

UNAUDITED ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund

For year to 31 March 2017

Contents

	Page
Introduction by Chairman of Pension Fund Committee	2
Management Commentary	3
Management and Financial Performance	3
Investment Strategy	8
Review of Investment Performance	9
Funding Position	12
Pensions Administration Update	13
Governance	17
Annual Governance Statement 2016/17	17
Governance Compliance Statement 2016/17	19
Risk Management Statement	24
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts	25
Statement of Accounts 2016/17	26
Fund Account 2016/17	26
Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2017	27
Notes to the Statement of Accounts	28
Independent Auditor's Opinion	49
Annex 1 Statement of Investment Principles	51
Annex 2 Glossary of Terms	77
Additional Information	79

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Report and Accounts for the Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2017. This Annual Report has been produced to provide Elected Members, Scheme Members and Employers and other interested parties with information concerning the administration and performance of the Fund in financial year 2016/17.

Highlights for the Year

Pension Fund Committee/Pension Board

The Pension Fund Committee has worked hard during the year in response to the continually growing governance agenda and increasingly complex pension administration environment that the Fund operates within.

The Committee members have engaged with training events both locally and nationally to expand their knowledge and understanding. The recent local elections has resulted in change of Membership for the Committee going forward but due to the hard work and dedication of the out-going Members the fund is in a strong position.

The Joint meetings of the Committee and Board continued during 2016/17 to be productive and informative due to the positive engagement of all members.

The Investment and Performance Sub-Committee, has met all investment managers twice during the year, which has allowed the committee full scrutiny of funds managed.

Investment Assets

Following the strong market recovery and strong performance from key fund managers over the last couple of years, 2016 has proved to be challenging but successful time. The level of volatility across markets, especially global equities has continued to be

unprecedented. Despite this the fund has managed to increase in value by £112m during the year.

The overall performance of the Fund was 21.5% for 2016/17, outperforming the benchmark by 1.0%.

Procurement Activity

Following the completion of the Strategic Asset Allocation review 3 new managers were successfully appointed to the Fund. The Fund has also entered an agreement to work along with Lothian Pension Fund to access the Infrastructure market.

Cashflow Modelling

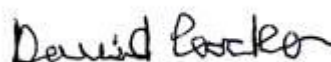
Work has continued during 2016 modelling the Funds cashflow position. This work will continue into 2017 as the Fund continues to mature and the balance between contributions and expenditure continues to widen.

Pensions Administration

During the year the Pensions Administration Team successfully issued all of the Annual Benefit statements to Employees, by the required deadline, and incorporating the new CARE scheme.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the Members of the Pension Fund Committee, Pension Fund Board, officers within the Council, our investment managers, KPMG and Barnett Waddingham for their hard work during the year and their ongoing commitment to ensuring the Fund's continued success.



**Chairman, Pension Fund Committee
Scottish Borders Council**

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

Management and Financial Performance

Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund

2016/17 Key Highlights

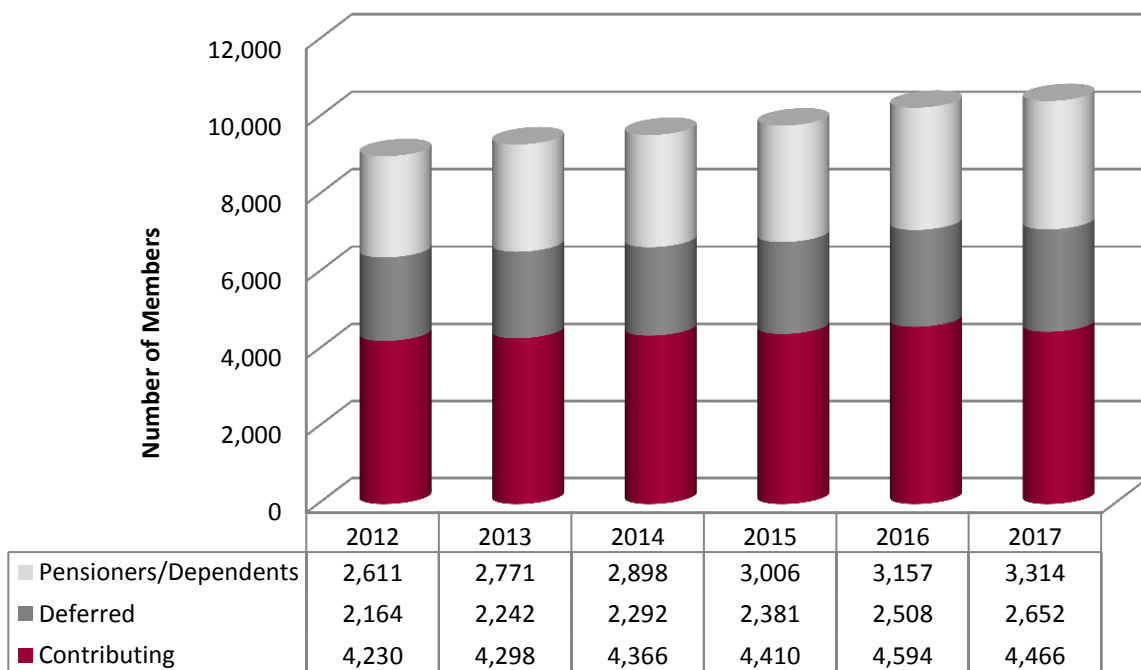
- £654m Net Assets, a increase of £112m on 2015/16
- Strong performance return of 21.5% for 2016/17 and 10.9% for the rolling 3 year period
- Continued sound governance of the Fund and good engagement of Members in the training programme
- 10,432 Members, an increase of 173 on previous year

The Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund (the Fund) as part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is administered by Scottish Borders Council (the Administering Authority). Note 1 to the Annual Accounts, page 28 provides a description of the Fund.

The Note sets out information in relation to the Fund's regulatory environment, funding, benefits and membership.

Overview of Fund Membership

Current membership of the Fund is 10,432 of which 4,466 are actively contributing and 3,314 are in receipt of pension benefits. The following chart summarises the trends in membership:



The chart on the previous page demonstrates that although there has been a relatively static position in relation to active contributing membership, there has been a continuing rise in the number of pensioners. Since 2012 the total membership has increased by 1,254 members (a 14% increase overall). During this period the number of pensioners and their dependants has increased by 19%, and the number of active contributing members has increased by 9%. This presents a challenge to the Fund to ensure that it manages its future cash flows effectively as the fund matures. This was included as part of the considerations when undertaking the full investment review.

A full reconciliation of the movement in membership during 2016/17 is included in Note 19 to the Accounts, page 44.

Financial Performance

The Financial Statements for the Fund are set out from page 26.

