of acceptable investments, but set certain limits, including:

- (a) a limit of 10% of the Fund in unlisted securities;
- (b) no more than 10% of the Fund may be invested in a single holding (except for government stocks); and
- (c) no more than 35% of the Fund may be invested in any one insurance contract.
- (d) no more than 35% may be invested in unit trusts managed by any one body.
- (e) no more than 10% of the Fund may be deposited with any one bank.

Investment Fund Management

The investment of the Fund is the responsibility of the Pension Fund Committee. The Committee as at 31st March 2015 comprised (Appendix 2):-

- 7 Councillor Members (one member from Neath Port Talbot CBC representing other scheme employers)

supported by:

- Section 151 Officer
- Chief Treasury & Technical Officer
- 2 Independent Advisers

The Committee, after taking account of the views of the independent advisers and appointed actuary to the Fund, is responsible for determining broad investment strategy and policy, with appointed professional fund managers undertaking the operational management of the assets.

Following a comprehensive investment review in 2007/08 with a view to implementing a structure which more efficiently and effectively achieves the Fund's objective, the Fund implemented the following structure.

The Fund's current managers are:

Asset Class	Manager
UK Equities	Schroders Investment Management
Global Equities (ex UK)	Aberdeen Asset Managers
Global Equities (ex UK)	JP Morgan Asset Management
Global Bonds	Goldman Sachs Asset Management
Global Balanced Passive	Legal & General Asset Management
Hedge Fund of Funds	Fauchier & Partners
Hedge Fund of Funds	Blackrock Asset Management
Private Equity Fund of Funds	HarbourVest
Property Fund of Funds	Partners Group
Property Fund of Funds	Schroders Investment Management
Property Fund (European)	Invesco Real Estate
Global Tactical Asset Allocation (GTAA)	Blackrock

Valuation of Investments

The value of the Fund's investments of £1,528m together with cash and other net assets totalling £12m increased from £1,385m to £1,540m during 2014/15.

The increase of £155m is comprised of two elements:

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
90,493	Net Return on Investments	149,408
16,550	Add Net new money (comprises contributions receivable, transfer values in less benefits paid and transfer values out)	5,739
107,043		155,147

The market value of the Fund's investments over the past 10 years is illustrated in Appendix 3.

Distribution of Investments

The following table shows the distribution of the Fund's investments at 31 March 15 at Bid price Market Values.

31 March 2014			31 March 2015	
£'000	%		£'000	%
181,471	13.1	Fixed Interest Securities	184,168	12.1
20,720	1.5	Index Linked Securities	26,518	1.7
453,315	32.8	UK Equities	491,946	32.2
68,723	5.0	Property	75,400	4.9
49,060	3.6	Hedge Funds	51,522	3.4
25,284	1.8	Private Equity	31,162	1.9
15,529	1.1	GTAA	15,426	1.0
520,997	37.9	Overseas Securities	608,818	39.9
43,098	3.1	Cash/Temporary Investments	40,640	2.7
2,063	0.1	Other: Dividends Due	2,527	0.2
<u>1,380,260</u>	<u>100</u>		<u>1,528,127</u>	<u>100</u>

1415 Distribution of Investments

Fund Manager Bid Prices

	L&G	Schroders Equity	Schroders Property	Invesco	JP Morgan	Aberdeen	Goldman Sachs	Partners Group	Blackrock	Blackrock GTAA	Permal	Harbour Vest	External Cash	HSBC Cash	Internal Cash	TOTAL	%
	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	
Equities																	
UK	128,442	359,497				4,007										491,946	32.2%
Europe	53,891				55,172	24,872										133,935	8.8%
N America	96,721				151,446	35,916										284,083	18.6%
Japan	23,790				24,320	7,372										55,482	3.6%
Pacific	22,034				8,494	8,908										39,436	2.6%
Emerging Markets	38,470				29,313	28,099										95,882	6.3%
Property																	
UK & Europe				40,845												52,001	3.4%
Overseas								23,399								23,399	1.5%
Fixed Interest																	
Fixed Interest	72,560						111,608									184,168	12.1%
Index-Linked	26,518															26,518	1.7%
Hedge Funds																	
Private Equity																	
GTAA									26,630		24,892					51,522	3.4%
										15,426		31,162				31,162	1.9%
Cash	15,089	4,213	3,448		1,469	2,595							14,000	28	-202	40,640	2.7%
Other Investment																	
Balances - Dividends Due		1,574			649	304										2,527	0.2%
TOTAL	477,515	365,284	44,293	11,156	270,863	112,073	111,608	23,399	26,630	15,426	24,892	31,162	14,000	28	-202	1,528,127	100%
%	31.2%	24.1%	2.9%	0.6%	17.7%	7.4%	7.4%	1.5%	1.7%	1.0%	1.7%	1.9%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100%	

A more detailed sector and geographical analysis of the distribution of the Fund's investments is provided in Appendices 4(i)-(iii).

Investment Returns

	City & County of Swansea Fund	WM Local Authority Average Fund (WM)	Fund Specific Benchmark (FSB)	Relative Performance		WM Peer Group Ranking	Average Earnings Increase *	RPI*
	%	%	%	WM	FSB		%	%
2014/15	10.8	13.2	11.9	-2.4	-1.1	89 th	3.2	0.9
2013/14	7.2	6.3	7.1	+0.9	+0.1	35 th	1.9	2.45
2012/13	13.7	13.7	13.9	-0.1	-0.2	43 rd	-0.7	3.28
2011/12	0.6	2.6	3.7	-2.0	-3.1	92 nd	0.8	3.6
2010/11	7.9	7.9	7.7	0.0	+0.2	51 st	2.2	5.3
2009/10	35.5	35.2	34.7	+0.3	+0.8	42 nd	7.8	4.15
2008/09	-16.0	-19.9		+3.9		12 th	1.5	-0.4
2007/08	-0.5	-2.2		+1.7		19 th	4.5	3.8
2006/07	6.6	6.3		+0.3		32 nd	3.5	4.8
2005/06	23.9	25.2		-1.3		77 th	3.8	2.4
2004/05	10.9	11.2		-0.3		46 th	4.3	3.2
2003/04	23.5	24.3		-0.8		57 th	4.6	2.6

*Data Source Moneyfacts/ONS

The annual returns on the City and County of Swansea Fund compared with the Local Authority average and against the Fund specific benchmark are illustrated above.

Market Commentary- Local Authority Universe

The average local authority pension fund returned 13% in 2014/15.

Equity markets performed strongly though with marked differences across regions. UK equities returned only 6% with investors concerned about the possibility of political uncertainty that could result from a hung parliament after the May 2015 general election. Japan was the strongest performing of the major overseas markets, returning over 27% to UK investors and the Yen continued to weaken against the pound.

Conversely UK investors benefitted from the strength of the US dollar over the year, which represented almost half of the US equity return of 25%. Pacific and emerging markets returned 16% and 13% respectively whilst even Europe, which lagged other markets returned 9%.

After negative returns in 2013/14, UK bonds bounced back strongly, with government bonds returning 14% and corporate bonds returning 13% for the latest year. Duration was the big story of the year with massive differences in return, depending where a fund was invested on the yield curve, with yields reaching historic lows.

Alternative investments had a good year. Private equity returned 16% whilst hedge funds averaged 9%. Property returned 9%.

Fund Performance

The fund returned 10.8% for the year a full -1.1% behind the fund specific benchmark and -2.4% below the local authority universe, placing the fund in the 89th percentile.

This disappointing performance can be largely attributed to the underperformance of the active bond fund manager and one of the active global equity managers.

The year presented exceptional returns for traditional long dated bonds, as yields reached historic lows, whereas the fund's active bond fund manager was strategically positioned for a normalisation of yields which resulted in a return of -5% which compounded the impact of being underweight duration but also underperforming the benchmark as well.

The global equity manager was appointed to complement the portfolio with its emerging market bias and expertise where its portfolio is strategically underweight US market stocks, the stock selection within that portfolio has affected returns producing 11% against a benchmark return of 20%

The UK equity manager continued its good performance with a return well above benchmark of 8.5%.

Private equity, hedge funds and property all made above benchmark contributions to the portfolio returning 25.6%, 4.9% and 18.5% respectively.

The medium and long term returns of the Fund are still ahead of actuarial assumptions and ahead of inflation with 3 and 5 year returns averaging 10.5% and 7.9% p.a. and 10 year returns averaging 8.2% p.a.

It has been determined by the pension Fund Committee to commission a formal review of the investment strategy and at time of writing is undergoing a formal procurement process to appoint consultants to undertake that review

The investment strategy adopted will seek to provide consistent returns over the longer period and seek to dampen the volatility that is inherent in exposure to equity markets alone.

The strategy implemented and the performance of the Fund managers engaged to implement that strategy will be reviewed with a view to implementing changes which will benefit the Fund in the long term. Investment decisions have to be undertaken with the full opportunity cost and cost of change having been fully considered.

PART D

ACTUARIAL REPORT

Statement of the Actuary for the year ended 31 March 2015

Introduction

The Scheme Regulations require that a full actuarial valuation is carried out every third year. The purpose of this is to establish that the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund (the Fund) is able to meet its liabilities to past and present contributors and to review employer contribution rates. The last full actuarial investigation into the financial position of the Fund was completed as at 31 March 2013 by Aon Hewitt Limited, in accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008.

Actuarial Position

1. The valuation as at 31 March 2013 showed that the funding ratio of the Fund had increased since the previous valuation with the market value of the Fund's assets at that date (of £1,227.6M) covering 81% of the liabilities allowing, in the case of current contributors to the Fund, for future increases in pensionable pay.
2. The valuation also showed that the required level of contributions to be paid to the Fund by participating Employers with effect from 1 April 2014 is:
 - 16.2% of pensionable pay. This is the rate calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet the liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date.

Plus

- 5.7% of pensionable pay to restore the assets to 100% of the liabilities in respect of service prior to the valuation date over a recovery period of 25 years from 1 April 2014, if the membership remains broadly stable and pay increases are in line with the rate assumed at the valuation of 3.9% p.a.
3. In practice, each individual employer's position is assessed separately and contributions are set out in Aon Hewitt Limited's report dated 31 March 2014 (the "actuarial valuation report"). In addition to the contributions shown above, payments to cover additional liabilities arising from early retirements (other than ill health retirements) will be made to the Fund by the employers.
 4. The funding plan adopted in assessing the contributions for each individual employer was in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement in force at the time. The approach adopted and the recovery period used for each employer, is set out in the actuarial valuation report.
 5. The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method for most employers and the main actuarial assumptions used for assessing the funding target and the contribution rates as set out on the following page.

Statement of the Actuary for the year ended 31 March 2015 (cont'd)

The main actuarial assumptions were as follows:

Discount Rate

In Service :

Scheduled and subsumption bodies	5.6% a year
Orphan bodies	5.2% p.a.

After Leaving Service

Scheduled and subsumption bodies	5.6% p.a.
Orphan bodies	3.9% p.a.
Rates of pay increases	3.9% p.a.
Rate of increase to pension accounts	2.4% p.a.
Rate of increase in pensions in payment (in excess of Guaranteed Minimum Pension)	2.4% p.a.

The assets were valued at market value.

Further details of assumptions adopted for the valuation were set out in the actuarial valuation report.

6. The valuation results summarised above are based on the financial position and market levels at the valuation date, 31 March 2013. As such the results do not make allowance for changes which have occurred subsequent to the valuation date.
7. The formal actuarial valuation report and the Rates and Adjustments Certificate setting out the employer contribution rates for the period from 1st April 2014 to 31 March 2017 were signed on 31 March 2014. Contribution rates will be reviewed at the next actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2016 in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.
8. This statement has been prepared by the current Actuary to the Fund, Aon Hewitt Limited, for inclusion in the accounts of the Fund. It provides a summary of the results of their actuarial valuation which was carried out as at 31 March 2013. The valuation provides a snapshot of the funding position at the valuation date and is used to assess the future levels of contributions required.

Aon Hewitt Limited does not accept any responsibility or liability to any other party other than our client, City & County of Swansea, the Administering Authority of the Fund, in respect of this statement.

This statement must not be considered without reference to the formal actuarial valuation report which details fully the context and limitations of the actuarial valuation.

The report on the actuarial valuation as at 31st March 2013 is available from the Funds website at the following address:

<http://www.swanseapensionfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/01Swansea-valuation-report-FINA-310313.pdf>

Aon Hewitt Limited

Jun- 2015

Definitions

Admission Body

An employer admitted to the Fund under an admission agreement.

Orphan Body

This is an admission body or other employer whose participation in the Fund may cease at some future point in time, after which it is expected that the Administering Authority will have no access to future contributions in respect of the employer's liabilities in the Fund once any liability on cessation has been paid.

Scheduled Body

Employers which participate in the Fund under schedule 2 of the Administration Regulations.

Subsumption and Subsumption Body

When an admission body or other employer ceases participation in the Fund, so that it has no employees contributing to the Fund and once any contribution on cessation as required by the regulations has been paid, the Fund will normally be unable to obtain further contributions from that employer (e.g. if future investment returns are less than assumed). It is however possible for another long term employer in the Fund (generally a scheduled body) to agree to be a source of future funding should any funding shortfalls emerge on the original employer's liabilities. The long term employer effectively subsumes the assets and liabilities of the ceasing employer into its own assets and liabilities. In this document this is known as subsumption. In this document the admission body or other employer being subsumed is referred to as a subsumption body and its liabilities are known as subsumed.

Certificate of the Actuary Regarding the Contributions Payable by the Employing Authorities in 2014/15

In accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (the "Administration Regulations"), we certify that contributions should be paid by the Employers at the following rates for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017.

- A common rate of 16.2% of Pensionable Pay.
- Individual adjustments which, when added to or subtracted from the common rate, produce the following Employer contributions rates :

Certificate of the Actuary Regarding the Contributions Payable by the Employing Authorities in 2014/15

Employer		Year commencing 1st April		
Scheduled Bodies		2014	2015	2016
		% Pensionable Pay	% Pensionable Pay	% Pensionable Pay
City and County of Swansea		22.4	22.4	22.4
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council		22.5	23.0	24.0
Pontardawe Town Council		19.7	19.7	19.7
Cilybebyll Community Council		20.5	20.5	20.5
Pelenna Community Council		21.9	23.6	25.3
Swansea Bay Port Health Authority		22.4	22.4	22.4
Admission Bodies				
Neath Port Talbot Homes		16.2	16.2	16.2
Grwp Gwalia Cyf		20.4	20.4	20.4
Colin Laver Heating Limited		19.7	19.7	19.7
Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council		27.2	30.8	34.3
Celtic Community Leisure		11.1	11.1	11.1
Wales National Pool		14.5	14.5	14.5
Cap Gemini		18.7	18.7	18.7
Employer	Contribution rate 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017	Additional monetary amount Year Commencing 1 April		
		2014 £	2015 £	2016 £
Scheduled Bodies				
Margam Joint Crematorium Committee	19.2	4,600	4,800	5,000
Coedffranc Community Council	19.2	3,700	3,850	4,000
Neath Town Council	19.2	15,100	15,700	16,300
Neath Port Talbot College	13.9	175,000	184,000	194,000
Gower College Swansea	15.4	164,400	170,800	177,500
Neath Port Talbot College	14.7	151,900	157,800	164,000
Admission Bodies				
Trinity St Davids	22.4	225,000	450,000	481,000

Certificate of the Actuary Regarding the Contributions Payable by the Employing Authorities in 2014/15

The contributions shown represent the minimum contributions to be paid by each Employer. Employers may choose to pay additional contributions from time to time subject to the Administering Authority's agreement.

Where payments due from an Employer are expressed as monetary amounts, the amounts payable by that Employer should be adjusted to take into account of any amounts payable, in respect of a surplus or a shortfall to which those monetary payments relate, by new employers created after the valuation date which have been credited with proportions of the assets and liabilities of the relevant Employer. Any adjustment should be as advised by the Fund Actuary.

Additional contributions may be required in respect of any additional liabilities that arise under the provisions of Regulations 30, 31, 35 and 38 of the 2013 Regulations, payable over a period of up to three years and Employers will be notified of such contributions separately by the Administering Authority.

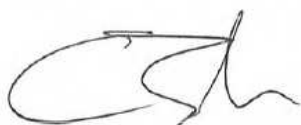
The contribution rates for the City & County of Swansea and for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council have been set as a percentage of pensionable pay. However, minimum monetary contributions amounts for these employers have been agreed with the Administering Authority, and if the contributions actually received fall below this minimum level additional payments will be required.

Additional contributions may be payable by any Admission Bodies which have ceased to participate in the fund since 31 March 2010 and will be certified separately.

