

Part D: Risk Register

Identification of Risks:

These are the risks that threaten the achievement of the Pension Fund's objectives. Risks have been analysed between:

- Funding, including delivering the funding strategy;
- Investment;
- Governance
- Operational; and
- Regulatory.

Key to Scoring

Impact		Financial	Reputation	Performance
5	Most severe	Over £100m	Ministerial intervention, Public inquiry, remembered for years	Achievement of Council priority
4	Major	Between £10m and £100m	Adverse national media interest or sustained local media interest	Council priority impaired or service priority not achieved
3	Moderate	Between £1m and £10m	One off local media interest	Impact contained within directorate or service priority impaired.
2	Minor	Between £100k and £500k	A number of complaints but no media interest	Little impact on service priorities but operations disrupted
1	Insignificant	Under £100k	Minor complaints	Operational objectives not met, no impact on service priorities.

Likelihood

4	Very likely	This risk is very likely to occur (over 75% probability)
3	Likely	There is a distinct likelihood that this will happen (40%-75%)
2	Possible	There a possibility that this could happen (10% - 40%)
1	Unlikely	This is not likely to happen but it could (less than 10% probability)

Risk ID	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Existing Risk Control Measures
	Funding				
1	Inappropriate long-term investment strategy in relation to fund liabilities leading to an increase in the deficit	5	1	5	Fundamental Strategic review post valuation. Fund-specific benchmark and targets set. Advised by the Fund's IFA
2	Fall in risk-free returns on Government bonds, leading to rise in value placed on liabilities and an increase in the deficit.	4	2	8	Quarterly monitoring of liabilities. Toleration of risk in the expectation of higher real returns from riskier assets (equities, property). Investment in bonds helps mitigate the risk.
3	Pay and price inflation significantly higher than anticipated increasing the value of the liabilities.	4	2	8	Inter-valuation monitoring. Toleration of risk in the expectation of higher real returns from riskier assets (equities, property). The focus of the actuarial valuation process is on real returns on assets, net of price and pay increases. Some investment in bonds helps to mitigate this risk.
4	Effect of possible increase in employer's contribution rate on service delivery by admission/scheduled bodies.	3	2	6	Mitigate impact through deficit spreading and phasing in of contribution rises. Employers given early indications of potential increases.
5	Pensioners living longer than assumed in actuarial assumptions and therefore pension liabilities increase.	4	3	12	Review life expectancy assumptions at each valuation. Set mortality assumptions with some allowance for future increases in life expectancy.

Risk ID	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Existing Risk Control Measures
6	Increase in number of early retirements due to public service cuts and/or ill health leading to pension liabilities increasing.	3	3	9	Employers are charged the extra capital cost of non ill health retirements following each individual decision. Employer ill health retirement experience is monitored.
7	County Council unaware of structural changes in an employer's membership (e.g. large fall in employee members, large number of retirements) leading to non-recovery of past service deficits.	2	1	2	The County Council monitors membership movements. There will be a requirement under the 2010 rates and adjustments certificate for all small admitted and designated bodies to pay past service deficits by a cash sum rather than a percentage of pay.
	Investment				
8	Failure of investment strategy to produce long-term returns assumed by Funding Strategy leading to a failure to reduce the deficit.	4	2	8	Investment Strategy reviewed every three years by the Pension Fund Committee with advice from the IFA. Investment strategy will be reviewed in light of 2010 actuarial valuation results.
9	Failure of investment markets (market crash) leading to a failure to reduce the deficit.	5	2	10	Diversification between asset classes. Reporting and monitoring arrangements for investment performance in place. Flexibility in quarterly rebalancing.
10	Failure of individual investments leading to a failure to reduce the deficit.	3	3	9	Diversified investment strategy and investment manager structure minimises impact at fund level of any individual investment failure.