Key Figures from these are set out below:

	Restated 2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000
Net (Withdrawals) from Dealings with Members	(1,971)	(2,229)
Net Return on Investments	2,018	118,278
Net Increase/(decrease) in the Fund during the Year	(3,225)	112,493
Closing Net Assets of the Scheme	541,900	654,393

These highlight two key messages in relation to the Financial Position of the Fund:

- ***Strong financial returns from Fund Managers have resulted in increase of £112m in Net Assets***
- ***A Net Withdrawal position in relation to dealing with Fund Members***

The strong asset position, along with the 2014 Triennial Valuation of funding levels, demonstrates that the Fund is well placed to meet its future pension and other benefit liabilities.

The slightly increasing net withdrawal position supports the trend that is seen in the membership chart as outlined on page 3.

Recent changes in the legislation around what pensioners are able to do with their pension benefit entitlements have increased individual freedom to withdraw from the Fund potentially triggering significant transfer movements. The fund has not however seen any significant withdrawal from the fund as a result of this legislation but is continuing to monitor this position.

Governance and Decision Making

Following the significant changes required in the governance arrangements which came into force on 1 April 2015 the Pension Fund Board was established. Joint meetings of the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board have been held regularly during 2016/17.

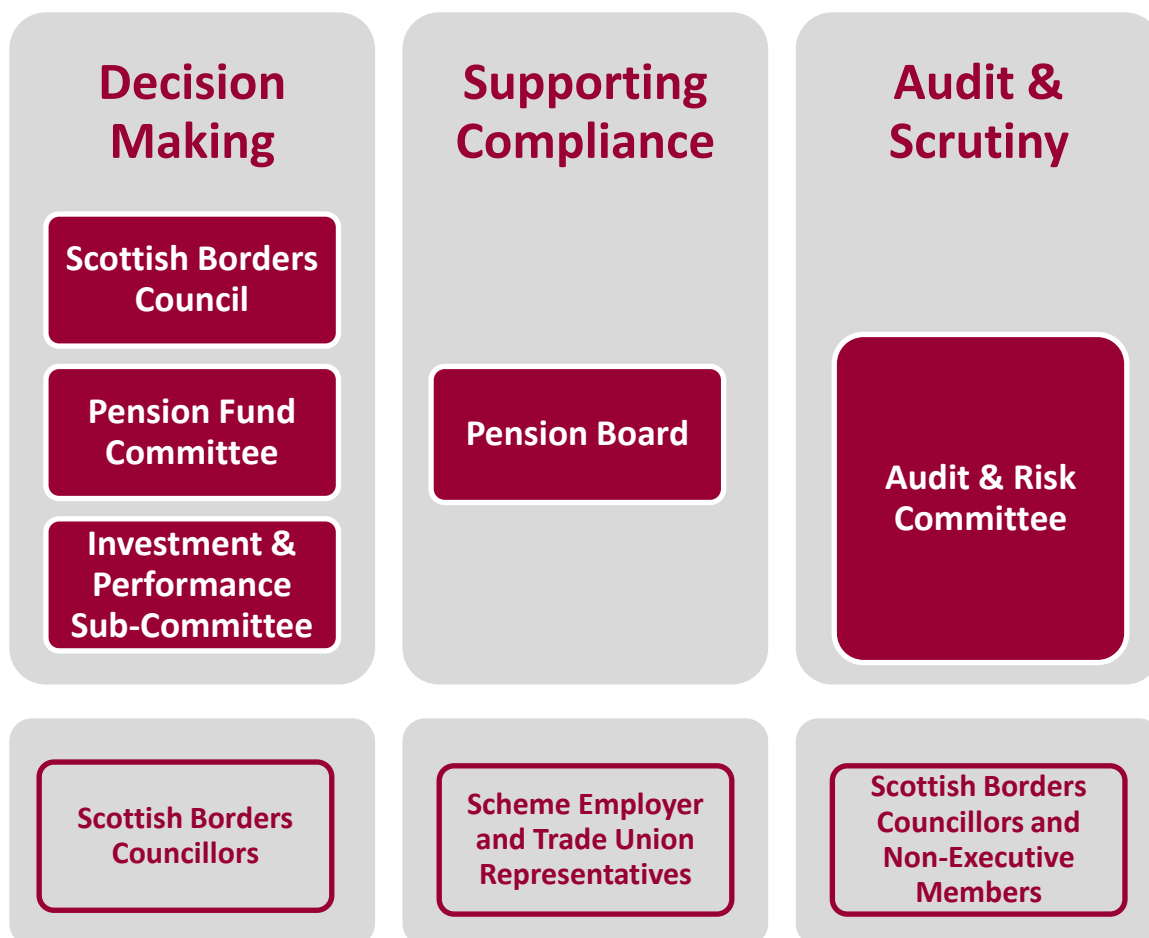
The remit of the Pension Fund Board is to assist the Council (as administering authority) in relation to:

- a) securing compliance with the regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme and any statutory pension scheme that is connected with it;
- b) securing compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the Scheme and any connected scheme by the Pensions Regulator; and
- c) such other matters as the regulations may specify.

This body is made up of four scheme employer representatives and four trade union representatives.

The membership of the Pension Fund Committee comprises elected members from the administering authority, Scottish Borders Council.

The governance of the Fund is as follows:



The Annual Governance Statement and Governance Compliance Statement 2017 can be found on pages 17 to 23.

Knowledge and Skills

The Training Policy for the Fund was updated and agreed on 16 June 2016 reflecting the governance arrangements set out on page 5.

Following the annual training needs assessment, the 2016/17 training programme was developed. It was delivered to all members of both the Pension Fund Committee and the Pension Fund Board and covered the following areas:

- Financial Markets and Investment Products
- Role of Custodian
- General Pension Fund regulatory environment
- LGPS regulatory environment

The Training Policy sets out a target for all members of the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board in relation to attendance at Committee meetings and training events. The 2016/17 performance is set out below.

<i>Pension Fund Committee</i>	Number of Members Attending	
% Attendance	Committee (Target – 2 meetings)	Training (Target – 2 sessions)
100% (4 sessions or more)	2	2
75% (3 sessions)	3	3
50% (2 sessions)	1	1
≤ 25% (1 or no sessions)	1	1

<i>Pension Fund Board</i>	Number of Members Attending	
% Attendance	Committee (Target – 2 meetings)	Training (Target – 2 sessions)
100% (4 sessions or more)	1	3
75% (3 sessions)	4	5
50% (2 sessions)	2	-
≤ 25% (1 or no sessions)	1	-

The Policy also requires members of the Pension Fund Board and Committee to attend at least two meetings per year and two training events. All Members of the Pension Fund Board fully met the training targets set in the Training Policy and 87.5% met the attendance target. 85.7% of the Pension Fund Committee met the training and attendance target.

The Fund is able to demonstrate full compliance with the relevant best practice standards and this is set out in the Governance Compliance Statement from page 19.

Fund's Aims and Objectives

Primary Aim of the Fund

- To provide for members' pension and lump sum benefits on their retirement or for their dependants' benefits on death before or after retirement, on a defined benefits basis.