Contribution rates for Employers commencing participation in the Fund after 31 March 2013 will be advised separately.

This certificate should be read in conjunction with the notes overleaf.

Signed on behalf of Aon Hewitt Limited



Chris Archer FIA
Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries



Christine Rice FIA
Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

31 March 2014

Aon Hewitt Limited
25 Marsh Street
Bristol
BS1 4AQ

Appendix 1

**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYING BODIES AND CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST
APRIL 2014 TO 31ST MARCH 2015**

	Contributors	Pensioners	Deferred Benefits	Employer Contribution Rate (% of Pensionable Pay) plus additional annual monetary amount
Administering Authority	Number	Number	Number	
City & County of Swansea	8,650	4,721	4,235	22.4%
Scheduled Bodies				
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.	5,327	3,187	4,011	22.5%
Briton Ferry Town Council	0	1	1	-
Cilybebyll Community Council	7	0	1	20.5%
Clydach Community Council	0	0	1	-
Coedffranc Community Council	2	3	1	19.2% (+£3,700)
Gower College Swansea	453	199	376	15.4% (+164,400)
Lliw Valley BC	0	253	27	-
Margam Joint Cremation Committee	5	13	5	19.2% (+£4,600)
NPTC Group	553	191	314	14.7% (+£151,900)
Neath Port Talbot Waste Management Co. Ltd.	0	1	0	-
Neath Town Council	13	15	7	19.2% (+£15,100)
Pelenna Community Council	2	1	3	21.9%
Pontardawe Town Council	5	1	0	19.7%
Swansea Bay Port Health Authority	2	10	1	22.4%
Swansea City Waste Disposal Company	0	18	3	-
University of Wales Trinity St Davids	234	116	187	22.4% (+£225,000)
West Glamorgan County Council	0	2,321	308	-
West Glamorgan Magistrates Courts	0	37	19	-
West Glamorgan Probation Service	0	56	9	-
West Glamorgan Valuation Panel	0	5	0	-
Admitted Bodies				
Babtie	0	3	12	-
Celtic Community Leisure	298	28	117	11.1%
Colin Laver Heating Limited	2	0	2	19.7%
Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council	2	0	1	27.2%
The Careers Business	0	4	11	-
Wales National Pool	54	3	39	14.5%
West Wales Arts Association	0	2	0	-
Capgemini	11	1	4	18.7%
NPT Homes	435	33	54	16.2%
Phoenix Trust	0	1	4	-
Grwp Gwalia	230	37	48	20.4%
Total	16,285	11,261	9,801	

Pension Fund Committee 2014/15

Chairman Cllr R Stewart

Vice Chairman Cllr P Downing

Committee Members Cllr J Newbury

Cllr C Lloyd
Cllr M Thomas
Cllr G Sullivan
Cllr P Rees (Neath Port Talbot CBC)

**Advised by:
Council Officers** M Hawes, Section 151 Officer
J Dong, Chief Treasury & Technical Officer

Financial Advisors V Furniss
N Mills

Investment Managers

- Global Equities - JP Morgan Asset Management, L&G and Aberdeen Asset Management
- UK Equities – Schroders Investment Management and L&G
- Global Balanced Index Tracking - Legal & General
- Global Bonds - Goldman Sachs Asset Management
- Fund of Hedge Funds - Blackrock and Fauchier Partners
- Fund of Private Equity Funds - HarbourVest
- Fund of Property Funds - Partners Group, Schroders Investment Management
- European Property Fund- Invesco Real Estate Europe Fund
- Global Tactical Asset Allocation (GTAA) – Blackrock

Pension Administration : Lynne Miller, Pensions Manager, City & County of Swansea

Appointed Actuary : Aon Hewitt Limited

Performance Measurement : WM Company

Global Custodians : Global Institutional Fund Services (HSBC Security Services)

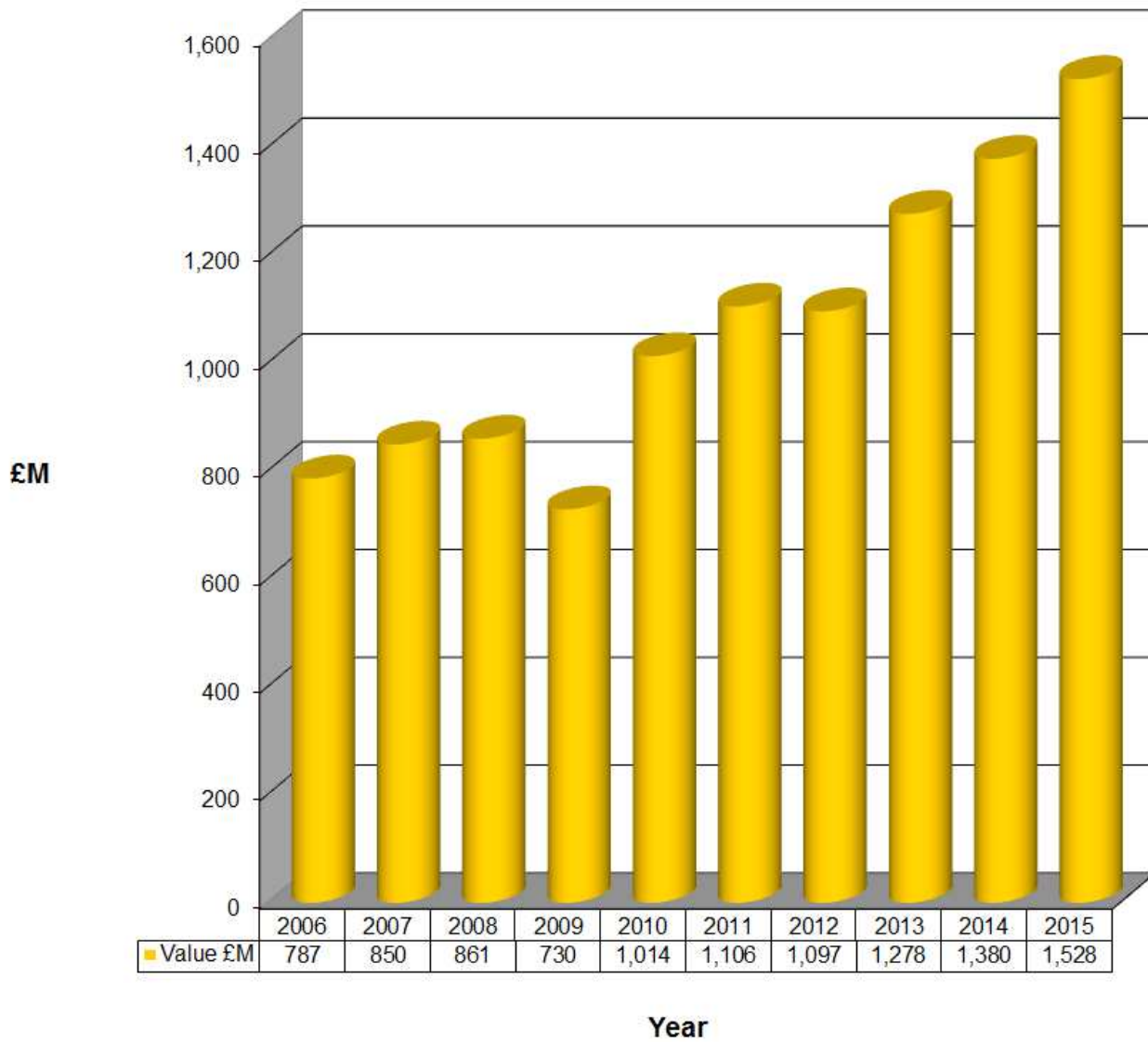
Bankers : Lloyds Bank

Legal Advisors : City & County of Swansea Legal Department

AVC Providers : Prudential, Aegon and Equitable Life

Auditors : PricewaterhouseCoopers

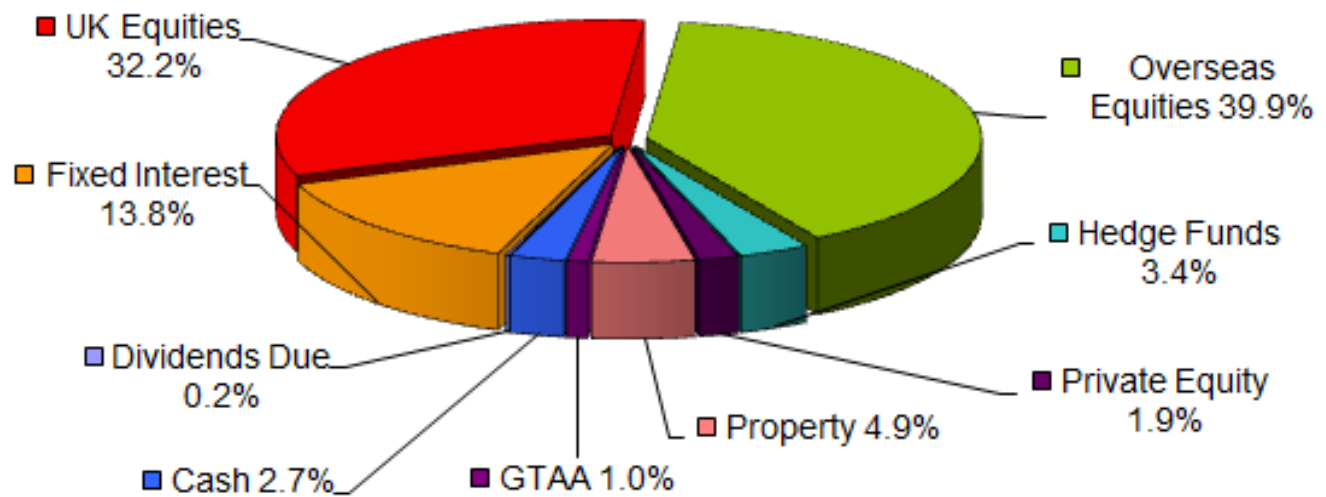
Market Value of Investment Assets 2006-2015



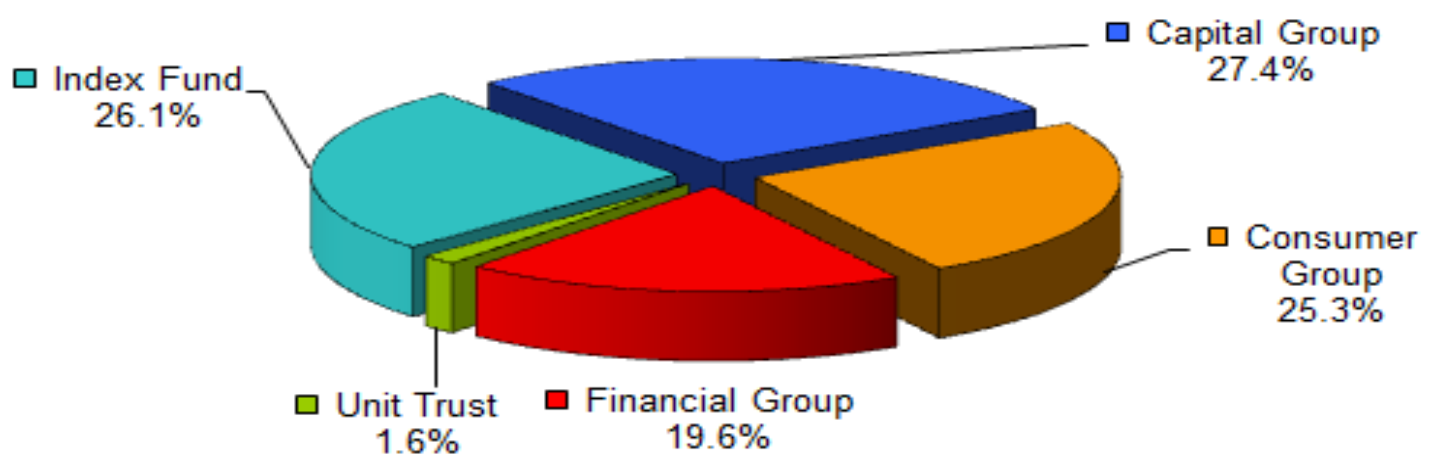
Portfolio Distribution Summary

31 March 2014			31 March 2015		
Market Value			Market Value		
£'000	%		£'000	%	
Fixed Interest Stocks					
181,471	13.1	Fixed Interest	184,168	12.1%	
20,720	1.5	Index Linked	26,518	1.7%	
202,191	14.6		210,686	13.8%	
UK Equities & Convertibles					
126,001	9.1	Capital Group	135,058	8.8%	
108,087	7.8	Consumer Group	124,310	8.1%	
80,102	5.8	Financial Group	96,378	6.3%	
10,378	0.8	Unit Trusts	7,758	0.6%	
128,747	9.3	Index Fund	128,442	8.4%	
453,315	32.8		491,946	32.2%	
Overseas Securities					
137,695	10.0	Europe	133,935	8.8%	
36,630	2.7	Japan	55,482	3.6%	
230,758	16.8	North America	284,083	18.6%	
33,127	2.4	Pacific	39,436	2.6%	
82,787	6.0	Emerging Markets	95,882	6.3%	
520,997	37.9		608,818	39.9%	
49,060	3.6	Hedge Funds	51,522	3.4%	
25,284	1.8	Private Equity	31,162	1.9%	
68,723	5.0	Property	75,400	4.9%	
15,529	1.1	GTAA	15,426	1.0%	
1,335,099	96.8	Sub Total	1,484,960	97.1%	
43,098	3.1	Cash held by Managers & Temporary Investments	40,640	2.7%	
2,063	0.1	Other Investment Balances - Dividends Due	2,527	0.2%	
1,380,260	100	Total	1,528,127	100	

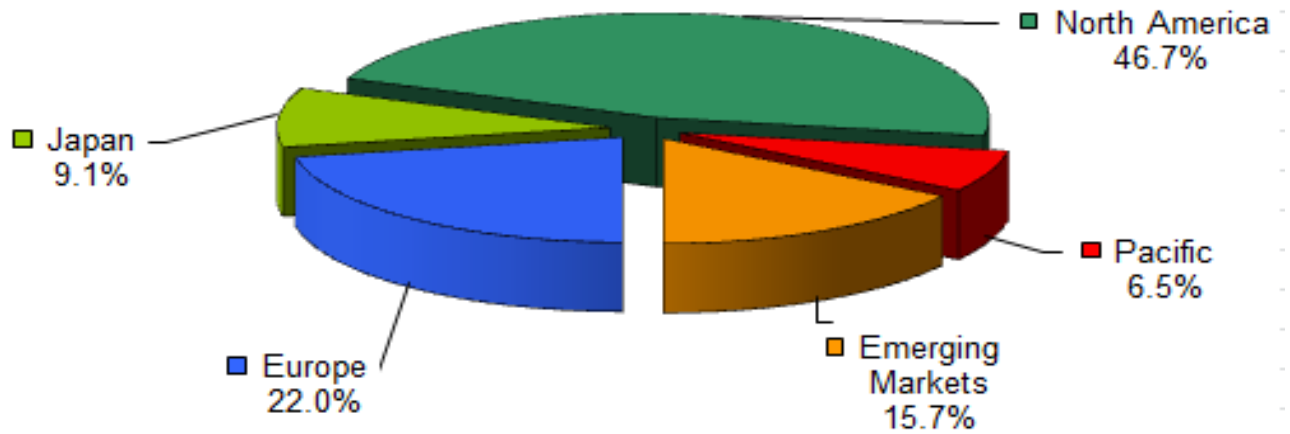
Analysis of Investments - Market Value 31 March 2015