PF15

Risk ID	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Existing Risk Control Measures
11	Failure in investment performance by individual investment managers leading to a failure to reduce the deficit.	4	3	12	Thorough manager selection and due diligence process. Regular monitoring of manager performance using external advisers with knowledge of manager performance.
12	Negligence, fraud or default by individual investment manager leading to a failure to reduce the deficit and potential adverse media interest.	3	1	3	Legal requirements on fund managers set out in investment management agreements; FSA and other regulatory requirements. Separation of investment management arrangements from custody of assets through use of global custodian.
13	Failure of custodian leading to losses resulting in a failure to reduce the deficit and potential adverse media interest.	5	1	5	Regular review and periodic re-tendering of custodian contract. Banking and FSA regulation of custodian. All pension fund assets in custody are in ring fenced nominee holdings independent of custodians. (???)
14	Counterparty default in securities lending programme leading to a failure to reduce the deficit and potential adverse media interest.	3	1	3	Programme managed by experienced third party, BNY Mellon (Fund custodian). All securities in programme are over-collateralised (by 5%).

Risk ID	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Existing Risk Control Measures
15	Non-compliance with LGPS investment regulations on investments permitted to pension fund leading to....	1	1	1	Investment management mandates structured to ensure compliance. Robust monitoring arrangements for investment managers.
	Governance				
16	Inadequate investment and actuarial advice leading to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension Fund Committee and officers making decisions based on inaccurate or incomplete advice • Inappropriate decisions being taken leading to increased employer costs 	3	1	3	Officer and member training programme in place to help with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge and review of advice given; and • Decision making
17	Pension Fund Committee members have insufficient knowledge and advice to make correct decisions	3	2	6	Training programme and budget in place. IFA appointed and performance reviewed annually
	Operational				
18	Failure of pensions administration IT systems leading to complaints from beneficiaries and potential costs.	2	1	2	ICT business continuity plan.

PF15

Risk ID	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Existing Risk Control Measures
19	Failure to comply with LGPS pensions benefits regulations (e.g. as the result of incorrect benefit calculations and the holding of incorrect data) leading to potential losses and complaints from beneficiaries.	2	1	2	Pensions administration procedures. Independent internal and external audit review of internal control arrangements.
20	County Council failing to commission the Fund Actuary to carry out a termination valuation for a departing Admission Body and losing the opportunity to call in a debt	3	1	3	System of close monitoring of employers in place. A task list acts as a reminder in relation to this.
21	Inability or refusal of an employer to pay the cessation valuation.	3	3	9	Action through the courts.
22	Breach of data protection legislation leading to complaints from members of the scheme.	1	1	1	County Council data security protocol.
23	Failure to comply with pension fund accounting requirements leading to the accounts being qualified.	2	3	6	Staff awareness of changes to legislative requirements via networks, professional press and training. External audit review of pension fund accounts.
24	Employers' failure to carry out their responsibilities for scheme administration leading to complaints from members of the scheme.	2	1	2	Regular communication to employers on LGPS matters.

Risk ID	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Existing Risk Control Measures
25	Failure by Prudential to provide AVC services to the Pension Fund leading to complaints from members of the scheme and potential media interest.	2	1	2	Annual review undertaken and reported to Pension Fund Committee
26	Concentration of knowledge in a small number of officers and risk of departure of key staff.	2	2	4	Ensure the review of CIPFA's knowledge and skills framework relating to officers results in key outcomes being delivered. Merger of Pensions Investment and Treasury Management provided some mitigation to this risk.
	Regulatory				
27	Changes to LGPS regs could lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in workload ▪ Variation in liability and liability profile ▪ Recruitment and retention issues ▪ Admitted bodies opting out 	1 1 1 2	3 3 1 1	3 3 1 2	The County Council responds to all consultation papers on structural change to the LGPS issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Risks will need to be addressed if the regs change.

Risk ID	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Existing Risk Control Measures
28	An employer ceasing to exist with insufficient funding or adequacy of a bond.	2	2	4	<p>The risk is mitigated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking a funding guarantee from another scheme employer, or external body, where possible. • Vetting prospective employers before admission. • Admitted bodies' contribution rates are based on the same assumptions as scheduled bodies