Funding Objectives

- Set levels of employer contribution that will **build up a fund of assets that will be sufficient to meet all future benefit payments** from the Fund.
- Build up the required assets in such a way that ensure levels of **employer contribution that are stable**

Pensions Administration

- Deliver a **High Quality Pension Service to Members.**

Governance

- Ensure that Scottish Borders Pension Fund is **managed effectively, transparently and remains compliant.**

The Fund approved a Business Plan for the period covering 2016/17 – 2018/19 on 16 June 2016 and this presented the action plan associated with supporting the delivery of these aims and objectives. The key following actions were completed during 2016/17.

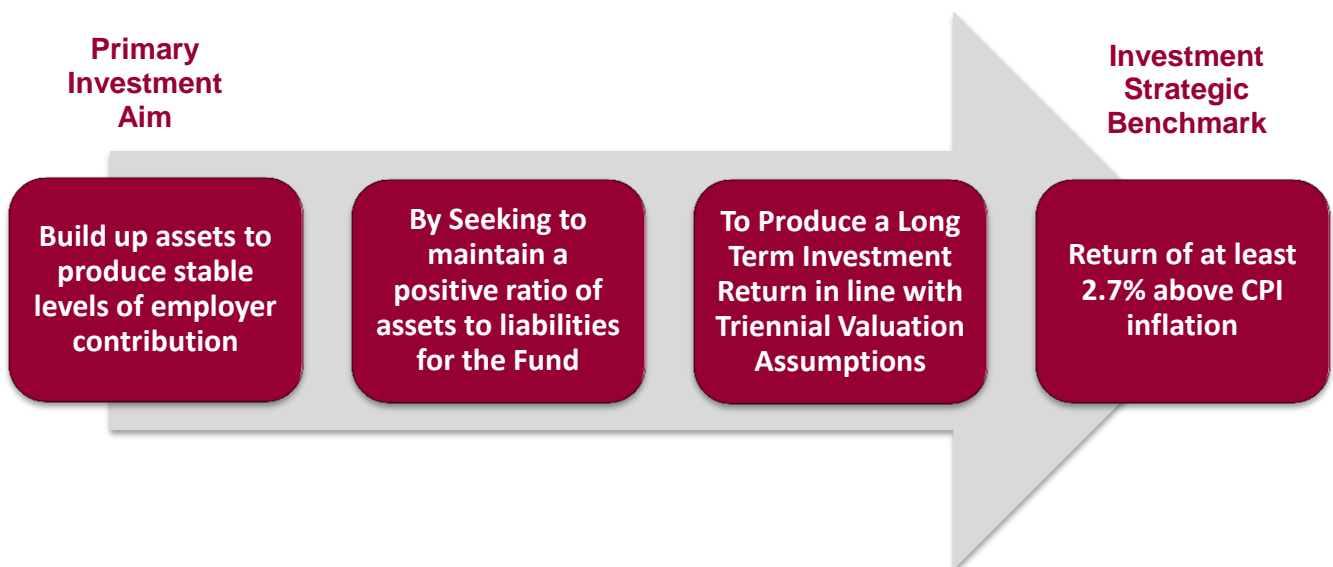
- ***Full review of Investment Strategy based on asset and liability modelling completed***
- ***Strategic Asset Allocation review completed and new fund managers appointed***
- ***Custodian procurement complete and services transferred successfully to Northern Trust***
- ***Annual Report and Financial Statements produced within prescribed timescales with no audit qualifications***

A full copy of the Business Plan can be found at www.scotborders.gov.uk/pensions.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

Investment Strategy

The Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) approved on the 18 June 2015 sets out the Fund's current Investment Strategy and a copy of this document can be found at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/pensions. An extract of the key elements of the SIP are included in Annex 1 and the Investment Strategy is summarised below:



The following table indicates the actual position at 31 March 2017 in relation to asset allocation versus the revised benchmark which was agreed as part of the Investment Strategy:

Asset Class	Asset Allocation at 31/3/16 %	Asset Allocation at 31/3/17 %	Strategic Benchmark %
UK Equity	18.8	18.2	14.0
Global Equity	46.8	49.8	33.5
Bonds	10.8	9.7	15.0
Alternatives	17.0	16.9	22.5
Property	6.1	5.1	15.0
Cash	0.5	0.3	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

As can be seen from the table on the above there has not been any major changes in the position of the allocation of assets between 2015/16 and 2016/17. The Fund has taken a deliberate decision to run underweight in the Bonds allocation due to the current market conditions. A revised asset allocation was agreed in December 2016 with greater focus on index linked assets including long leased property, with some initial reallocation of fund taking place before 31 March and it is anticipated the required transfers will be implemented during 2017/18

The strategic benchmark represents the asset allocation split as approved in December 2016 and contained with the 2017 Statement of Investment Principles.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

Review of Investment Performance

2016/17 in Numbers

- **Strong 3 year annualised investment performance of 10.9%, 0.9% above benchmark**

- **Strong 1 year performance** to March 2017 with investment returns of 21.5% in the year to a benchmark of 19.5%

Key Successes 2016/17

Investment Markets

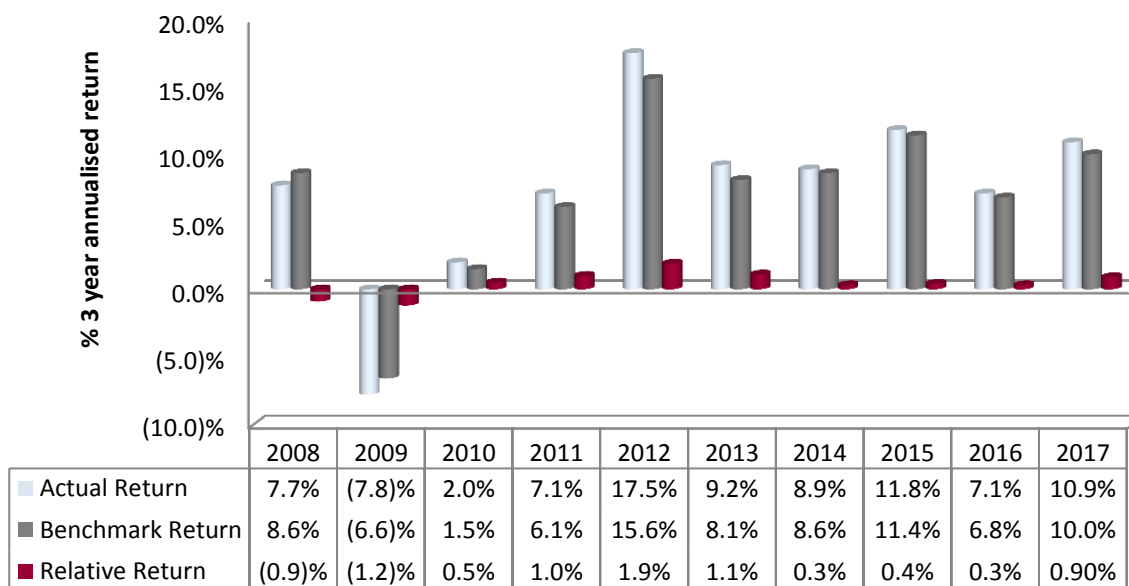
During 2016/17 there was an unprecedented level of volatility across a number of markets due largely to global political events. Over the 1 year rolling period a positive return was experienced in Equities both UK and Global. The 3 year rolling period is still positive compared to its benchmark, although lower due to the lower than benchmark returns during 2015/16. The factors affecting the markets were:

- Election of new US administration with promise of fiscal stimulus led to strong “risk on” environment as global equities rallied from 2015/16 levels.
- Uncertainty around BREXIT resulted in an element of volatility during the year but following the outcome markets have remained positive..
- Corporate bonds performed positively amidst a backdrop of improving global economic growth.