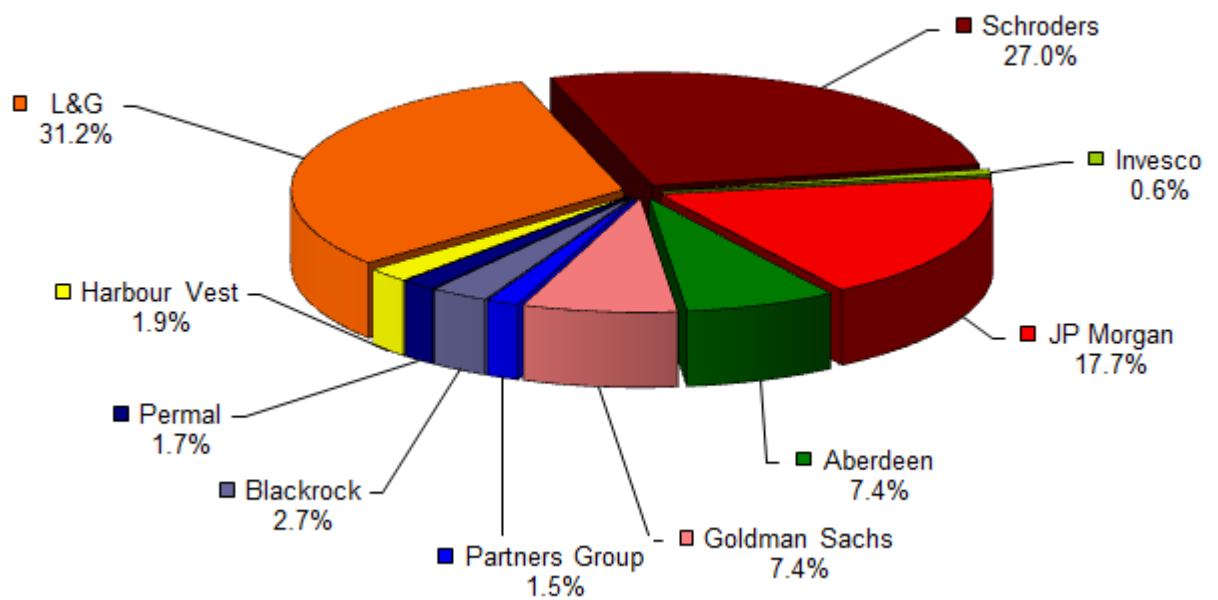
UK Equities by Sector - Market Value 31 March 2015



Overseas Investments - Market Value 31 March 2015



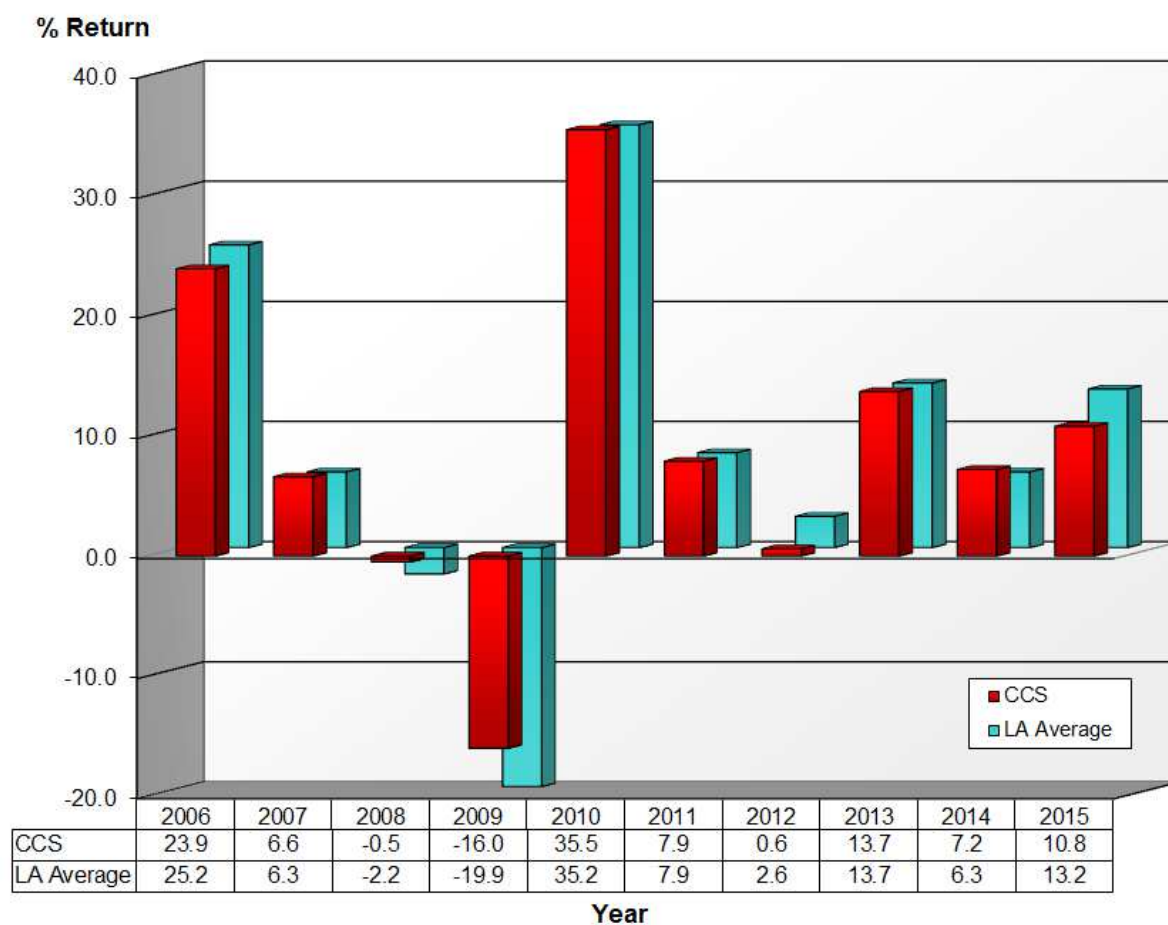
Fund Manager Breakdown - Market Value 31 March 2015



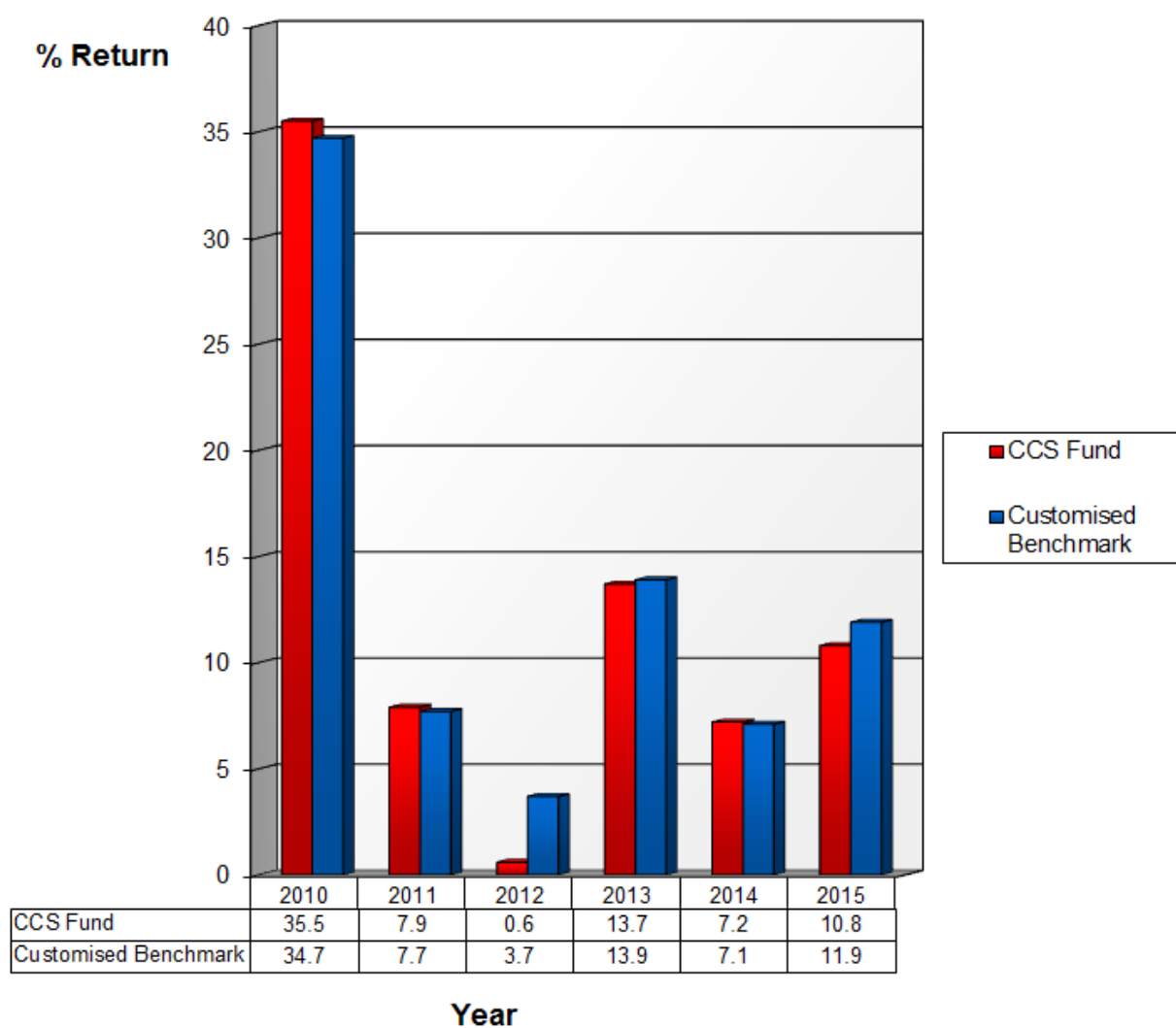
Largest Direct Equity Shareholdings by Market Value as at 31 March 2015

UK Companies	Sector	Market Value £'000s	Proportion of Direct Equity Portfolio (%)
1. <i>Prudential Plc</i>	Financials	17,939	2.48%
2. <i>GlaxoSmithKline Plc</i>	Pharmaceuticals	16,681	2.31%
3. <i>Vodafone Group Plc</i>	Telecommunications	14,530	2.01%
4. <i>HSBC Holdings Plc</i>	Financials	14,337	1.98%
5. <i>Royal Dutch Shell Plc</i>	Oil & Gas	14,093	1.95%
6. <i>AstraZeneca Plc</i>	Healthcare	13,841	1.91%
7. <i>Legal & General Plc</i>	Financials	12,210	1.69%
8. <i>BHP Billiton Plc</i>	Basic Materials	11,639	1.61%
9. <i>Imperial Tobacco Group</i>	Consumer Goods	11,571	1.60%
10. <i>BG Group Plc</i>	Oil & Gas	11,468	1.59%
11. <i>Rolls Royce Plc</i>	Industrial	11,060	1.53%
12. <i>Rio Tinto Plc</i>	Basic Materials	11,050	1.53%
13. <i>Barclays</i>	Financials	10,861	1.50%
14. <i>ITV Plc</i>	Broadcasting	10,559	1.46%
15. <i>Carnival</i>	Consumer Services	10,323	1.43%
16. <i>BT Group Plc</i>	Telecommunications	9,474	1.31%
17. <i>BP Plc</i>	Oil & Gas	9,227	1.28%
18. <i>Unilever Plc</i>	Consumer Goods	8,867	1.23%
19. <i>ICAP Plc</i>	Financials	8,862	1.23%
20. <i>Friends Life Group</i>	Financials	8,791	1.22%
		237,383	32.85%

**Percentage Return on Fund Investments as compared with
the Average Return on Local Authority Funds**



Percentage Return on Fund Investments as compared with the Swansea Customised Benchmark



Human Resources- Pensions Section Performance Measures

Service Objective	Performance Indicator	Target 2014/15	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16
To calculate all types of pension benefits accurately	Payment of retirement benefits to members within 1 month after benefit becomes payable.	85%	60.1%	85%
	Payment of retirement benefits to members within 1 month of the date all information was received.	95%	100%	95%
To deal with transfers both into and out of the scheme	Quotation of transfer value to new pension provider for deferred members within 3 months of request.	90%	93.5%	90%

Appendix 7

Statement of Investment Principles - Updated July 2014

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Amendment) Regulations 1999 and subsequent revisions requires administering authorities to prepare and review from time to time a written statement recording the investment policy of the pension fund. The purpose of this document is to satisfy the requirements of these regulations.
- 1.2 The Local Government Pension Scheme ("the scheme") was established in accordance with statute to provide death and retirement benefits for all eligible employees.
- 1.3 The Council has delegated the investment management of the scheme to an Pension Fund Committee comprising Members of the Council, a full member from Neath Port Talbot Council who decide on the investment policy most suitable to meet the liabilities of the Scheme and the ultimate responsibility for the investment strategy lies with them.
- 1.4 The Pension Fund Committee have obtained and considered advice from the Section 151 Officer, the Chief Treasury Officer, its investment advisers, the Fund's actuary and the Fund's Investment Managers.
- 1.5 This document outlines the broad investment principles governing the investment policy of the Pension Fund. The Pension Fund Committee has delegated the management of the pension fund's investments to professional investment managers whose activities are constrained by detailed Investment Management Agreements.
- 1.6 The Administering Authority ensures compliance with the Regulations and associated guidance issued by DCLG

2. Investment Responsibilities

2.1 The Pension Fund Committee has responsibility for:

- preparing the Statement of Investment Principles
- monitoring compliance with the Statement and reviewing its contents from time to time,
- to establish and keep under review policies to be applied by the Council in exercising its discretion as an administering Authority under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 1997,
- to make recommendations to the Council from time to time on the financial implications for the Pension Fund of discretions available to the Council as an employing authority under the LGPS Regulations 1997,
- to monitor factors likely to affect the solvency of the Pension Fund between the triennial valuations of the Fund by its independent actuary including specifically, the impact of early retirements approved by all employing bodies within the fund,
- to determine the strategic aims for investment of the Fund and the benchmarks by which performance will be measured,
- to arrange for independent investment advice to be available to the Committee at any time,
- determine asset allocation of the investment fund
- to determine, keep under review and, where appropriate, secure changes in the management arrangements for investment of the Pension Fund,
- to monitor on a regular basis against its objectives and benchmarks the Fund's investment performance,
- to ensure effective communication and liaison with other employing bodies within the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund,
- to respond to consultative documents affecting the Local Government Pension Scheme.

2.2 The Investment Managers are responsible for:

- the investment of the pension fund assets in compliance with prevailing legislation, the constraints imposed by this document and the detailed Investment Management Agreements,
- tactical asset allocation around the strategic benchmark, where appropriate and security selection within asset classes,
- preparation of quarterly report including a review of investment performance,
- attending Meetings of the Pension Fund Committee as requested,
- assisting the Section 151 Officer and Pension Fund Committee in the preparation and review of this document,
- preparation of a quarterly statement of compliance with this document,
- voting shares in accordance with the Council's policy.

2.3 The Custodian is responsible for:

- its own compliance with prevailing legislation,
- providing the administering authority with quarterly valuations of the Scheme's assets and details of all transactions during the quarter,
- providing details in a timely manner to WM company for performance measurement,
- collection of income, tax reclaims, exercising corporate administration cash management.

2.4 The Investment Adviser(s) is responsible for:

- assisting the Pension Fund Committee and Section 151 Officer in the preparation and review of this document,
- assisting the Pension Fund Committee and Section 151 Officer in their regular monitoring of the investment managers performance, and
- assisting the Pension Fund Committee and Section 151 Officer in the selection and appointment of investment managers and custodians
- regular reporting on the performance of the fund managers and providing market commentary as necessary
- assisting and advising the Pension Fund Committee of investment strategies and appropriate asset allocation strategy.
- advising the Pension Fund Committee and the Section 151 Officer in market developments generally and changes in the pension fund investment world.

2.5 The Actuary is responsible for:

- providing advice as to the maturity of the Scheme and its funding level in order to aid the Pension Fund Committee in balancing the short term and long term objectives of the pension fund and in compliance with legislation
- Undertaking the statutory periodic valuation
- certifying the employers' contribution rates.

2.6 The Section 151 Officer is responsible for:

- ensuring compliance with this document and bringing breaches thereof to the attention of the Pension Fund Committee, and
- ensuring that this document is regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with the Regulations,
- advising the Pension Fund Committee in relation to its duties listed above,
- reporting to the Pension Fund Committee on the fund's compliance with its superannuation regulations as well as the performance of its investments and all other matters to be considered under the Committees responsibilities.
- to apply the policies agreed by the Pension Fund Committee on the Council's behalf in its role as administering authority in response to decisions taken by employing Authorities within the Fund.
- to consult and maintain liaison with the Fund's independent adviser, actuary and performance measurer, whenever appropriate,
- to approve in cases of urgency investment decisions which fund managers are required to refer to the Committee. Such approval is to be given only after consultation with the independent adviser and the Chair and/or Vice Chair of the Pension Fund Committee,
- to maintain contact with the appointed fund managers and with other fund managers, where appropriate,
- to release cash available for investment to managers in accordance with agreed arrangements and to invest temporarily cash held by the Council.
- to administer custody arrangements in liaison with the appointed custodians.