Investment Performance

The Fund's performance against benchmark over the past 10 years is highlighted in the chart below. This chart demonstrates that the rolling 3 year annualised relative return (i.e. Fund's return achieved compared with the benchmark) since 2010 has been positive, and that over the 10 year period there has only been one year of negative returns overall for the Fund and that was during the financial crisis.

3 Year Annualised Returns ending 31 March



Including the impact of the passive currency hedge, the overall fund return over 3 years was 10.9% p.a. versus the benchmark of 10.0% p.a., and the Fund return over 1 year was 21.5% p.a. compared to a benchmark of 19.5% p.a. Excluding the impact of the currency hedge, the fund return over 3 years was 11.9% p.a. versus the benchmark of 11.3% p.a. and the fund return over 1 year was 22.9% p.a. versus the benchmark of 20.9% p.a.

The Fund achieved these favourable returns in 2016/17 despite the volatile period in the markets during the year. The fluctuations in currency and the resulting currency hedge payments pulled the overall performance of the fund down by 1.4% during the year and 1% over the 3 year period. The currency hedge was fully removed from the fund in December 2016.

Each quarter the Investment Consultants, KPMG, reported on the Fund's quarterly performance by individual investment manager and mandate to the Joint Pension Fund Committee, and Pension Board. The Investment and Performance Sub Committee also met each Manager twice during the year giving members an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the investments, the decision making process and their performance.

The following table provides an analysis of how the Fund's investments performed against the Funds Benchmark.

Return on Investment as at 31/3/2017	1 year rolling return		3 year rolling return	
	Fund %	Bench ¹ %	Fund %	Bench ¹ %
Total Fund including Currency Hedging	21.5	19.5	10.9	10.0
Total Fund excluding Currency Hedging	22.9	20.9	11.9	11.3
Global Equities including UK	31.0	29.6	16.6	15.4
UK Equities	22.0	22.0	7.9	7.7
UK Government Bonds	6.6	6.6	11.6	10.5
UK Corporate Bonds	11.8	9.2	7.8	7.4
Pooled Bonds	6.9	3.3	n/a	n/a
Property	1.9	3.7	10.0	10.2
Alternatives	7.5	4.5	5.4	4.5

Key:

¹ **Bench:** Benchmark Return which reflects the overall performance of the individual markets available to the manager within the mandate given to them.

The performance of the Fund overall has exceeded the rolling 1 year and 3 year benchmark. The rolling 1 year performance was aided by strong performance from Harris Associates in global equities, off-setting an under performance from Morgan Stanley in global equities and UBS Property portfolios.

Top 20 Direct Equity Holdings at 31 March 2017

Company	Market Value of Holding £ m	Company	Market Value of Holding £ m
Prudential	6.8	Glencore	3.4
Amazon	6.7	Allianz SE	3.3
Royal Caribbean Cruises	5.2	Richemont	3.3
Naspers	4.6	CNH Industrial	3.3
Taiwan Semicon.SPN.ADR.1:5	4.2	Anthem Inc	3.2
SAP	4.0	Credit Suisse	3.2
Moodys Corp	3.9	Daimler	3.1
ADR Baidu	3.5	CRH PLC	3.0
Alphabet Inc	3.5	AIA Group	2.9
BNP Paribas	3.4	Samsung Electronic	2.8

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

Funding Position

2014 Valuation

- **101 % Funding Level for the Fund**
- **Stable Common Employer Contribution Rates at 18%**

Triennial Valuation 2014

The Triennial Funding Valuation as at the March 2014 was undertaken during 2014/15 and the final certified report was presented to the joint meeting of the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board on 18 June 2015. A copy of the report is available via the Council's committee papers website <http://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/>.

The outcome of the 2014 Valuation was a funding level of 101% and a Fund which is no longer in a funding deficit position. As a result there was no change in the overall Fund common employer contribution rate, although some individual employer rates did change for specific circumstances.

Valuation Date as at 31 March	Past Service Funding Position – Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund		
	2008 £m	2011 £m	2014 £m
Value of the Scheme Liabilities	(310.1)	(402.2)	(487.6)
Smoothed Asset Value	299.2	384.8	490.5
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(10.9)	(17.4)	2.9
Funding Level	96%	96%	101%

Note 23 to the Statement of Accounts on page 46, contains details of the outcome and assumptions used in the 2014 Valuation and the impact that it had on employer contribution rates.

This is the first valuation that has taken into account the move to an LGPS based on career average earnings rather than final salary which came into effect on 1 April 2015.

A major contributing factor to the improvement in the funding level has been the strong investment performance that the Fund has achieved over the past 3 years.

Valuation for Statutory Accounts at 31 March 2017

Note 24 to the Statement of Accounts on page 47, contains the actuarial present value valuation for the Fund as required by the International Accounting Standard (IAS) 26. This shows a net liability for the Fund of £254.2m. However the liabilities for this figure are calculated on an IAS 19 basis and therefore will differ from the results of the 2014 Triennial Funding Valuation because IAS 19 stipulates a specific discount rate to enable comparability rather than a rate that reflects the market rate for investment returns on the Fund's assets. It is therefore not appropriate to use this as a measure for setting employer contribution rates or assessing the overall long term funding health of the fund.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

Pensions Administration Update

2016/17 in Numbers

- 18 Scheme Employers
- £21.7m of Pension and Other Benefits paid during year
- £19.4m of Contributions Received from 4,466 Active Members and their Employers
- 6,515 Benefits Statements issued

- All Annual Benefit Statements issued by deadline, incorporating the new CARE benefits
- Testing of Business World fro processing Pension payment achieved in advance of 1st April 2017 implementation
- Successful admission of additional Bodies to the Fund

Key Successes 2016/17

Scheme Employer Liaison

The Scheme Employer Liaison meeting was held during 2016/17 and covered the requirements for the year end returns, requirements for the triennial valuation and an overview of investments. The opportunity was also taken to reinforce the scheme changes and the impact of these for the Fund and employers.

The good relationship with the main Scheme Employers also has resulted in the continued involvement of 4 employers as representatives in the new Pension Board.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme.

Teachers are not included as they come within other national pension schemes. There are 18 employer organisations within the Fund including the Council itself and membership by employer is analysed over the page.

Membership Details as at 31 March 2017	Number of Contributors	Pensioners	Deferred Pensioners	Total
Scheduled Bodies:				
Scottish Borders Council	3,246	3,067	2,344	8,657
Borders College	182	66	96	344
Visit Scotland (Scottish Borders)	1	6	9	16
	3,429	3,139	2,449	9,017
Active Admitted Bodies:				
Scottish Borders Housing Association	100	84	67	251
LIVE Borders	209	16	29	254
SBCares	673	43	89	805
Jedburgh Leisure Facilities Trust	2		2	4
L&B Community Justice Authority	2	1	5	8
Amey Community Limited	6	5	3	14
CGI	45			45
	1,037	149	195	1,381
Admitted Bodies with No Active Contributing Members:				
Gala Youth Project		1	1	2
Scottish Borders Careers		1	3	4
Others		24	4	28
	0	26	8	34
Total	4,466	3,314	2,652	10,432

Member Engagement

This has been identified as an area for development within the Pension Fund Business Plan 2016/17 – 2018/19. The development of a Communication Policy and associated action plan is included as an action for delivery within the next three year period. This will include exploiting the use of the web to engage with members via self-service interaction with the new pension administration system and improved information being available on the website.

Trade Unions as member representatives have also shown good engagement through their attendance at the Pension Fund Committee and also by securing 4 representatives for the Pension Board and identifying several substitutes.

Pensions Administration Strategy

The Fund's Pensions Administration Strategy was approved in September 2015. This sets out scheme employer and administering authority roles and responsibilities and defines the service performance standards.

How have we done?

A comprehensive report on Pensions Administration performance for 2016/17 was presented to the joint meeting of the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board on 15 June 2017 and a copy of the report is available via the Council's committee papers website <http://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/>.

Administering Authority Performance Measures

Many of the performance standards have been met in 2016/17 and are comparable with the positive performance in the previous year. During 2015/16 the target performance days for responding to general queries was reduced from 10 to 5 days and 100% of queries were replied to within this new target.

Service Standard - Estimates

Standard	Volume of Requests	Target Response	2016/17 % on Target
Estimates – Transfer In	80	20 Days	21.25%
Estimates – Transfer Out	59	20 Days	25.42%
Estimate – All Other	875	10 Days	90.40%
Total Estimates	1,014		

Service Standard – Query Response Turnaround

Standard	2015/16		2016/17	
	Volume of Queries	% on Target	Volume of Queries	% on Target
Query responses – within 5 working days	1,075	100%	972	100%
Benefit Statement queries – within 20 working days	55	100%	78	46%
Total	1,130		1,050	

Service Standard - Other

Area	Measure	Completed
Employer Liaison Meetings	1 per annum	Yes
Benefit Statements	by end of August	Yes

Employer Performance Measures

Service Standard – Employer Notifications

Standard	Volume of Notifications	Target %	% Achieved
New starts notification - within 20 working days	530	90%	100%
Changes notified – within 20 working days	571	90%	100%
Retirement info – at least 20 working days before	206	90%	100%
Early leaver notification – within 20 working days	544	90%	100%
Death in service notification – within 10 working days	3	90%	100%

Service Standard – Pension Contribution Payments

The following tables compare the date contribution payments are received against the target date for each of the Scheduled and Active Admitted Bodies.

Employer Body	Number of Monthly Payments Received		
	By Target Date (19th of Month)	Late	% On Time
Scottish Borders Council	12	-	100%
Visit Scotland	12	-	100%
Borders College	12	-	100%
Scottish Borders Housing Association	12	-	100%
Jedburgh Leisure Facilities Trust	10	2-	83%
LIVE Borders	6	6-	50%
AMEY Community Limited	12	-	100%
SBCares	12		100%
CGI	6		100%

During 2016/17 there was an increase in the number of payments being received late when compared to 2015/16, due to the repeat nature of late payments made by Live Borders they were written to and reminded of their responsibility to make payment on time. The payments dates continue to be monitored on a monthly basis.

**David Robertson
Chief Financial Officer
Scottish Borders Council**

28 June 2017

GOVERNANCE

Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

Introduction

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014 require Administering Authorities to measure their governance arrangements set out against standards set by Scottish Ministers. These standards are established via a number of best practice principles.

The key document summarising the governance arrangements for the Pension Fund is the Governance Policy and Compliance Statement (as amended on 18 June 2015) which is available on the website www.scotborders.gov.uk/pensions.

The Governance Framework

The key elements of the Pension Fund's governance arrangements include:

- a) Scottish Borders Council is the Administering Authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme set up for the Scottish Borders geographic area.
- b) The Council has delegated its responsibilities as Scheme Manager to the Pension Fund Committee. The members of the Committee act as quasi-trustees and oversee the management of the Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund.
- c) The introduction of the Pensions Board, which meets jointly with the Committee, formalises the involvement of the employers and trade unions representing the membership. All members of the Committee and Board are covered equally by the Training Policy to give them full opportunity to contribute effectively.
- d) The approval the first Pension Fund Business Plan covering the period 2016/17 – 2018/19 to improve planning and monitoring of the performance of the Fund and to demonstrate the “Myners Principle” relating to effective decision making. The business plan supports the delivery of the objectives of the Fund which are to deliver a high quality pension service to members that was managed effectively, transparently and was compliant.
- e) The Pension Fund appoints professional advisers and external service providers.
- f) The system of internal financial control operates within a financial strategy and is based on a framework of delegation and accountability for officers and elected members embodied in procedural standing orders, financial regulations, scheme of delegation, scheme of administration, supported by a framework of administrative procedures including the segregation of duties, and regular financial management information. In particular, the system includes comprehensive accounting systems that record income and expenditure for both member and investment activities, regular reviews of investment reports that measure investment returns against agreed benchmarks, regular reviews of investment manager reports that measure performance against agreed targets, and independent performance reviews of the Fund by the Fund's investment consultant and performance monitoring services provider.
- g) The Pension Fund follows the Council's approach to risk management and assesses risk using a scoring methodology and subjects the risk register to regular review.
- h) The Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 officer) for the Council is responsible for ensuring the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Pension Fund. This includes ensuring appropriate professional advice is sought and is given to the Pension Fund on all financial matters, keeping proper financial records and accounts, and maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.

- i) The Chief Officer HR for the Council is responsible for the pension benefit policy oversight and day-to-day administration of member benefits in accordance with statutory legislation and the approved pensions' administration strategy.
- j) The Chief Officer Audit & Risk (Head of Internal Audit) provides an independent and objective annual opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, risk management and governance based on the delivery of an approved plan of systematic and continuous internal audit review in conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
- k) The Pension Fund responds to findings and recommendations of external audit and internal audit, as appropriate. The Audit and Risk Committee is integral to overseeing independent and objective assurance and monitoring improvements in internal control and governance.