3. The Scheme's Liabilities

- 3.1 The Pension Fund is a defined benefit scheme that provides benefits related to final salary for members. Each member's pension is specified in terms of a formula based on salary and service and is unaffected by the investment return achieved on the Scheme's assets. Full details of Scheme benefits are set out in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

- 3.2 All active members of the Scheme are required to make pension contributions which are based upon a fixed percentage of their pensionable pay as defined in the regulations.
- 3.3 The employing bodies are responsible for meeting the balance of costs necessary to finance the benefits payable from the Scheme. Employers contribution rates are determined triennially based on the advice of the Scheme's actuary and are subject to inter-valuation monitoring.

4. Investment Policy

- 4.1 The strategic investment aim of the Pension Fund is to achieve the maximum return consistent with acceptable levels of risk and the long-term nature of the Fund's liabilities consistent with the appointed fund actuary's long term assumptions on investment returns
- 4.2 The investment policy is to appoint expert fund managers with clear performance benchmarks and to place maximum accountability for performance against that benchmark with the fund manager.
- 4.3 A comprehensive review of the Management Arrangements was undertaken in June 2007 and has been continually assessed and reviewed and is currently as follows, however it should be noted that the Pension Fund Committee approved an allocation to an investment in infrastructure in December 2013. The OJEU process is currently ongoing:

	Asset Allocation	Fund Manager		Benchmark	Performance
Asset Class		Passive	Active		
UK Equities	34% +/- 5%	14%	20% Schroders	FTSE allshare	+3% p.a. over rolling 3year
Overseas Equities	34% +/- 5%	13% (L&G)	21% JP Morgan and Aberdeen	MSCI World all share (ex UK) MSCI Frontier Mrkts Index	+3% p.a. over rolling 3year + % p.a. over rolling 3 year
Global Fixed Interest	15% +/- 5%	6% (L&G)	9% Goldman Sachs	Libor	Libor +3%
Property	5% +/- 5%	-	5% Schroders, Partners and Invesco	IPD, cash, absolute	+ 1% p.a. over rolling 3 year
Hedge Funds	5% +/- 5%	-	5% Blackrock and Permal (formerly Fauchier)	LIBOR	+4%
Private Equity	3% +/- 5%	-	3% Harbourvest	FTSE allshare	+3% p.a. over 3 year rolling
Global Tactical Asset Allocation	2% +/- 5%	-	2% Blackrock	LIBOR	+4% over 3 year rolling
Cash	2% +/- 5%	-	2% in house and cash flows of fund managers	7day LIBID	=
TOTAL	100%	33%	67%		

5. The Expected Return on Investments

- 5.1 The strategic aim of the Fund is to achieve the maximum return consistent with acceptable levels of risk pertinent to each asset class and the long-term nature of the Fund's liabilities.

- 5.2 In order to achieve the strategic aim, the Fund has set relevant asset class specific benchmark against which performance and risk can be measured
- 5.3 The fund has also agreed performance fees for achieving outperformance targets.
- 5.4 The passive manager is required to achieve, over the longer term, a total return close to that of the respective market indices it tracks..

6. Risk

6.1 Performance Risk

The active managers are required to operate within a risk profile appropriate to each individual asset class in order to achieve agreed outperformance targets.

6.2 Asset Risk

Except for pooled/unitised funds, all externally managed assets are held in the Fund's name on its behalf by our appointed global Custodian. Units of pooled funds are listed in the Fund's name by the relevant manager.

6.3 Market Risk

The fund operates within the limits required by the Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Regulations and is thus exposed to no greater market risk than the Regulations allow. In accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 1998 and subsequent revisions the limits set out in those regulations will apply.

7. Types of Investments to be Held

- 7.1 Asset allocation has been determined by an investment review. The mix of assets is outlined in 4.3

7.3 Stocklending

Stocklending is not currently undertaken in the portfolio, however it will be considered if analysis of the portfolio identifies stock which can generate

additional revenue for the fund. Voting, collateral requirements and due diligence considerations will be paramount in these considerations.

7.4 Underwriting

Underwriting of share issues by the fund managers is permitted.

8. The balance between different types of Investment

- 8.1 The asset allocation of the fund is identified in 4.3. The balance between the different types of investment will be monitored and will be 're-balanced by the use of derivative overlays to ensure asset allocation alignment as per the Committees asset allocation decision in 4.3 if deemed appropriate. Acceptable tolerances for the affected asset classes are +/- 5%.

9. The Realisation of Investments

It is recognised that as part of its diversification strategy, the pension fund invests in some asset classes for the long term and these are illiquid in their nature e.g. property and private equity. The main asset classes (equities, bonds and cash) will be readily realisable to meet any cash flow demands as required, however it is recognised that the fund is cash positive and normal cash demands can be satisfied from normal cash inflows.

10. Social, Environmental and Ethical Considerations

The Pension Fund Committee's policy is to encourage positive behaviour by companies through its investments. It is believed that influence in this way is currently effective. The Fund exercises this policy through the external investment managers by contact with company management and through exercising voting rights.

In addition, the overriding duty on the Council is to ensure the best returns on investments consistent with acceptable levels of risk. The Committee believes that companies behaving properly will, over time, generally be the ones that also provide good returns.

The question of actively investing in funds badged as 'ethical' or 'socially responsible' remains under consideration and the Pension Fund Committee will continue to monitor the investment performance of such funds as they develop.

11. Corporate Governance

The Investment Managers are required to exercise voting rights on behalf of the Fund when it is in the best interests of the Fund, and in accordance with the Managers' corporate governance policies. The Pension Fund Committee retains the right to instruct the managers at any time to vote according to the Committees wishes on a particular resolution.

12. Principles for Investment Decision Making

In 2000 the UK Government commissioned a review of institutional investment in the UK, known as 'the Myners Review'.

In response to the Myners' proposals, the Government issued a set of ten investment principles. Subsequently, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), published the document 'Principles for Investment Decision Making in the Local Government Pension Scheme', which sets out the ten principles and practical guidance on their application to LGPS.

The Appendix to this document sets out the six principles and the fund's compliance with the same.

Appendix 1

Compliance with CIPFA's 'Principles for Investment Decision Making in the Local Government Scheme in the UK'

1. Effective Decision Making

Compliant. The committee has produced a business plan indicating key milestones and dates for decision in the forthcoming year.

2. Clear Objectives

Compliant. Each asset class and manager appointed has been set appropriate benchmark and performance target whilst the fund's overall objective remains : The strategic investment aim of the Pension Fund is to achieve the maximum return consistent with acceptable levels of risk and the long-term nature of the Fund's liabilities

3. Risk And Liabilities

Compliant. Asset allocation has been determined by comprehensive investment review approved by the Pension Fund Committee in June 2007, being mindful of strength of covenant of the scheme sponsor and profile of the scheme.

4. Performance Assessment

Compliant Performance is appraised constantly by the in house officers whilst formalised monitoring is undertaken by the investment sub group and full pension committee at quarterly meetings

5. Responsible Ownership

Compliant. Explicit investment management arrangements are in place with each appointed manager who is delegated responsibility for discharging corporate responsibility. The Authority is also working with its appointed investment managers to sign up to the UN's Principles of Responsible Investing (UNPRI)

6. Transparency and Reporting

Compliant. Regular reporting takes place on a quarterly basis with the Pension Committee, whilst a full annual consultative meeting is convened to review the annual report. Regular road shows and meetings are held with employers as and when.

Appendix 8

Funding Strategy Statement

Section 1 Introduction

Overview

This Statement, originally prepared in accordance with Regulation 76A of the Local Government Regulations 1997 has been reviewed in accordance with Regulation 35 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (the LGPS Regulations). The Statement describes City and County of Swansea's strategy, in its capacity as Administering Authority (the Administering Authority), for the funding of the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund (the Fund).

As required by Administration Regulation 35(3)(a), the Statement has been prepared having regard to guidance published by CIPFA in March 2004.

Consultation

In accordance with Administration Regulation 35(3)(b), all employers participating within the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund have been consulted on the contents of this Statement and their views have been taken into account in formulating the Statement. However, the Statement describes a single strategy for the Fund as a whole.

In addition, the Administering Authority has had regard to the Fund's Statement of Investment Principles published under Regulation 12 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (the Investment Regulations).

The Fund Actuary, Aon Hewitt, has also been consulted on the contents of this Statement.

Policy Purpose

The three main purposes of this Funding Strategy Statement are:

- To establish a clear and transparent strategy, specific to the Fund, which will identify how employer's pension liabilities are best met going forward.

- To support the regulatory requirement in relation to the desirability of maintaining as nearly constant employer contribution rates as possible.
- To take a prudent longer-term view of funding the Fund's liabilities.

Links to investment policy set out in the Statement of Investment Principles

The Authority has produced this Funding Strategy Statement having taken an overall view of the level of risk inherent in the investment policy set out in the Statement of Investment Principles and the funding strategy set out in this Statement.

The assets that most closely match the liabilities of the Fund are fixed interest and index-linked Government bonds of appropriate term relative to the liabilities. The Fund's asset allocation as set out in the Statement of Investment Principles invests a significant proportion of the Fund in assets such as equities which are expected but not guaranteed to produce higher returns than Government bonds in the long term. The Administering Authority has agreed with the Fund Actuary that the Funding Target on the ongoing basis will be set after making some allowance for this higher expected return. However, the Administering Authority recognises that outperformance is not guaranteed and that, in the absence of any other effects, if the higher expected returns are not achieved the solvency position of the Fund will deteriorate.

The funding strategy recognises the investment targets and the inherent volatility arising from the investment strategy, by being based on financial assumptions which are consistent with the expected average return, and by including measures that can be used to smooth out the impact of such volatility.

The Administering Authority will continue to review both documents to ensure that the overall risk profile remains appropriate including, where appropriate, the use of asset liability modelling or other analysis techniques.

Review of this Statement

The Administering Authority undertook its latest substantive review of this Statement between January and March 2014.

The Administering Authority formally reviewed this Statement as part of the triennial valuation as at 31 March 2013.

The Administering Authority will monitor the funding position of the Fund on an approximate basis at regular intervals between valuations, and will discuss with the Fund Actuary whether any significant changes have arisen that require action.

Section 2

The Aims and Purpose of the Fund

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to invest monies in respect of contributions, transfer values and investment income to produce a Fund to pay Scheme benefits over the long term and in so doing to smooth out the contributions required from employers over the long term.

Aims of the Fund

The main aims of the Fund are:

a) To comply with regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 and specifically to adequately fund benefits to secure the Fund's solvency while taking account of the desirability of maintaining as nearly constant employer contribution rates as possible

The Administering Authority recognises that the requirement to keep employer contribution rates as nearly constant as possible can run counter to the following requirements:

- the regulatory requirement to secure solvency
- the requirement that the costs should be reasonable, and
- maximising income from investments within reasonable cost parameters (see later)

Producing low volatility in employer contribution rates requires material investment in assets which 'match' the employer's liabilities. In this context, 'match' means assets which behave in a similar manner to the liabilities as economic conditions alter. For the liabilities represented by benefits payable by the Local Government Pension Scheme, such assets would tend to comprise gilt edged investments.

Other classes of assets, such as stocks, are perceived to offer higher long term rates of return, on average, and consistent with the requirement to maximise the returns from investments the Administering Authority invests a substantial proportion of the Fund in such assets. However, these assets are more risky in nature, and that risk can manifest itself in volatile returns over short term periods.

This short term volatility in investment returns can produce a consequent volatility in

the measured funding position of the Fund at successive valuations, with knock on effects on employer contribution rates. The impact on employer rates can be mitigated by use of smoothing adjustments at each valuation.

The Administering Authority recognises that there is a balance to be struck between the investment policy adopted, the smoothing mechanisms used at valuations, and the resultant smoothness of employer contribution rates from one valuation period to the next.

The Administering Authority also recognises that the position is potentially more volatile for Admission Bodies with short term contracts where utilisation of smoothing mechanisms is less appropriate.

b) To ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet all liabilities as they fall due.

The Administering Authority recognises the need to ensure that the Fund has, at all times, sufficient liquid assets to be able to pay pensions, transfer values, costs, charges and other expenses. It is the Administering Authority's policy that such expenditure is met, in the first instance, from incoming employer and employee contributions to avoid the expense of disinvesting assets. The Administering Authority monitors the position on a monthly basis to ensure that all cash requirements can be met.

c) To manage employers' liabilities effectively.

The Administering Authority seeks to ensure that all employers' liabilities are managed effectively. In a funding context, this is achieved by seeking regular actuarial advice, ensuring that employers and committee members are properly informed, and through regular monitoring of the funding position.

d) To maximise the income from investments within reasonable risk parameters.

The Administering Authority recognises the desirability of maximising investment income within reasonable risk parameters. Investment returns higher than those available on Government stocks are sought through investment in other asset classes such as stocks and property. The Administering Authority ensures that risk parameters are reasonable by:

- restricting investment to the levels permitted by the Investment Regulations.
- restricting investment to asset classes generally recognised as appropriate for UK pension funds
- analysing the potential risk represented by those asset classes in collaboration with

the Fund's Actuary, Investment Advisors and Fund Managers.

Section 3

Responsibilities of the Key Parties

The three parties whose responsibilities to the Fund are of particular relevance are the Administering Authority, the individual employers and the Fund Actuary.

Their key responsibilities are as follows:

The Administering Authority will:

- Collect employer and employee contributions and, as far as the Administering Authority is able to, ensure these contributions are paid by the due date.
- Invest surplus monies in accordance with the Regulations.
- Ensure that cash is available to meet liabilities as and when they fall due.
- Manage the valuation process in consultation with the Fund's Actuary
- Ensure it communicates effectively with the Fund Actuary to:
 - Agree timescales for the provision of information and provision of valuation results
 - Ensure provision of data of suitable accuracy
 - Ensure that the Fund Actuary is clear about the content of the Funding Strategy Statement
 - Ensure that participating employers receive appropriate communication throughout the process
 - Ensure that reports are made available as required by relevant guidance and Regulations
- Prepare and maintain a Statement of Investment Principles and a Funding Strategy Statement after due consultation with interested parties.
- Monitor all aspects of the Fund's performance and funding.

Individual Employers

Individual Employers will:

- Deduct contributions from employees' pay.
- Pay all contributions, including their employer contribution as determined by the actuary, promptly by the due date.
- Exercise discretion within the regulatory framework.
- Pay for added years in accordance with agreed arrangements.
- Notify the administering authority promptly of all changes to membership, or other changes which affect future funding

Fund Actuary

The Fund Actuary will:

- Prepare valuations including the setting of employers' contribution rates after agreeing assumptions with the administering authority and having regard to the Funding Strategy Statement.
- Prepare advice and calculations in connection with bulk transfers and individual benefit-related matters.

Such advice will take account of the funding position and Strategy of the Fund, along with other relevant matters.

Section 4

Funding Target, Solvency and Notional Sub-Funds

Funding principle

The Fund is financed on the principle that it seeks to provide funds sufficient to enable payment of 100% of the benefits promised.

Funding Targets and assumptions regarding future investment strategy

The Funding Target is the amount of assets which the Fund needs to hold at any point in time such that the funds held, plus future anticipated investment returns on those funds, and taking into account the anticipated future experience of the membership and contributions due from the membership, meet the funding principle.

Some comments on the principles used to derive the Funding Target for different bodies in the Fund are set out below.

Scheduled Bodies and certain other bodies open to new entrants

The Administering Authority will adopt a general approach in this regard of assuming indefinite investment in a broad range of assets of higher risk than low risk assets for Scheduled Bodies and certain other bodies which are long term in nature.

Admission Bodies and bodies closed to new entrants

For Admission Bodies the Administering Authority will have specific regard to the potential for participation to cease (or to have no contributing members), the potential timing of such cessation, and any likely change in notional or actual investment strategy as regards the assets held in respect of the Admission Body's liabilities at the date of cessation (i.e. whether the liabilities will become 'orphaned' or whether a guarantor exists to subsume the notional assets and liabilities).

Orphan liabilities

These are liabilities with no access to funding from any employer in the Fund. To minimise the risk to other employers in the Fund the assets notionally related to these liabilities will be assumed to be invested in low risk investments. This is described in more detail later in this document

Full Funding

The Fund is deemed to be fully funded when the assets held are equal to 100% of the Funding Target. When assets held are greater than this amount the Fund is deemed to be in surplus, and when assets held are less than this amount the Fund is deemed to be in deficiency

Solvency and 'funding success'

The Fund's primary aim is long-term solvency. Accordingly, employers' contributions will be set to ensure that 100% of the liabilities can be met over the long term.

The Fund is deemed to be solvent when the assets held are equal to or greater than 100% of the Funding Target.

A further Aspirational Funding Target is set by reference to a similar level of prudence as used for the actuarial valuation of the Fund carried out as at 31 March 2007.

The Administering Authority deems funding success to have been achieved if the Fund, at the end of the Recovery Period, is fully funded on the basis of the Aspirational Funding Target.

Other Aspects of Funding Strategy

Recovery Periods

Where a valuation reveals that the Fund is in surplus or deficiency against this solvency measure, employer contribution rates will be adjusted to target restoration of

fully funding the solvent position over a period of years (the Recovery period). The Recovery period applicable for each participating employer is set by the Administering Authority in consultation with the Fund Actuary and the employer, with a view to balancing the various funding requirements against the risks involved due to such issues as the financial strength of the employer and the nature of its participation in the Fund.

The Administering Authority recognises that a large proportion of the Fund's liabilities are expected to arise as benefit payments over long periods of time. For employers of sound covenant, the Administering Authority is prepared to agree to recovery periods which are longer than the average future working lifetime of the membership of that employer. The Administering Authority recognises that such an approach is consistent with the aim of keeping employer contribution rates as nearly constant as possible. However, the Administering Authority also recognises the risk in relying on long recovery periods and has agreed with the Fund Actuary a limit of 30 years. The Administering Authority's policy is to agree recovery periods with each employer which are as short as possible within this framework.

For employers whose participation in the fund is for a fixed period it is unlikely that the Administering Authority and Fund Actuary would agree to a recovery period longer than the remaining term of participation.

Grouping

In some circumstances it may be desirable to group employers within the Fund together for funding purposes (ie to calculate employer contribution rates). Reasons might include reduction of volatility of contribution rates for small employers, facilitating situations where employers have a common source of funding or accommodating employers who wish to share the risks related to their participation in the Fund.

The Administering Authority recognises that grouping can give rise to cross subsidies from one employer to another over time. The Administering Authority's policy is to consider the position carefully at each valuation and to notify each employer that is grouped that this is the case, and which other employers it is grouped with. If the employer objects to this grouping, it will be set its own contribution rate. For employers with more than 50 contributing members, the Administering Authority would look for evidence of homogeneity between employers before considering grouping. For employers whose participation is for a fixed period grouping is unlikely to be permitted.

Employers may be grouped entirely, such that all of the risks of participation are shared, or only partially grouped such that only specified risks are shared.

Where employers are grouped together for funding purposes, this will only occur with the consent of the employers involved.

All employers in the Fund are grouped together in respect of the risks associated with payment of lump sum benefits on death in service – in other words, the cost of such benefits is shared across the employers in the Fund. Such lump sum benefits can cause funding strains which could be significant for some of the smaller employers without insurance or sharing of risks. The Fund, in view of its size, does not see it as cost effective or necessary to insure these benefits externally and this is seen as a pragmatic and low cost approach to spreading the risk.

Stepping

Again, consistent with the requirement to keep employer contribution rates as nearly constant as possible, the Administering Authority will consider, at each valuation, whether new contribution rates should be payable immediately, or should be reached by a series of steps over future years. The Administering Authority will discuss with the Fund Actuary the risks inherent in such an approach, and will examine the financial impact and risks associated with each employer. The Administering Authority's policy is that in the normal course of events no more than three equal annual steps will be permitted. Further steps may be permitted in extreme cases in consultation with the Actuary, but the total is very unlikely to exceed six steps.

Inter-valuation funding calculations

In order to monitor developments, the Administering Authority may from time to time request informal valuations or other calculations. Generally, in such cases the calculations will be based on an approximate roll forward of asset and liability values, and liabilities calculated by reference to assumptions consistent with the most recent preceding valuation. Specifically, it is unlikely that the liabilities would be calculated using individual membership data, and nor would the assumptions be subject to review as occurs at formal triennial valuations.

Notional Sub-Funds for individual employers

Notional sub-funds

In order to establish contribution rates for individual employers or groups of employers it is convenient to notionally subdivide the Fund as a whole between the employers (or group of employers where grouping operates), as if each employer had its own notional sub-fund within the Fund.

This subdivision is for funding purposes only. It is purely notional in nature and does not imply any formal subdivision of assets, nor ownership of any particular assets or groups of assets by any individual employer or group.

Roll-forward of sub-funds

The notional sub-fund allocated to each employer will be rolled forward allowing for all cashflows associated with that employer's membership, including contribution income, benefit outgo, transfers in and out and investment income allocated as set out below. In general no allowance is made for the timing of contributions and cashflows for each year are assumed to be made half way through the year with investment returns assumed to be uniformly earned over that year.

Further adjustments are made for:

- A notional deduction to meet the expenses paid from the Fund in line with the assumption used at the previous valuation.
- Allowance for any known material internal transfers in the Fund (cashflows will not exist for these transfers). The Fund Actuary will assume an estimated cashflow equal to the value of the liabilities determined consistent with the Funding Target transferred from one employer to the other unless some other approach has been agreed between the two employers.
- An overall adjustment to ensure the notional assets attributed to each employer is equal to the total assets of the Fund which will take into account any gains or losses related to the orphan liabilities.

In some cases information available will not allow for such cashflow calculations. In such a circumstance:

- Where, in the opinion of the Fund Actuary, the cashflow data which is unavailable is of low materiality, estimated cashflows will be used
- Where, in the opinion of the Fund Actuary, the cashflow data which is unavailable is material, the Fund Actuary will instead use an analysis of gains and losses to roll forward the notional sub-fund. Analysis of gains and losses methods are less precise than use of cashflows and involve calculation of gains and losses relative to the surplus or deficiency exhibited at the previous valuation. Having established an expected surplus or deficiency at this valuation, comparison of this with the liabilities evaluated at this valuation leads to an implied notional asset holding.

Analysis of gains and losses methods will also be used where the results of the cashflow approach appears to give unreliable results perhaps because of unknown internal transfers.

Attribution of investment income (Optional)

Where the Administering Authority has agreed with an employer that it will have a tailored asset portfolio notionally allocated to it, the assets notionally allocated to that employer will be credited with a rate of return appropriate to the agreed notional asset portfolio.

Where the employer has not been allocated a tailored notional portfolio of assets, the assets notionally allocated to that employer will be credited with the rate of return earned by the Fund assets as a whole, adjusted for any return credited to those employers for whom a tailored notional asset portfolio exists.

Section 5

Special Circumstances Related to Admission Bodies

Interim reviews for Admission Bodies

Regulation 38(4) of the Administration Regulations provides the Administering Authority with a power to carry out valuations in respect of Admission Bodies, and for the Actuary to certify revised contribution rates, between triennial valuation dates.

The Administering Authority's overriding objective at all times in relation to Admission Bodies is that, where possible, there is clarity over the Funding Target for that body, and that contribution rates payable are appropriate for that Funding Target. However, this is not always possible as any date of cessation of participation may be unknown (for example, participation may be assumed at present to be indefinite), and also because market conditions change daily.

The Administering Authority's general approach in this area is as follows:

- Where the date of cessation is known, and is more than 3 years hence, or is unknown and assumed to be indefinite, interim valuations will generally not be carried out at the behest of the Administering Authority.
- For Transferee Admission Bodies falling into the above category, the Administering Authority sees it as the responsibility of the relevant Scheme Employer to instruct it if an interim valuation is required. Such an exercise would be at the expense of the relevant Scheme Employer unless otherwise agreed.
- A material change in circumstances, such as the date of cessation becoming known, material membership movements or material financial information coming to light may cause the Administering Authority to informally review the situation and subsequently formally request an interim valuation.
- For admissions due to cease within the next 3 years, the Administering Authority will keep an eye on developments and may see fit to request an interim valuation at any time.

Notwithstanding the above guidelines, the Administering Authority reserves the right to request an interim valuation of any Admission Body at any time in accordance with Regulation 38(4).

Guarantors

Some Admission Bodies may participate in the Fund by virtue of the existence of a Guarantor. The Administering Authority maintains a list of employers and their associated Guarantors. The Administering Authority, unless notified otherwise, sees the duty of a Guarantor to include the following:

- If an Admission Body ceases and defaults on any of its financial obligations to the Fund, the Guarantor is expected to provide finance to the Fund such that the Fund receives the amount certified by the Fund Actuary as due, including any interest payable thereon.
- If the Guarantor is an employer in the Fund and is judged to be of suitable covenant by the Administering Authority, the Guarantor may defray some of the financial liability by subsuming the residual liabilities into its own pool of Fund liabilities. In other words, it agrees to be a source of future funding in respect of those liabilities should future deficiencies emerge.
- During the period of participation of the Admission Body a Guarantor can at any time agree to the future subsumption of any residual liabilities of an Admission Body. The effect of that action would be to reduce the Funding Target for the Admission Body, which would probably lead to reduced contribution requirements.

Bonds and other securitization

Regulation 6 of the Administration Regulations creates a requirement for provision of risk reviews and bonds in certain circumstances. The Administering Authority's approach in this area is as follows:

- In the case of Transferee Admission Bodies admitted under Regulation 6(2)(a) of the Administration Regulations, and so long as the Administering Authority judges the relevant Scheme Employer to be of sufficiently sound covenant, any bond exists purely to protect the relevant Scheme Employer on default of the Admission Body. As such, it is entirely the responsibility of the relevant Scheme Employer to arrange any risk assessments and decide the level of required bond. The Administering Authority will be pleased to supply some standard calculations provided by the Fund Actuary to aid the relevant Scheme Employer, but this should not be construed as advice to the relevant Scheme Employer on this matter. The Administering Authority notes that levels of required bond cover can fluctuate and recommends that relevant Scheme Employers review the required cover regularly, at least once a year.
- In the case of Transferee Admission Bodies admitted under Regulation 6(2)(a) of the Administration Regulations, where the Administering Authority does not judge the relevant Scheme Employer to be of sufficiently strong covenant, the

Administering Authority must be involved in the assessment of the required level of bond to protect the Fund. The admission will only be able to proceed once the Administering Authority has agreed the level of bond cover. The Administering Authority notes that levels of required bond cover can fluctuate and will require the relevant Scheme Employer to jointly review the required cover with it regularly, at least once a year.

- In the case of Transferee Admission Bodies admitted under Regulation 6(2)(b) of the Administration Regulations, the Administering Authority must be involved in the assessment of the required level of bond to protect the Fund. The admission will only be able to proceed once the Administering Authority has agreed the level of bond cover. The Administering Authority notes that levels of required bond cover can fluctuate and will review the required cover regularly, at least once a year.

Subsumed liabilities

Where an employer is ceasing participation in the Fund such that it will no longer have any contributing members, it is possible that another employer in the Fund agrees to provide a source of future funding in respect of any emerging deficiencies in respect of those liabilities.

In such circumstances the liabilities are known as subsumed liabilities (in that responsibility for them is subsumed by the accepting employer). For such liabilities the Administering Authority will assume that the investments held in respect of those liabilities will be the same as those held for the rest of the liabilities of the accepting employer. Generally this will mean assuming continued investment in more risky investments than Government bonds.

Orphan liabilities

Where an employer is ceasing participation in the Fund such that it will no longer have any contributing members, unless any residual liabilities are to become subsumed liabilities, the Administering Authority will act on the basis that it will have no further access for funding from that employer once any cessation valuation, carried out in accordance with Administration Regulation 38, has been completed and any sums due have been paid. Residual liabilities of employers from whom no further funding can be obtained are known as orphan liabilities.

The Administering Authority will seek to minimise the risk to other employers in the Fund that any deficiency arises on the orphan liabilities such that this creates a cost for those other employers to make good the deficiency. To give effect to this, the Administering Authority will seek funding from the outgoing employer sufficient to

enable it to match the liabilities with low risk investments, generally Government fixed interest and index linked bonds.

To the extent that the Administering Authority decides not to match these liabilities with Government bonds of appropriate term then any excess or deficient returns will be added to or deducted from the investment return to be attributed to the employer's notional assets.

Smoothing of contribution rates for admission bodies

The Administering Authority recognises that a balance needs to be struck as regards the financial demands made of admission bodies. On the one hand, the Administering Authority requires all admission bodies to be fully self funding, such that other employers in the Fund are not subject to levels of expense as a consequence of the participation of those admission bodies. On the other hand, in extreme circumstances, requiring full funding may precipitate failure of the body in question, leading to significant costs for other participating employers.

In circumstances which the Administering Authority judges to be extreme, the Administering Authority will engage with the City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, as the dominant employers in the Fund, with a view to seeking agreement that the requirement that contribution rates target Full Funding can be temporarily relaxed.

Additionally, the Administering Authority may seek agreement from the City and County of Swansea and/or Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that, should an admission body cease participation in the Fund during the relaxation period, it would provide a source of future funding for any deficiency developing in the Fund in respect of residual liabilities of the admission body (this process is called 'Subsumption' for the purposes of this document).

Such action has three implications:

- During any period when the requirement for targeting Full Funding has been relaxed, contribution rates for admission bodies can if necessary be set at a level lower than full funding would require.
- Should an admission body leave the Fund during a period when contribution rates do not target Full Funding, the funding requirement in any cessation valuation carried out under Regulation 38 will be reduced to the extent that contributions, on a cumulative basis, have fallen short of what continued targeting of Full Funding would require. Where the admission body has a deficiency, relative to the Full Funding requirement, and also a deficiency

relative to this reduced cessation valuation requirement, the admission body will only be required to make the position good up to the reduced cessation valuation requirement. Any consequent shortfall in the Fund relative to the Full Funding requirement will fall as a liability to the City and County of Swansea or Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, to be met through adjustments to its contribution rate as part of future actuarial valuation exercises.

- Should an admission body leave the Fund during a period where the City and County of Swansea or Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has agreed to subsumption of residual liabilities, the cessation funding requirement will be reduced to reflect the Fund's continuing access to funding, should a deficiency emerge in the future in respect of those liabilities.

At subsequent valuations the position will be reassessed with a view to returning admission bodies to paying contributions which target Full Funding.

Cessation of participation

Where an Admission Body ceases participation, a cessation valuation will be carried out in accordance with Administration Regulation 38. That valuation will take account of any activity as a consequence of cessation of participation regarding any existing contributing members (for example any bulk transfer payments due) and the status of any liabilities that will remain in the Fund.

In particular, the cessation valuation will distinguish between residual liabilities which will become orphan liabilities, and liabilities which will be subsumed by other employers. For orphan liabilities the Funding Target in the cessation valuation will anticipate investment in low risk investments such as Government bonds. For subsumed liabilities the cessation valuation will anticipate continued investment in assets similar to those held in respect of the subsuming employer's liabilities.

Regardless of whether the residual liabilities are orphan liabilities or subsumed liabilities, the departing employer will be expected to make good the funding position revealed in the cessation valuation. In other words, the fact that liabilities may become subsumed liabilities does not remove the possibility of a cessation payment being required.

Section 6

Identification of Risks and Counter Measures

Approach

The Administering Authority seeks to identify all risks to the Fund and to consider the position both in aggregate and at an individual risk level. The Administering Authority will monitor the risks to the Fund, and will take appropriate action to limit the impact of these both before, and after, they emerge wherever possible. The main risks to the Fund are considered below:

Choice of Funding Target

The Administering Authority recognises that future experience and investment income cannot be predicted with certainty. Instead, there is a range of possible outcomes, and different assumed outcomes will lie at different places within that range.

The more optimistic the assumptions made in determining the Funding Target, the more that outcome will sit towards the 'favourable' end of the range of possible outcomes, the lower will be the probability of experience actually matching or being more favourable than the assumed experience, and the lower will be the Funding Target calculated by reference to those assumptions.

The Administering Authority will not adopt assumptions for Scheduled Bodies and certain other bodies which, in its judgement, and on the basis of actuarial advice received, are such that it is less than 55% likely that the strategy will deliver funding success (as defined earlier in this document). Where the probability of funding success is less than 65% the Administering Authority will not adopt assumptions which lead to a reduction in the aggregate employer contribution rate to the Fund.

The Administering Authority's policy will be to monitor an underlying 'low risk' position (making no allowance for returns in excess of those available on Government stocks) to ensure that the Funding Target remains realistic

Demographic Risk

The main risks include changing retirement patterns and longevity. The Administering Authority will ensure that the Fund Actuary investigates these matters at each valuation or, if appropriate, more frequently, and reports on developments. The Administering Authority will agree with the Fund Actuary any changes which are necessary to the assumptions underlying the measure of solvency to allow for observed or anticipated changes.

If significant demographic changes become apparent between valuations, the Administering Authority will notify all participating employers of the anticipated impact on costs that will emerge at the next valuation and will review the bonds that are in place for Transferee Admission Bodies.

Regulatory Risk

The risks relate to changes to regulations, National pension requirements or HM Revenue and Customs' rules. The Administering Authority will keep abreast of all proposed changes. If any change potentially affects the costs of the Fund, the Administering Authority will ask the Fund Actuary to assess the possible impact on costs of the change. Where significant, the Administering Authority will notify employers of the possible impact and the timing of any change.