Review of Framework

The Council as Administering Authority of the Pension Fund conducts an annual review of the effectiveness of its overall governance framework which is presented to the Audit and Risk Committee whose role includes high level oversight of the Pension Fund's governance, risk management, and internal control arrangements.

The review is informed by the work of an officer assessment of the Fund's compliance with the best practice principles and the detail of this is set out in the Governance Compliance Statement 2016/17, Annex 1 (pages 19 – 23).

The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of professional accountancy staff within the Council, the assurances from the Chief Officer Audit & Risk's annual internal audit opinion and report on the work of internal audit, and by the external auditors' reports.

The review cycle for the risk register is undertaken in line with agreed practice and the current status is summarised in the Risk Management Statement.

The conclusion from the review activity outlined above is that in 2016/17 the Pension Fund continued to demonstrate that the governance arrangements and framework within which it operates are sound and effective.

Improvement Areas of Governance

The review has identified some areas where further improvements can be made to enhance the existing governance arrangements:

- a) Development of a communications plan to improve awareness and understanding of stakeholders and encourage maximum membership of the Fund.
- b) Continue to monitor the implications of new national policy on freedom of choice of pension sums.

Certification

It is our opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund's systems of internal control and governance. Although areas for further improvement have been identified the annual review demonstrates sufficient evidence that the Pension Fund's Governance Policy is operating effectively and that the Pension Fund fully complies with the best practice principles as demonstrated in the Governance Compliance Statement, Annex 1 (pages 19 – 23).

GOVERNANCE

Governance Compliance Statement 2016/17

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014 require Administering Authorities to measure their governance arrangements set out against standards set by Scottish Ministers. These standards are established via number of best practice principles. The following table contains an assessment of the Fund's compliance with these principles and reflects the changes following the introduction of the Pension Board.

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
Structure			
A	The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of Fund assets clearly rests with the main committee established by the appointing council.	Yes	<p>Scottish Borders Council acts as administering authority for the Pension Fund and delegates its responsibilities as Scheme Manager to the Pension Fund Committee (the Committee).</p> <p>The Committee comprises of 7 elected members.</p> <p>The Council's Scheme of Administration sets out the Committee's remit.</p>
B	Representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main or secondary committee established to underpin the work of the main committee	Yes	<p>The Pensions Board (the Board) formalises the involvement of the employers and trade unions representing the membership.</p> <p>The Fund's Board has 8 members, 4 employer representatives and 4 trade union representatives covering all pension fund members.</p> <p>The Board constitution is in line with the regulations, a copy of which is included in the Fund's Governance Policy and Compliance Statement.</p> <p>The Board meets jointly with the Committee and the Board Constitution and the Scheme of Administration set out how disputes between the two bodies should be resolved.</p> <p>The Investment and Performance Sub-Committee (the Sub-Committee) established under the Committee has its remit set out in the Scheme of Administration. The Membership of the Sub-Committee is comprised of the 7 elected members from the Committee and 2 (non-voting) members from the Board.</p>

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
C	Where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.	Yes	Minutes of the Sub-Committee and any other Sub-Groups are submitted to Committee for approval. 2 members from the Board and all members of the Committee are part of the Sub-Committee which has a remit to monitor investment performance.
D	Where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat of the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.	Yes	The Scheme of Administration states that any Sub-Group established will have member(s) of the Committee as part of its membership.
Committee Membership and Representation			
A	All key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented within the main or secondary committee structure. These include: (i) employing authorities (including non-scheme employers, e.g. admitted bodies) (ii) scheme members (including deferred and pensioner scheme members), (iii) where appropriate, independent professional observers, and (iv) expert advisors (on an ad-hoc basis)	Yes	The Board and Committee meet jointly ensuring employer and member (trade union) representation at meetings. The Investment Sub-Committee has two non-voting members from the Board. The Independent Investment Consultant and key Finance and HR Officers also attend in an advisory capacity.
B	Where lay members sit on a main or secondary committee, they are treated equally in terms of access to papers and meetings, training and are given full opportunity to contribute to the decision making process, with or without voting rights.	Yes	All members of the Committee and Board are covered equally by the Training Policy (as amended annually in June). The Board was established by Council on 2 April 2015. Scheme of Administration for the Committee and Board Constitution provide for the joint meetings with equal rights to receive papers and access meetings in the same way.

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
Selection and role of lay members			
A	That committee or panel members are made fully aware of the status, role and function they are required to perform on either a main or secondary committee.	Yes	For elected members this is part of Council's Code of Governance along with Member induction programme. In addition the Fund's Training Policy provides for an annual training needs assessment, and an annual programme of training to be made available to all members of the Committee and Board.
B	At the start of any meeting, committee members are invited to declare any financial or pecuniary interest related to specific matters on the agenda.	Yes	Part of Council's Code of Governance requires the declaration of members' interests as a standard agenda item on all committees.
Voting			
A	The policy of individual administrating authorities on voting rights is clear and transparent, including justification for not extending voting rights to each body or group represented on main LGPS committees.	Yes	This is set out in the Council's Scheme of Administration and the Board's Constitution.
Training/Facility time/Expenses			
A	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.	Yes	The Members Expenses are managed under the Council's policies. The Training Policy also covers the reimbursement of Training Related Expenses.
B	Where such a policy exists, it applies equally to all members of committees, sub-committees, advisory panels or any other form of secondary forum.	Yes	Training policy for all members of Pension Fund Board and Committee approved by Board and Committee annually in June.

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
C	The Administering Authority considers the adoption of annual training plans for committee members and maintains a log of all such training undertaken.	Yes	Annual Training Plan produced and logs of training are being maintained.
Meetings (frequency/quorum)			
A	An administering authority's main committee or committees meet at least quarterly.	Yes	The joint meetings of the Committee and Board are quarterly.
B	An administering authority's secondary committee or panel meet at least twice a year and is synchronised with dates when the main committee sits.	Yes	Investment Sub-Committee meets every six months in between main joint Committee/Board meetings.
C	An administering authority that does not include lay members in their formal governance arrangements must provide a forum outside of those arrangements by which the interests of key stakeholders can be represented.	Not applicable	Pension Board formally provides for the stakeholders engagement.
Access			
A	Subject to any rules in the Council's constitution, all members of main and secondary committees or panels have equal access to committee papers, documents and advice that falls to be considered at meetings of the main committee.	Yes	Papers sent to all Committee/Board members detailed in Scheme of Administration.

Principle		Full Compliance	Comments
Scope			
A	Administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.	Yes	The Scheme of Administration sets out that the Committee as having a remit which covers all matters relating the Council's role as the Administering Authority for the Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund, within the terms of all relevant Local Government Pension Scheme legislation and the requirements of the Pension Regulator.
Publicity			
A	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.	Yes	Minutes and Public papers available via Council website, as are various governance and scheme policy documents.