Governance Risk

This covers the risk of unexpected structural changes in the Fund membership (for example the closure of an employer to new entrants or the large scale withdrawal or retirement of groups of staff), and the related risk of the Administering Authority not being made aware of such changes in a timely manner.

The Administering Authority's policy is to require regular communication between itself and employers, and to ensure regular reviews of such items as bond arrangements, financial standing of non-tax raising employers and funding levels.

Particular examples are set out below:

- Early retirement strain payments - No allowance is made for the additional value of the benefits when a member is made redundant or leaves on the grounds of efficiency. To counter the potential 'strain' (or cost) emerging at the next valuation early retirement strain payments are required from the employer to the Fund to meet this additional cost over a period of no longer than 3 years.
- Employers with small and declining number of contributing members - A recent legal judgement indicates that under the current Administration Regulations employers with no contributing members cannot be charged contributions under Regulation 36. This ruling, however, does not affect the ability to collect contributions following a cessation valuation for Admission Bodies under Regulation 38. The Regulations may alter in the future but in the meantime there is a risk of a non Admission Body ceasing to pay contributions with a deficit in the Fund.

The Administering Authority will monitor employers with declining membership to ensure that funding is close to 100% on the solvency measure by the time the last member leaves service and this may affect the funding strategy accordingly.

- Bodies ceasing to exist with unpaid deficiency - Some employers can cease to exist and become insolvent leaving the employers in the Fund open to the risk of an unpaid deficit. For Transferee Admission Bodies, any such deficit will be met by the relevant Scheme Employer and there is therefore little risk to other employers in the Fund (provided of course that the relevant Scheme Employer is itself regarded to be of good covenant).

Other employers are more problematic and the Administering Authority will as far as practicable look to reduce risks by use of bond arrangements or ensuring there is a guarantor to back the liabilities of the body.

Statistical/Financial Risk

This covers such items such as the performances of markets, Fund investment managers, asset reallocation in volatile markets, pay and /or price inflation varying from anticipated levels or the effect of possible increases in employer contribution rate on service delivery and on Fund employers. The Administering Authority policy will regularly assess such aspects to ensure that all assumptions used are still justified.

Smoothing Risk

The Administering Authority recognises that utilisation of a smoothing adjustment in the solvency measurement introduces an element of risk, in that the smoothing adjustment may not provide a true measure of the underlying position. Where such an adjustment is used, the Administering Authority will review the impact of this adjustment at each valuation to ensure that it remains within acceptable limits.

Recovery period risk

The Administering Authority recognises that permitting surpluses or deficiencies to be eliminated over a recovery period rather than immediately introduces a risk that action to restore solvency is insufficient between successive measurements. The Administering Authority will discuss the risks inherent in each situation with the Fund Actuary and to limit the permitted length of recovery period where appropriate. Details of the Administering Authority's policy are set out earlier in this Statement.

Stepping Risk

The Administering Authority recognises that permitting contribution rate changes to be introduced by annual steps rather than immediately introduces a risk that action to restore solvency is insufficient in the early years of the process. The Administering Authority will limit the number of permitted steps as appropriate. Details of the Administering Authority's policy are set out earlier in this statement.

Appendix 9

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) - Governance Arrangements

Introduction

The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund formally adopted its governance policy at the Pension Fund Panel (subsequently Pension Fund Committee) meeting of the 8th March 2006, attached at Appendix A for information.

Administering Authorities are required by the Department of Communities and Local Government to review the same, with a view to finalising revised arrangements by 1st March 2008.

Following the receipt of the responses to the above exercise, the department for Communities and Local Government have issued governance compliance statutory guidance attached at Appendix B against which Administering Authorities are asked to benchmark local arrangements and produce revised policy statements.

The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund Governance Arrangements

In accordance with the guidance issued, an evaluation of current local governance arrangements has been undertaken (Appendix C) which measures compliance against the nine main principles identified:

- A. Structure
- B. Representation
- C. Selection and role of lay members
- D. Voting
- E. Training/Facility time/Expenses
- F. Meetings (frequency/quorum)
- G. Access
- H. Scope
- I. Publicity

As can be seen in Appendix C, local arrangements would largely seem to be compliant save for the area of representation where arrangements could be perceived as non compliant.

The above position was discussed at length (subsequent to the publication of the guidance) with the DCLG and the context of the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund's classification of 'no forms of representation'. It was subsequently recognised

by the DCLG that the collaborative work undertaken by the CCSPF in undertaking roadshows, AGMs and having an observer member of another scheme employer should subsequently be recognised in the assessment of representation.

This Administering Authority has always contended that representation correlated with the risk undertaken and as scheme member contribution rates are guaranteed by statute, the only investment risk lies with the employers who are represented in the CCSPF by the members from the City & County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot CBC.

There is also a comprehensive programme of consultative/informative meetings and roadshows with both employers and employees primarily:

- The Annual Consultative meeting
- The Actuarial valuation consultative programme
- Employers roadshows
- Employees roadshows.

Therefore in light of the above, it is the recommendation to retain current corporate governance structures, noting updates for new personnel, with an intention to review the structure when proposed risk sharing mechanisms are introduced which are timetabled for consideration in 2009/10.

City & County of Swansea Pension Fund

Governance Policy Statement

Background

In November 2005, the Government published the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2005.

The regulations require administering authorities to prepare and publish a governance policy statement. This statement must indicate its delegated functions of the pension fund and its operational policies.

Constitutional Framework

Under the Council's scheme of Council delegated functions, the functions relating to local government pensions etc. under the regulations section 7, 12, or 24 of the Superannuation Act 1972 have been delegated to the Pension Fund Pension Panel as a full executive function.

Introduction to Pension Fund Governance

Pension Fund management is often seen as secondary to the Administering Authority's main agenda. Yet the financial health of the Pension Fund can exercise an important influence over the health of the entirety of the Authority's finances as well as that of the significant number of other scheduled bodies and admitted bodies within the Fund. Also, a successful pension fund may have some influence in attracting and retaining staff.

In 2000, the Government commissioned a *Review of Institutional investment in the UK* from Paul Myners, Chairman of the Gartmore Fund Management Group. The resultant report (known as the Myners Report) sets out a number of principles codifying best practice in Pension Fund management.

Local Authority pension schemes are usually administered by so-called 'upper tier' authorities, i.e. counties, mets, unitaries and London boroughs. The top level of control is exercised by a Pensions Panel or Pension Fund Panel (the precise nomenclature may vary from authority to authority) comprising host authority members and representation of scheduled and admitted bodies where appropriate. In effect,

members of the panel fulfil a quasi trustee function, equivalent to the trustees of a private sector Pension Fund.

Like many local government services, considerable elements of Pension Fund management are outsourced in order to harness the necessary expertise for what is a complex arena. The role of the Pensions Panel, and of officers, as agents of the Council is to determine a strategy, and to ensure that the strategy is properly and fully implemented. In effect, this is a procurement exercise, and as such requires skills that are needed in any procurement situation, for example:

- A clear understanding of what the Fund is aiming to achieve and a strategy for achieving it.
- Understanding the market and choices that can be made.
- Deciding what needs to be provided in-house and what should be outsourced.
- Defining and developing strong specifications for the services to be provided.
- Ensuring clear and open competition.
- Managing relationships, both with in-house providers and contractors.
- Setting rigorous performance measures, and implementing a feedback loop for reporting, evaluating and monitoring contractor performance (whether for services provided in-house or outsourced).

Pension Fund Management can be divided into two main areas:

1. Investment Management

As noted above, many aspects of investment management are carried out by a range of external specialist services, including:

- **Investment managers** who are responsible for managing the performance of the investment fund on a day-to-day basis. This will include making decisions on what to buy and sell and buying and selling itself, within the context of a broad investment policy laid down by the Administering Authority.
- **Investment advisers** who may assist in setting the broader policy, evaluating fund manager performance and so on.
- **Custodians** whose role is to safeguard the existence of assets and to ensure the Fund has proper title to them.
- **Actuaries** who evaluate overall fund management strategy, including the extent to which the Fund is fully funded, fund performance, assess the likely impact of future trends (e.g. Investment outlook, death rates etc) and advise on appropriate rates of employers contributions to ensure continued financial health for the scheme. They may also be asked for advice on overall fund management strategy. The Myners review suggested that this should be viewed as separate service from the actuarial contract (in much the same way that auditors shouldn't give advice that they may later be required to audit).

- **Performance measurers** who analyse fund performance, provide detailed statistical analysis of overall pension fund performance and its components, and report the results to officers and the pensions Panel.

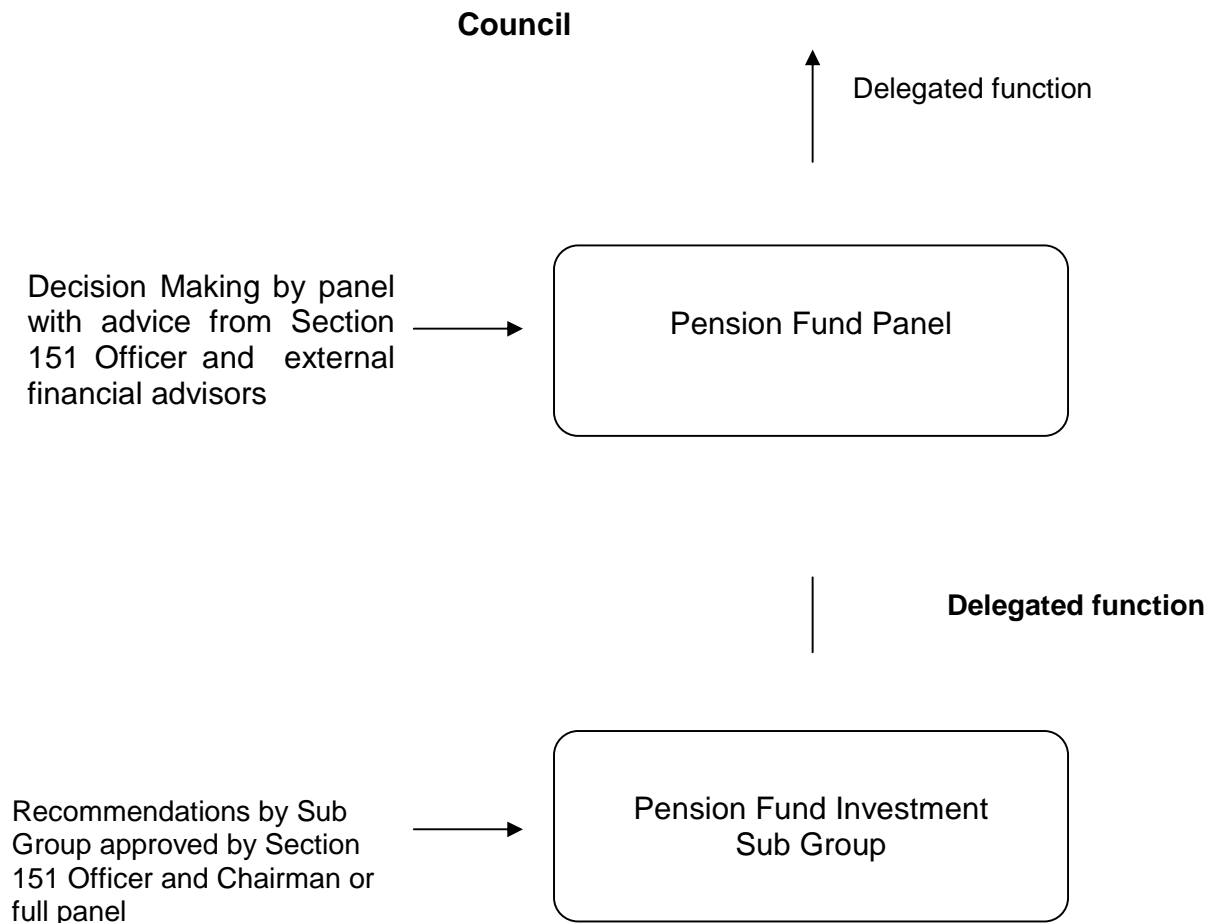
Proper control needs to be exercised over the providers of these specialist services. The Panel should set a comprehensive policy for the Fund which should include asset allocation management, for example the Fund gearing, (proportion of higher risk investments, equities, property etc) to fixed interest stock (bonds) and broad sector divisions within the major asset classes, (in the case of equities for example, pharmaceuticals, construction, manufacturing, and geographical diversity, for example UK equities, Far East, United States). Any policy on asset allocation must be in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Regulations, which prescribe maximum limits for investments in any one vehicle. It should also put in place proper arrangements for setting targets for fund performance, monitoring compliance with policy and taking action when necessary if performance is not in line with the targets set. The strategy for managing the fund should also take into account the maturity of the fund; that is the proportion of pensioners to active contributors to the scheme.

2. Fund Administration

Administering the Fund includes putting in place sound financial systems to ensure contributions are collected and credited to the Fund; correct levels of pensions are paid out, transfer values are correctly calculated and received/paid, queries/complaints dealt with, continued eligibility criteria are complied with etc. Considerable reliance can be put on core financial controls operated by the Authority through its main financial systems. The payroll system is closely tied in with Pension Fund administration and reliance should be placed on internal audit cover (if their cover is deemed to be adequate). (Note that this may not be applicable in respect of admitted bodies. The administering authority is likely to be heavily dependent on the quality of information submitted by them).

Monitoring by the Pensions Fund Pension panel (The Panel) is key, and appropriate performance indicators should be in place and reported to The Panel on a regular basis (for example administration costs, compliance with statutory time targets for queries and complaints). In line with any local government activity, pension funds should be exposed to rigorous review.

Pension Fund Governance: Structure Overview



Membership of the Pension panel

Full voting membership of the Pension Fund Pension Fund Panel is drawn from :

- Council Members of the Administering Authority and Representative Employers within the scheme.
- Council Officers of the Administering Authority.
- Appointed Independent Advisers to the Pension Fund Pension panel.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nominated by/ filled by</i>	<i>Currently in post</i>
Chairman	Lead Political Group	Cllr R Stewart
Vice Chairman	Lead Political Group	Cllr P Downing
Panel Member	Lead Political Group	Cllr C Lloyd
Panel Member	Lead Political Group	Cllr M Thomas
Panel Member	Opposition Political Group	Cllr J Newbury
Panel Member	Opposition Political Group	Cllr G Sullivan
Panel Member	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Cllr Peter Rees
Lead Officer Member	Section 151 Officer	M Hawes
Asst Officer Member	Chief Treasury & Technical Officer	J Dong
Independent Adviser(s)	Suitably qualified professionals	Valentine Furniss Noel Mills

The Pension Fund Panel has responsibility for:

- approving the Statement of Investment Principles,
- monitoring compliance with the Statement and reviewing its contents from time to time,

- approving the funding strategy statement,
- approving the corporate governance arrangements of the Fund,
- to establish and keep under review policies to be applied by the Council in exercising its discretion as an administering Authority under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 1997,
- to make recommendations to the Council from time to time on the financial implications for the Pension Fund of discretion's available to the Council as an employing authority under the LGPS Regulations 1997,
- to monitor factors likely to affect the solvency of the Pension Fund between the triennial valuations of the Fund by its independent actuary including specifically, the impact of early retirements approved by all employing bodies within the Fund,
- to determine the strategic aims for investment of the Fund and the benchmarks by which performance will be measured,
- to arrange for independent investment advice to be available to the Panel at any time,
- to determine, keep under review and, where appropriate, secure changes in the management arrangements for investment of the Pension Fund,
- to monitor on a regular basis against its objectives and benchmarks the Fund's investment performance,
- to approve attendance of the Panel or any of its Members or Officers at Regional or National meetings arranged to assist Members of Pension panels to fulfil their trustee responsibilities,
- to ensure effective communication and liaison with other employing bodies within the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund,
- to respond to consultative documents affecting the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- to consider and approve all policy in relation to Administering Authority Discretions.

Frequency of Pension panel Meetings

The Pension Fund Pension Fund Panel shall meet quarterly throughout the year. In addition to the above the Pension Fund hosts:

- An Annual General Meeting
- Actuarial valuation consultative meetings
- Member Roadshows
- Employer Roadshows.

Operational Procedure of Meetings

The agenda for the quarterly meetings is determined by the Lead Officer Member of the Pension panel to incorporate timely, relevant issues/matters in relation to the Investments and Administration of the Fund.

Meeting papers for each panel meeting shall be circulated in a timely manner for consideration prior to each meeting.

Agenda items are to include:

- Regulations/Admin Update
- investment performance review
 - fund manager review
 - fund manager face to face
- report of the independent advisors to the Fund.

Pension Fund Investment Sub Group

It is proposed that a Pension Fund Investment Sub Group be convened consisting of :

- The two independent advisors
- One or other of the Chairman of Vice Chairman of the Pension Fund Panel
- Chief Treasury & Technical Officer

to undertake :

Investment Management Selection/Monitoring

To undertake investment manager selection and recommendation and to identify investment opportunities where appropriate and to undertake monitoring of the Fund Managers periodically who are not seen by the full Pension Panel and to make and submit an investment report of the same for full consideration by the Pension Fund Panel at the quarterly meetings.

Asset Allocation

To determine at quarterly intervals the asset allocation of cashflow surpluses and in consultation and with the approval of the Section 151 Officer and the Chairman of the Pension panel implement the same (either through physical investment of the cash or by overlay see item 7.3 and report the allocations to full Pension panel at the next quarterly meeting).

Pension Fund Investment Sub Group Terms of Reference

Membership

The membership of the Pension Fund Investment Sub Group shall comprise :

- Two independent advisors
- One Finance Officer (Chief Treasury & Technical Officer)
- One or other of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Pension Fund Panel

Responsibility

The Pension Fund Investment Sub Group is a sub group of the Pension panel and shall report to them on a quarterly basis with responsibility for :

Investment manager selection and performance monitoring :

- To select and engage with fund managers and make formal recommendations to the panel and monitor performance of the fund managers.
- To identify suitable investment opportunities for the Pension Fund and make formal recommendations to the panel.

Cashflow Allocation

- To determine and implement the allocation of the cashflow generated by the Pension Fund with approval from the Section 151 Officer and Chairman of the Panel.

Tactical Asset Allocation

- To determine and implement when appropriate the tactical asset allocation of the Fund (within the overall strategy approved by the Pension panel) using the asset allocation overlay with approval from the Section 151 Officer and Chairman of the Panel.

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE STATUTORY GUIDANCE

PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. This guidance is issued to all administering authorities in England and Wales with statutory responsibilities under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 (as amended) and other interested parties listed at Annex B and deals with the compliance standards against which Local Government Pension Scheme (“LGPS”) panels are to measure themselves.

2. The guidance includes a combination of descriptive text explaining the rationale of each compliance principle and a description of the relevant statutory provision of the 1997 Regulations (Regulation 73A(1)(c) refers) that requires LGPS administering authorities to measure their governance arrangements against the standards set out in this statutory guidance. Where compliance does not meet the published standard, there is a requirement under Regulation 73A(1)(c) to give, in their governance compliance statement, the reasons for not complying.

3. The Secretary of State will keep the content of the guidance under review in the light of administering authorities and other interested parties’ experience of applying the best practice standards. The guidance will be updated as necessary to reflect this and subsequent legislative changes.

BACKGROUND

4. The LGPS is a common scheme throughout England and Wales, administered by 89 individual pension funds, which includes the Environment Agency. In the context of the UK public pensions sector, it is atypical in being funded with assets in excess of £100bn. Viewed in aggregate, the LGPS is the largest funded occupational pension scheme in the UK.

5. As a statutory public service scheme, the LGPS has a different legal status compared with trust based schemes in the private sector. Matters of governance in the LGPS therefore need to be considered on their own merits and with a proper regard to the legal status of the scheme. This includes how and where it fits in with the local democratic process through local government law and locally elected councillors who have the final responsibility for its stewardship and management. The LGPS is also different in the respect that unlike most private sector schemes where scheme members bear some, if not all, of the investment risk, the accrued benefits paid by local authorities are guaranteed by statute and, perhaps more importantly, are ultimately to be paid by the local authority revenue and not from the pension funds themselves. The pension funds exist to defray the costs. On this basis, it is the local authority itself, and local council tax payers, who are the final guarantors of the scheme.

6. The word “trustee” is often used in a very general sense to mean somebody who acts on behalf of other people but in pensions law it has a more specific meaning. Certain

occupational pension schemes, primarily in the private sector, are established under trust law. Under a trust, named people ("trustees") hold property on behalf of other people (called beneficiaries). Trustees owe a duty of care to their beneficiaries and are required to act in their best interests, particularly in terms of their investment decisions. Although those entrusted to make statutory decisions under the LGPS are, in many ways, required to act in the same way as trustees in terms of their duty of care, they are subject to a different legal framework and to all the normal duties and responsibilities of local authority councillors. But they are not trustees in the strict legal sense of that word.

7. Trustees are needed in the private sector to ensure better scheme security, prevent employer-led actions which could undermine a scheme's solvency and to ensure that investment decisions are not in any way imprudent. But in a statutory scheme like the LGPS, benefits are guaranteed by statute, independent of investment performance. As such, scheme members in the LGPS bear none of the investment risk. The entitlements and benefits payable to scheme members in trust based schemes are, potentially at least, more volatile and dependent ultimately on the effectiveness and stewardship of their trustees. It is because of this greater risk to security that the Pensions Act 1995 first introduced the concept of member nominated trustees to ensure that scheme beneficiaries are part of the decision making process. But even member nominated trustees must act in the interest of the fund/scheme and must not take decisions out of self-interest. The Pensions Act 2004 simply extends that status.

8. Elected councillors have legal responsibilities for the prudent and effective stewardship of LGPS funds and in more general terms, have a clear fiduciary duty in the performance of their functions. Although there is no one single model in operation throughout the 89 LGPS fund authorities in England and Wales, most funds are managed by a formal committee representing the political balance of that particular authority. Under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, a local authority can delegate their pension investment functions to the Council, committees, sub-committees or officers, but there are a small number of LGPS fund authorities which are not local authorities and therefore have their own, distinct arrangements.

9. It is also relevant to note that under The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000 No 2853) and The Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (Welsh SI 2001 No 2291), statutory decisions taken under schemes made under sections 7, 12 or 24 of the Superannuation Act 1972, are not the responsibility of the Executive arrangements introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. This means, for example, that the executive cannot make decisions in relation to discretions to be exercised under the LGPS, or make decisions relating to the investment of the Pension Fund and related matters. These functions have continued to be subject to the same legislative framework as they were before the passing of the Local Government Act 2000, including delegations under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. Such delegations vary from local authority to local authority depending on local circumstances. However, the Secretary of State has advised that where such decisions were delegated to committees or to officers, then those delegations should continue. (see paragraphs 5.10 and 5.11 of the Statutory Guidance to English Local Authorities – New Council Constitutions : Guidance Pack Volume 1).

10. Under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, it is for the appointing council to decide upon the number of members of a committee and their terms of office. They may include committee members who are not members of the appointing council and such members may be given voting rights by virtue of section 13 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. On this basis, it is open to pension committees to include representatives from district councils, scheme members and other lay member representatives, with or without voting rights, provided that they are eligible to be committee members (eligibility rules are set out in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).

STATUTORY BACKGROUND

11. In response to proposals issued by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 were amended to require LGPS administering authorities to publish details of their governance and stewardship arrangements by 1 April 2006. The purpose of this first step was to gauge progress made in the democratisation of LGPS committees and governance arrangements in general and to assess what action, if any, should be taken to ensure that all committees operate consistently at best practice standards. On 30 June 2007, the 1997 regulations were further amended to require administering authorities to report the extent of compliance against a set of best practice principles to be published by CLG, and where an authority has chosen not to comply, to state the reasons why. The first such statement must be published by 1st March 2008.

12. The relevant provision, shown below, is regulation 73A of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 :

“Governance compliance statement

73A.—(1) An administering authority must prepare a written statement setting out—

- (a) whether they delegate their function, or part of their function, in relation to maintaining a pension fund to a committee, a sub-committee or an officer of the authority;
- (b) if they do so—
 - (i) the terms, structure and operational procedures of the delegation;
 - (ii) the frequency of any committee or sub-committee meetings;
 - (iii) whether such a panel or sub-committee includes representatives of employing authorities (including authorities which are not Scheme employers) or members, and, if so, whether those representatives have voting rights;
- (c) the extent to which a delegation, or the absence of a delegation, complies with guidance given by the Secretary of State and, to the extent that it does not so comply, the reasons for not complying.

(2) An administering authority must publish the first such statement on or before 1st March 2008.

- (3) An administering authority must—
 - (a) revise their statement following a material change in respect of any of the matters mentioned in paragraph (1); and
 - (b) publish the statement as revised.
- (4) In preparing or revising their statement an administering authority must consult such persons as they consider appropriate.
- (5) When they publish their statement, or the statement as revised, an administering authority must send a copy of it to the Secretary of State.”.

This regulation will cease to have effect from 1 April 2008 when the 1997 regulations are revoked. After that date, the relevant provision will be under the regulations of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2007.

PURPOSE

13. The purpose of this guidance is two fold. Firstly, Part II of the guidance provides a detailed description of each of the best practice principles against which compliance is to be measured (with each of the principles being set out in bold type) and secondly, it includes guidance on how the compliance statement in Part II should be completed.

TERMINOLOGY

14. Throughout this paper, the distinction is made between those committees or sub-committees that have been formally constituted under 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 (“main committees”) and other committees or panels that have been established outside of that provision (“secondary committees”). Unless reference is made to “elected members”, the word “member” where it appears in the text is used to denote any member of a main or secondary committee, whether elected or not.

POSITION OF NON-LOCAL AUTHORITY ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES

15. Regulation 73A of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 and this guidance made under powers granted by Regulation 73A(1)(c) of those regulations apply equally to all LGPS administering authorities in England and Wales. It is recognised, however, that a small number of administering authorities are not constituted as local authorities and are not therefore subject to the legal framework imposed on local authorities and their committees by local government legislation. In these cases, the authorities concerned are still required to measure the extent to which they comply with the principles set out in Part II of this guidance and where they are unable to comply, for example, because of their special position, to explain this when giving reasons for being unable to comply.

SUGGESTED READING

16. Although not a formal part of this guidance, it is recommended that administering authorities and other stakeholders should be aware of the contents of the following documents:

- a) Good Governance Standards for Public Services (Office for Public Management, Alan Langlands – January 2005)
- b) Code of Corporate Governance in Local Government (CIPFA/SOLACE – 2007)
- c) Institutional Investment in the UK – A Review (HM Treasury – March 2001)
- d) Local Government Pension Scheme : Pension Fund Decision Making – Guidance Note (CIPFA Pensions Panel – 2006)
- e) Guidance for Chief Finance Officers : Principles for Investment Decision Making in the Local Government Pension Scheme in the UK (CIPFA Pensions Panel – 2001)

PART II - THE PRINCIPLES

Part II/A - Structure

17. Elected members have legal responsibilities for the prudent and effective stewardship of LGPS pension funds and, in more general terms, have a clear fiduciary duty in the performance of their functions. Although there is no one single model in operation throughout the 89 fund authorities in England and Wales, most funds are managed by a formal panel representing the political balance of that particular authority. Under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, a local authority can delegate their statutory functions to the Council, panels, sub-panels or officers, but there are a small number of fund authorities which are not local authorities and therefore have their own, distinct arrangements.

18. The formal panel structures operated by individual pension fund authorities reflect local circumstances and priorities and it is not the remit of this guidance to prescribe a “one size fits all” approach. The evidence collected by Communities and Local Government in 2006 indicated that the overwhelming majority of these panels operate efficiently and effectively despite the variations in their constitution, composition and working practices. The intention is not therefore to level out these differences but instead to ensure that these different structures reflect the best practice principles described below :

- a) The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets clearly rests with the main panel 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 panel established to underpin the work of the main panel.
- c) That where a secondary panel or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.
- d) That where a secondary panel or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main panel is allocated for a member from the secondary panel or panel.

Part II/B - Representation

19. Under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, it is for the appointing council to decide upon the number of members of a panel and their terms of office. They may include panel members who are not members of the appointing council and such members may be given voting rights (see Part II/C) by virtue of section 13 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. On this basis, it is open to pension panels to include representatives from district councils, scheme member and other lay member representatives, with or without voting rights, provided that they are eligible to be panel members (eligibility rules are set out in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).

20. The number of stakeholders affected by the local management of the pension scheme and governance of pension funds is vast and it is accepted that it would be impractical to expect individual panel structures to encompass every group or sector that has an interest in the decisions that fall to be made under the scheme's regulations. The following principles are therefore intended to ensure that the composition of panels, both formal and secondary, offers all key stakeholders the opportunity to be represented. For example, deferred and pensioner scheme members clearly have an interest in the performance of pension panels but it would be impractical in many cases to expect them to have direct representation on a panel. Instead, there is no reason why a representative of active scheme members couldn't also act on behalf of deferred and pensioner scheme members. Similarly, a single seat in the panel structure could be offered to somebody to represent the education sector as a whole, rather than having individual representatives for FE Colleges, Universities, academies, etc.

21. An independent professional observer could also be invited to participate in the governance arrangement to enhance the experience, continuity, knowledge, impartiality and performance of panels or panels. Such an appointment could improve the public perception that high standards of governance are a reality and not just an aspiration. Moreover, the independent observer would be ideally placed to carry out independent assessments of compliance against the Myners' principles, both in terms of the 2004 follow up report and the latest NAPF consultation on next steps, together with other benchmarks that the Fund authority's performance is measured against. The management of risk is a cornerstone of good governance and a further role for the independent observer would be to offer a practical approach to address and control risk, their potential effects and what should be done to mitigate them and whether the costs of doing so are proportionate.

a) That all key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented. within the main or secondary panel structure. These include :

- i) employing authorities (including non-scheme employers, eg, admitted bodies)
- ii) scheme members (including deferred and pensioner scheme members),
- iii) independent professional observers, and
- iv) expert advisors (on an ad-hoc basis).

b) That where lay members sit on a main or secondary panel, 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.

Part II/C - Selection and role of lay members

22. It is important to emphasise that it is no part of the Fund authority's remit to administer the selection process for lay members sitting on main or secondary panels or to ensure their attendance at meetings, unless they wish to do so. Their role is to determine what sectors or groups are to be invited to sit on LGPS panels or panels and to make places available. Effective representation is a two way process involving the Fund authorities providing the opportunity and the representative bodies initiating and taking forward the selection process under the general oversight of the Fund authority.

23. Members of a main decision-making LGPS panel are in the same position as trustees in the private sector. Trustees owe a duty of care to their beneficiaries and are required to act in their best interests at all times, particularly in terms of their investment decisions. They are not there to represent their own local, political or private interest. On a main panel, the interests of the scheme and its beneficiaries must always be put before the interests of individual groups or sectors represented on the panel whereas on secondary panels or panels that are not subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, private interests can be reflected in proceedings.

a) That panel or panel members are made fully aware of the status, role and function they are required to perform on either a main or secondary panel.

Part II/D – Voting

24. Although the 2006 survey conducted by Communities and Local Government revealed that formal votes taken by LGPS panels were rare, it is important to set out the legal basis on which voting rights are, or may be prescribed to elected and lay members.

Elected members of the administering authority

a) All elected members sitting on LGPS panels have voting rights as a matter of course. Regulation 5(1)(d) of the Local Government (Panel and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (SI No 1553/1990) provides that voting rights will be given to a person appointed to a sub panel of a panel established under the Superannuation Act 1972 who is a member of the authority which appointed the panel.

Elected members of authorities other than the administering authority and lay members.

b) Under sections (13)(1)(a) and (2)(a) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a person who is a member of a panel appointed by an authority under the Superannuation Act 1972 but who is not a member of that authority, shall be treated as a non-voting member of that panel. However, the provisions of section 13(3) and (4) of the 1989 Act allow an administering authority discretion as to whether or not a member of a panel is treated as a voting or non-voting member.

Lay members of advisory panels, etc

c) Because they are not formally constituted panels, secondary panels or panels on which lay members sit are not subject to the restrictions imposed by the Local Government Act 1972 on voting rights. In these circumstances, there is nothing to prevent voting rights being conferred by the administering authority on all lay members sitting on panels or informal panels outside the main decision making panel.

25. The way in which an administering authority decides to exercise its discretion and confer voting rights on lay members is not a matter for which the Secretary of State, under his regulations making powers under the Superannuation Act 1972, has any remit. The issue of whether voting rights should be conferred on district council or scheme member representatives, for example, is a matter for individual administering authorities to consider and determine in the light of the appointing council's constitution. Regulation 73A(1)(b)(iii) of the 1997 Regulations already requires an administering authority to include in their statement details of the extent to which voting rights have been conferred on certain representatives, but does not extend to the need to give reasons where this is not the case.

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 panels.