GOVERNANCE

Risk Management Statement

The Fund is committed to a strong control environment to ensure that risks are identified, understood, managed and monitored appropriately.

The Risk Register for the Pension Fund has been developed in line with the Council's approach to risk management and assesses risk using a scoring methodology based on likelihood and impact.

A full risk review was undertaken in June 2016 and subsequent reviews have followed the Council's cycle, as shown below was followed:

Level of risk (Inherent risk score)	Reporting and Review Cycle
RED -Very High (15-25)	3 monthly reviews of action progress throughout the year
AMBER – High (6-12)	6 monthly review
GREEN – Low (1-5)	Annual review

The headings under which the Council consider risk are set out below and the analysis of the level and number of risks are set out below:

Risk Category	Risk Assessment					
	Before Controls			After Controls		
	Red	Amber	Green	Red	Amber	Green
Asset & Investment	3	6	-	-	7	2
Employer	-	4	-	-	3	1
Resource & Skill	-	5	-	-	3	2
Liquidity	2	4	-	1	4	1
Administrative	-	8	-	-	3	5
Regulatory & Compliance	1	3	-	1	1	2
Reputation	1	4	-	-	2	3
Total Number of Risks	7	34	-	2	23	16

The two risks that remain at red assessment i.e. high risk as at 31 March 2017 are:

- ***Change in the composition of the Pension Fund Membership between active/deferred/pensioners***
- ***Legislation Changes impacting on the Fund***

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Council's responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund (the Fund) and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Chief Financial Officer.
- Manage the affairs of the Fund to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets
- Approve the Statement of Accounts of the Fund (in Scotland, the audited accounts must be laid before a meeting of the Authority within two months of receipt of the audit certificate)

The Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2014, as updated by the Local Government Pension Scheme Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/234) and supporting guidance issued by the Scottish Government.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial 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

The Chief Financial 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

Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund as at 31 March 2017, and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2017.

David Robertson (CPFA)
Chief Financial Officer
Scottish Borders Council

28 June 2017

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17 FUND ACCOUNT

Restated 2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000	Notes
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the scheme:		
18,642	Contributions	18,373	7
411	Transfers in from other pension funds	1,074	8
19,053		19,447	
(20,357)	Benefits	(19,986)	9, 10
(667)	Payments To And On Account Of Leavers	(1,690)	11
(21,024)		(21,676)	
(1,971)	Net Additions/(Withdrawals) from Dealings with Members	(2,229)	
(3,272)	Management expenses	(3,555)	12
	Return on Investments:		
6,451	Investment Income	8,292	13
(4,282)	Profits and (Losses) on Disposal of Investments and Changes in the Market Value of Investments	110,098	14
(151)	Taxes on Income	(113)	
2,018	Net Return on Investments	118,277	
(3,225)	Net Increase/(Decrease) in the Fund during the Year	112,493	
545,125	Opening Net Assets of the Scheme	541,900	
541,900	Closing Net Assets of the Scheme	654,393	

NET ASSETS STATEMENT as at 31 March 2017

Restated 2016 £'000		2017 £'000	Notes
	Investment Assets		
203,952	Equities	257,512	16
	Managed Funds:		
32,546	Property	32,169	
82,947	Global Equities	105,284	
62,415	UK Equities- Passive	74,744	
18,643	Bonds	20,379	
39,913	Diversified Fixed Income	42,814	
92,526	Alternatives	110,322	
1,674	Open Ended Investment Contracts	1,825	
1,447	Derivatives – Forward Foreign Exchange	-	
5,715	Cash Deposits	8,158	
541,778	Total Investment Assets	653,207	
926	Other Investment Balances	1,355	
	Current Assets & Liabilities		
1,365	Cash Balances	1,507	
210	Contributions due from Employers	251	
387	Other Current Assets	340	
(2,766)	Other Current Liabilities	(2,267)	
122		1,186	
541,900	Net Assets	654,393	

The Fund Account and Net Assets Statement do not show any liability to pay pensions or other benefits in the future. The liability to pay pensions is detailed in the Actuarial Statement in Note 21.

The unaudited accounts were issued on 28 June 2017 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 29 September 2016.

David Robertson CPFA
Chief Financial Officer
28 June 2017

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1 DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND

A) GENERAL

The Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund (the Fund) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by Scottish Borders Council.

The LGPS scheme is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The fund is administered by the Council in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions and Savings) (Scotland) Regulations 2014
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Scotland) Regulations 2010
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Governance)(Scotland) Regulations 2015

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Scottish Borders Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Scottish Borders Council and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies within the Scottish Borders area.

Organisations participating in the Fund include:

- Scheduled Bodies – which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund
- Admitted Bodies – which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation.

B) FUNDING

Pensions and other benefits are funded by contributions from employees, employers and investment earnings.

The Pension Fund is subject to a triennial valuation by an independent, qualified Actuary, whose report indicates the required future employer's contributions, which for 2016/17 were based on the valuation undertaken as at the 31 March 2014 as amended by specific changes agreed by the Committee relating to an individual employer. The overall contribution rate was 18% for the Fund as a whole; however employer contribution rates during 2016/17 ranged from 15.5% to 19.0%.

Contributions from active members of the Fund are paid on a tiered basis, the contribution rate being determined by the amount of salary falling into each earnings tier. These rates are made in accordance with the 2008 Regulations and ranged from 5.5% to 12.0% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2017. *From 1 April 2015 these contributions will be based on the LGPS Regulations 2014 in line with the updated LGPS Scheme.*

C) BENEFITS

Prior to 1 April 2015, pension benefits under the LGPS have been based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service as summarised below:

	Service before 1 April 2009	Service after 31 March 2009 until 31 March 2016
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80 th x final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth 1/60 th x final pensionable salary
Lump Sum	Automatic lump sum of 3 x salary. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A one off payment of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

From the 1 April 2015, the scheme will become a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of 1/49th. Accrued pension is uprated annually in line with the Consumer Price Index.

There are a range of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits.

2 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements summarise the Fund's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position as at the 31 March 2017. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17* (the Code) which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector. In addition, consideration has been given to the *Local Government Pension Scheme Fund Accounts 2016/17 - example accounts and disclosure checklist* published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA).

The financial statements also present the net assets available to pay pension benefits. These do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. Local authorities responsible for administering a pension fund that forms part of the LGPS are required by The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014 to publish a pension fund annual report, which is required to include a Fund Account and Net Assets Statement prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

3 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Fund Account

Accruals Basis

In accordance with the Code, the Fund's Financial Statements are generally prepared on an accruals basis. The Net Assets Statement does not include liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the Fund year and the accruals concept is applied accordingly. Receipts and payments in respect of the transfer of benefits from and to other schemes are treated on a cash basis.

Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the LGPS Regulations. Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Investment Income

i) Interest income

Interest is recognised in the Fund Account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination.

ii) Dividend income

Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any income not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

iii) Distributions from pooled funds

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue.

iv) Movement in the net market value of investments

Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.