Part II/E – Training/Facility time/Expenses

26. In 2001, the Government accepted the ten investment principles recommended by Paul Myners in his report, "Institutional Investment in the UK". The first of those principles, "Effective Decision Making", called for decisions to be made only by persons or organisations with the skills, information and resources necessary to take them effectively. Furthermore, where trustees - or in the case of the LGPS, members of formal panels - take investment decisions, that they have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate critically any advice they take.

27. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 1998 (as amended) already requires administering authorities to report the extent of compliance with this principle. But on the wider issue of governance, it is equally important that they report on the extent to which training facilities, etc, are extended to lay members sitting on either main or secondary LGPS panels.

28. If all stakeholders represented on LGPS panels or panels are to satisfy the high standards set out in the Myners' set of investment principles, it follows that equal opportunity for training, and hence facility time, should be afforded to all lay members. They too should have access to the resources that would enable them to evaluate the expert advice commissioned by the main investment panel and to comment accordingly. But the way that is achieved at local level is not a matter for national prescription, in particular, the policy adopted by individual administering authority or local authority on the reimbursement of expenses incurred by panel or panel members. On this basis, the best practice standard which administering authorities are required to measure themselves focuses on the extent to which they have a clear and transparent policy on training, facility time and reimbursement of expenses and whether this

policy differs according to the type of member, for example, elected member or scheme member representative.

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 panels, sub-panels, advisory panels or any other form of secondary forum.

Part II/F – Meetings (frequency/quorum)

29. From the evidence collected in 2006 by Communities and Local Government, it is clear that the majority of administering authorities who have introduced a multi-level panel structure operate different reporting/meeting cycles for each panel or panel. In the case of main, formal panels, these tend to meet, on average, at least quarterly, though there are a few examples where meetings are held less often. As a general rule, it is expected that main panels should meet no less than quarterly. Although it is important that any secondary panels or panels should also meet on a regular and consistent basis, it is accepted that there should be no compulsion or expectation that there should be an equal number of main and secondary panel meetings. But as a matter of best practice, it is expected that secondary meetings should be held at least bi-annually.

30. Although the overwhelming majority of administering authorities operate effective representation policies, the evidence collected in 2006 by Communities and Local Government revealed a small handful of authorities who restrict membership of their panel's to elected members only. In legal terms, this is permissible, but in terms of best practice, it falls well short of the Government's aims of improving the democratisation of LGPS panels. In those cases where stakeholders, in particular, scheme members, are not represented, it is expected that administering authorities will provide alternative means for scheme employers, scheme members, pensioner members, for example, to be involved in the decision-making process. This may take the form of employer road-shows or AGMs where access is open to all and where questions can be addressed to members of the main panel.

a) That an administering authority's main panel or panels meet at least quarterly.

b) That an administering authority's secondary panel or panel meet at least twice a year and is synchronised with the dates when the main panel sits.

c) That administering authorities who do not include lay members in their formal governance arrangements, provide a forum outside of those arrangements by which the interests of key stakeholders can be represented.

Part II/G - Access

31. The people to whom the appointing council entrust with taking investment, and other statutory decisions, is a matter for that council to consider and determine. However, it is important that others, outside that formal decision-making process but involved in some

capacity in the general governance arrangement, have equal access to panel papers and other documents relied on by the main panel in taking its decisions.

32. The fact that voting rights are not conferred on individual lay members should not put them on any less footing than those members who serve on the main panel with full voting rights. Secondary panels or panels have a clear role to underpin and influence the work of the main panel and can only do so where there is equal access.

a) That subject to any rules in the councils constitution, all members of main and secondary panels or panels have equal access to panel papers, documents and advice that falls to be considered at meetings of the main panel.

Part II/H – Scope

33. Traditionally, LGPS panels have focussed on the management and investment of the funds under their supervision, with questions arising from the main scheme dealt with by officers with delegated authority under the council's constitution. In recent times, however, and reflecting the trend towards de-centralisation, administering authorities have become responsible for formulating a significant number of policy decisions on issues like abatement, compensation and the exercise of discretions under the scheme's regulations. These are key decisions which should be subject to the rigorous supervision and oversight of the main panel. And with the prospect of some form of cost sharing arrangement to be in place by March 2009, it is clear that there are other key scheme issues, outside the investment field, that main panels may need to address in the future. Given the not insignificant costs involved in running funds, LGPS panels and panels need to receive regular reports on their scheme administration to ensure that best practice standards are targeted and met and furthermore, to satisfy themselves and to justify to their stakeholders that the Fund is being run on an effective basis. This would involve reviewing the panel's governance arrangements and the effective use of its advisers to ensure sound decision making. Here, the use of an independent professional observer, free of conflicts of interest, would enable a wholly objective approach to be taken to the stewardship of the Fund.

34. All this points to LGPS panels perhaps becoming more multi-disciplined than they have been in the past, with a consequential impact on, for example, membership and training. For example, if decisions are to be taken by LGPS panels that could impact on the cost-sharing mechanism, it is reasonable to expect scheme member representatives to be present on those decision making panels, given that those decisions could have a direct impact on the position of scheme members under the scheme.

35. Although the future may see LGPS panels having a broader role than at present, individual administering authorities may adopt different strategies to meet these new demands. The more traditional approach might be to extend the scope of existing investment panels to include general scheme and other administrative issues. But already, there is evidence to suggest that some administering authorities have opted instead to establish new sub panels to deal solely with non-investment, scheme issues. The purpose of this guidance is not to prescribe the way in which administering authorities develop and adapt to scheme developments. Instead, the intention is to increase the awareness that administering authorities and their panels must be flexible and willing to change to reflect scheme changes and wider pensions issues.

a) That administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.

Part II/I – Publicity

36. A key component in improving the democratisation of LGPS governance arrangements is to increase the awareness that opportunities exist for scheme member representatives and LGPS employers, for example, to become part of these arrangements. But the onus for increasing awareness should not rest entirely with the administering authority. It is just as much the role of scheme member representatives and scheme employers to keep abreast of developments in this field and to play an active part in the selection and appointment of panel or panel members. This is best left to local choice and discretion. However, administering authorities are reminded that under Regulation 76B(1)(e) of the 1997 Regulations, the latest version of their Governance Compliance Statement must be included in their Pension Fund Annual Report.

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.

Compliance Statement of the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund

Principle A – Structure

	Not Compliant*			Fully Compliant	
a)					✓
b)				✓	
c)					N/A
d)					N/A

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

b) A representative from a non admin authority employer has full-voting representation on the main panel

Principle B – Representation

	Not Compliant*			Fully Compliant	
a i)					✓
a ii)	✓				
a iii)					✓

a iv)					✓
b)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

a ii) It has been the held opinion that employers within the scheme bear the investment/contribution risk, with scheme members' contributions being guaranteed and quantified by statute therefore negating the necessity of any member representation on a panel which primarily dealt with investment issues. This approach shall be reviewed in light of proposals re. scheme members sharing the risk in proposals due in 2013.

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

a i) A representative from a non admin authority employer has full-voting representation on the main panel.

Principle C – Selection And Role of Lay Members

	Not Compliant*				Fully Compliant
a)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

Principle D – Voting

	Not Compliant*			Fully Compliant	
a)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

Principle E – Training/Facility Time/Expenses

	Not Compliant*			Fully Compliant	
a)					✓
b)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

a) b) Identifying and providing trustee training is a collaborative process between members of the panel and scheme officers to determine the appropriateness of the same. All appropriate costs/ expenses are approved by the Chief Treasury & Technical Officer and/or the Head of Financial Services within the identified Investment/Admin expenses budget.

Principle F – Meetings (frequency/quorum)

	Not Compliant*				Fully Compliant
a)					✓
b)					NA
c)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

c) These include an Annual General Meeting and scheme member /scheme employer roadshows.

Principle G – Access

	Not Compliant*			Fully Compliant	
a)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

Principle H – Scope

	Not Compliant*			Fully Compliant	
a)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

a) The main panel has always considered within its remit all associated Pension Fund matters.

Principle I – Publicity

	Not Compliant*			Fully Compliant	
a)					✓

* Please use this space to explain the reason for non-compliance (regulation 73A(1)(c)/1997 Regulations)

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above :-

Appendix 10

Communications Policy Statement

Introduction

The City and County of Swansea Pension Fund strives to provide a high quality and consistent service to our customers in the most efficient and effective manner possible, particularly in an ever changing pensions environment.

There are 5 distinct groups with whom the fund needs to communicate.

1. Scheme Members
2. Prospective Scheme Members
3. Scheme Employers
4. Other Bodies
5. Fund Staff

The City and County of Swansea Pension Fund aims to use the most appropriate communication method for the audiences receiving the information. This may involve using more than one method of communication as considered appropriate.

The Policy document has been prepared, as required, by Regulation 106B of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 and sets out the mechanisms which are used to meet those communication needs and is subject to periodic review.

SCHEME MEMBERS

Scheme members include current contributors, those with a deferred benefit and those receiving a pension.

Annual Report and Accounts

A copy of the Fund's Annual Report and Accounts is available to all scheme members on request.

Newsletter

The Fund will issue a newsletter to active Scheme members of the fund on an ad hoc basis, which will cover current pension topics within the LGPS and pensions industry in general.

An annual newsletter will be sent to all pensioners, which includes information on the annual pensions increase, the payment dates of the monthly pension for the forthcoming year and other matters of interest.

Annual Benefit Statements

An Annual Benefit Statement, showing the current and prospective value of members' benefits will be sent directly to the home address of all members who are contributing to the Fund at the previous financial year end.

Benefit Statements, providing the up rated value of benefits, will be sent directly to the home address of deferred members where a current address is known.

Scheme Literature

An extensive range of Scheme literature is produced by the Fund, including an employee's guide to the LGPS, which is provided to all active members upon commencement and to other active members upon request. The guide is updated regularly, usually when regulations are changed.

Further literature is available concerning specific provisions within the LGPS and is provided as and when required when communicating with members or upon request. A list of communications material can be found at Appendix 1.

Correspondence

The Fund utilises both surface mail and e-mail to receive and send correspondence. Response can be made in the individuals preferred language of choice.

Payment Advice/P60

Pensioners are issued with payment advice slips if there is a £10.00 net pay variance from the previous month. P60 notifications, which provide a breakdown of the annual amounts paid, are issued annually in May.

Employee Surgeries/Presentations

Surgeries are available for individual Scheme members or groups by request. Standard or tailored presentations will also be held at employer venues upon request as well as roadshows for regulatory changes.

The Fund's dedicated in-house AVC provider will also perform presentations, which are aimed at improving pension benefits and raising awareness of retirement planning, at employer venues upon request.

Pre-Retirement Courses

The Communication & Training Officer is available to attend pre-retirement courses to inform members who are near retirement about procedures and entitlements.

Existence Validation – Life Certificate Exercise

An on-going exercise is conducted through correspondence and the National Fraud Initiative based on risk assessment in order to establish the continued existence of pensioners in receipt of monthly pension payments.

Website

The website is a prime source of information on the pension scheme, including electronic copies of Scheme literature and policies to ensure timely, up-to-date, and easy to access information for all our stakeholders. It can be accessed at www.swanseapensionfund.org.uk

PROSPECTIVE SCHEME MEMBERS

Scheme Leaflet

Prospective Scheme members are provided with a Scheme leaflet, which sets out the benefits of joining the LGPS upon appointment via the employer.

Corporate Induction Courses

The Communication & Training Officer will attend corporate induction events upon request, in order to present to prospective Scheme members the benefits of joining the LGPS. A “one-on-one” surgery will also be offered to take account individual queries that may be raised at such meetings.

Trade Unions

The Fund will work with the relevant Trade Unions to ensure the Scheme is understood by all interested parties. Training days for branch officers will be provided upon request, and efforts will be made to ensure that all pension related issues are communicated effectively with the Trade Unions.

Website

The Fund’s website contains a specific section for prospective joiners or optants out, highlighting the benefits of planning for retirement and what the Scheme provides so that an informed choice can be made.

SCHEME EMPLOYERS

The Fund communicates with its participating employers in several ways to help them meet their responsibilities as Scheme employers.

Annual Report and Accounts

The audited accounts of the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund are prepared as at 31 March each year and a copy is distributed to each participating employer.

Employer Meetings

The Fund will hold an annual consultative meeting to discuss the Funds' Annual Report and Accounts. The meeting will also be used to communicate major strategic issues and significant legislation changes as well as triennial valuation matters.

Periodical meetings will be held to discuss specific issues as they arise.

Pension Administration Strategy

A Pension Administration Strategy has been published, in accordance with the Scheme Regulations, to define the responsibilities of both the Fund and all Scheme employers in the administration of the Scheme.

The Strategy sets out the level of performance expected from the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund and all employers, as well as the consequence of not meeting statutory deadlines.

Employer's guide

An Employer's Guide has been issued to assist the employers in discharging their pension administration responsibilities. This is supported by the dedicated Communication & Training Officer, who will provide assistance in administrative matters whenever necessary.

Updates

Regulatory and administrative updates are frequently issued to all employers via email.

Training

Bespoke sessions can be delivered, on request, by the dedicated Communication & Training Officer to resolve any administrative issues identified by the employer.

Website

The Fund Website has a dedicated employer area to provide employers with the guidance needed to effectively discharge their administrative responsibilities and will include updates as well as forms which can be downloaded.

OTHER BODIES

All Wales Pensions Officer's Group

Pensions Officers from all the Welsh administering authorities meet regularly in order to share information and ensure uniform interpretation of the LGPS and other prevailing regulations.

Wales Pension Partnership Group

The Fund works continuously to collaborate with other Welsh Pension Funds to evaluate specific partnership arrangements, particularly within the All Wales Pension Funds Communication Working Group.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions in South West Wales are valuable ambassadors for the Pension Scheme. They ensure that details of the Local Government Pension Scheme's availability are brought to their members' attention and assist in negotiation under TUPE transfers in order to ensure, whenever possible, continued access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Seminars

Fund Officers regularly participate at seminars and conferences held by LGPS related bodies.

National Information Forum

These meetings, which are attended by representatives from the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) and the Local Government Pensions Panel (LGPP), provide an opportunity to discuss issues of common interest and share best practice.

FUND STAFF

There is a responsibility on all staff to ensure effective communication at all levels across the service.

Induction

All new members of staff undergo an induction programme. A periodic appraisal programme is also exercised to review and monitor employee performance and development.

Training and Support

The Fund seeks to continually improve the capacity of staff to communicate effectively and to understand the importance of high-quality communication.

Both general and pension specific training is provided in-house, by the dedicated Communications & Training Officer or by specialists, where applicable, as part of the Fund's commitment to continual improvement as well as encouraged to obtain the professional qualification of pension administration and management.

Fund Meetings

Section and Team meetings are held on a regular basis. Items arising from such meetings are escalated through to Senior Managers and Chief Officers.

Internet

Staff are enabled to use the corporate network in order to access the internet and e-mail facility.

E-mails

Staff can be contacted via their personal CCS email address or via the Fund's central mailbox.

The Local Government Pension Panel

National Website: www.lgps.org.uk

Whilst the website is intended primarily as a means of external communication, access is helpful to staff.

Seminars

Fund Officers regularly attend seminars and conferences held by associated bodies to obtain regulatory information and to further their knowledge and understanding.

This information is later cascaded to all staff so that service delivery is improved.

DATA PROTECTION

To protect any personal information held on computer, the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund, as administered by the City and County of Swansea, is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998. This allows members to check that their details held are accurate.

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE

This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use information for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies administering public funds solely for these purposes.

GENERAL

Whilst this Policy Statement outlines the communication approaches adopted by the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund, there are roles and responsibilities which fall on Scheme members and participating Scheme Employers in ensuring that information necessary to maintain an accurate membership base is provided in a timely manner.

POLICY REVIEW

This statement will be revised if there is any material change in the City and County of Swansea Pension Fund's communication policy but will be reviewed no less frequently than an annual basis.

Fund Publications - publication frequency & review periods

Communication Material	When Published	When Reviewed
Scheme Booklet	Constantly Available	As Required
New Starter Pack	Constantly Available	As Required
Factsheets (various)	Constantly Available	As Required
Retirement Guide	Constantly Available	As Required
Newsletter	As required	As Required
Pension Newsletter	Annually	As Required
Annual Benefit Statement	Annually	Annually
Employer's Guide	Constantly Available	Annually
Pension Administration Strategy	Constantly Available	Annually
Customer Charter	Constantly Available	Annually
Annual Report & Accounts	Annually	Annually
Valuation Report	Tri-Annually	Tri-Annually
Funding Strategy Statement	Tri-Annually	As Required