Benefits Payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as current liabilities.

Taxation

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

Administration Expenses

All administration expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Central Support Costs from Scottish Borders Council have been recharged to the Fund on the basis of time spent by staff on the service.

Investment Management Expenses

Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates or subscription agreements governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change.

Net Assets Statement

Valuation of Investments

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined as follows:

- Market-quoted investments – Investments listed on recognised Stock Exchanges are valued at the bid price on the closing business day.
- Unquoted investments – Directly held investments include investments in limited partnerships, shares in unlisted companies, trusts and bonds. Other unquoted securities typically include pooled investments in property, infrastructure, debt securities and private equity. The valuation of these pools or directly held securities is undertaken by the investment manager or responsible entity and advised as a unit or security price. The

valuation standards followed in these valuations adhere to industry guidelines or to standards set by the constituent documents of the pool or the management agreement

- Pooled investment vehicles – are valued at bid price on the closing business day

The processes of the fund managers, who are listed in Note 15, page 38 are subject to external audit and verification and this is reported in their respective assurance reports on internal controls (in accordance with Technical Release AAF 01/06).

Foreign Currency Transactions

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End of year spot market exchange rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, market values of overseas investments.

Derivatives

The Fund uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to specific risks (in particular currency) arising from its investment activities. The Fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes.

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

The future value of forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end and determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract were matched at the year-end with an equal and opposite contract.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 26, calculated in line with IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards.

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Fund during the year and its net assets at the year end. They do not take account of the obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the year. As permitted under the Code, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the Net Assets Statement (Note 21, page 47).

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

Additional Voluntary Contributions are invested separately from the main Fund, securing additional benefits on a money purchase basis for those members that have elected to contribute. All AVCs are managed by Standard Life and the value at 31 March 2017 was £1.037m (2015/16 £0.846m). During the year contributions totalled £0.153m, while payments out of the AVC fund totalled £0.056m. In accordance with regulation 4(2) (b) of the Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds)(Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3093), AVCs are not included in the Pension Fund accounts.

4 CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICES

Unquoted private equity investments

It is important to recognise the highly subjective nature of determining the fair value of private equity investments. They are inherently based on forward-looking estimates and judgements involving many factors. Unquoted private equities are valued by the investment managers using guidelines set out by the British Venture Capital Association. The value of unquoted private equities at 31 March 2017 was £17.8m.

Pension Fund Liability

The pension fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary (currently Barnett Waddingham), with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with the accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary and are summarised in Note 21, page 47. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

5 ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION OF UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. Estimates and assumptions are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the financial statements at 31 March 2016 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
<p>Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits (Note 21)</p>	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions in the future depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. Barnett Waddingham is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p>	<p>The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £44m - A 0.5% increase in the Consumer Price Index assumption for inflation would increase the value of the liabilities by £27m - A 0.5% increase in the long-term rate of salary increase would increase value of the liabilities by £6m, and - A 1.25% increase in assumed life expectancy would increase the deficit by £5m <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source – Triennial Valuation 2014</i></p>
<p>Portfolio of alternative assets held in a fund of funds</p>	<p>The alternative assets fund of funds is valued at the sum of the fair values provided by the administrators of the underlying funds plus adjustments that the fund of funds directors or independent administrators judge necessary. The fund of funds is not publically listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.</p>	<p>The total portfolio of alternative assets held in a fund of funds is valued in the Financial Statements at £98.7m. There is a risk that this investment may be under- or overstated in the accounts.</p>

6 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

There are no known events since the 31 March 2017

7 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

2015/16				2016/17		
Employers £'000	Members £'000	Total £'000		Employers £'000	Members £'000	Total £'000
13,373	4,401	17,774	Normal	13,627	4,514	18,141
772	-	772	Special/Pension Fund Strain	202	-	202
-	96	96	Additional Voluntary	-	30	30
14,145	4,497	18,642	Total	13,829	4,544	18,373

8 TRANSFERS IN

There were no group transfers in to the scheme during 2016/17 or 2015/16 and the total of £1.074m (2015/16: 0.411m) represents the total of transfer values in respect of individual members joining the scheme.

9 BENEFITS PAYABLE

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
15,234	Pension Payments	15,910
5,123	Lump Sums/Death Benefits	4,076
20,357		19,986

10 ANALYSIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS

2015/16			2016/17	
Benefits Payable £'000	Contributions Receivable £'000		Benefits Payable £'000	Contributions Receivable £'000
19,340	14,811	Scottish Borders Council	18,869	13,684
261	594	Scheduled Bodies	275	657
756	3,237	Admitted Bodies	843	4,032
20,357	18,642	Total	19,987	18,373

11 PAYMENTS TO AND ON ACCOUNT OF LEAVERS

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
68	Contributions Returned	88
599	Individual Transfers to Other schemes	1,602
667		1,690

12 MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
301	Administrative costs	263
2,754	Investment management expenses	3,051
217	Oversight and governance costs	241
3,272	Total	3,555

12(a) INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
2,543	Management Fees	2,878
-	Performance Related Fees	-
51	Transaction Costs	59
145	Custody Fees	102
15	Other Fees	12
2,754	Total	3,051

13 INVESTMENT INCOME

Restated 2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
(5,661)	Dividends from equities	(7,142)
(771)	Income from Pooled Investment Vehicles	(1,133)
(19)	Interest on Cash Deposits	(17)
(6,359)		(8,292)

14 (PROFITS) AND LOSSES ON DISPOSAL OF INVESTMENTS AND REALISED CURRENCY PROFITS AND LOSSES

Restated 2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
1,025	Realised	17,514
2,494	Unrealised	92,584
3,519		110,098

15 AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

In 2016/17 the agreed audit fee for the year was £19,710. There were no other fees during 2016/17 paid to Audit Scotland, the Pension Fund's auditor.

16 ANALYSIS OF NET INVESTMENT ASSETS

Market Value at 31 March 2016				Market Value at 31 March 2017		
UK £'000	Overseas £'000	Total £'000		UK £'000	Overseas £'000	Total £'000
			Investment Assets			
46,438	157,515	203,953	Equities	53,389	204,219	257,608
			Managed Funds:			
32,546	-	32,546	Property	32,072		32,072
64,089	82,947	82,947	Equities	76,569	105,284	181,853
18,643	-	18,643	Bonds	20,379		20,379
-	39,913	39,913	Diversified Fixed Income		42,814	42,814
-	92,526	92,526	Alternatives		110,322	110,322
3,936	1,778	5,714	Cash Deposits	6,826	1,332	8,158
165,652	374,679	540,331	Total Investment Assets	189,235	463,971	653,206
			Investment Liabilities			
1,447	-	1,447	Derivative - Passive Currency Hedge			
167,099	374,679	541,778	Net Investment Assets	189,235	463,971	653,206

Alternative asset portfolio at 31 March 2017

The investment in the alternative asset portfolio, managed by LGT Capital Partners and valued at £98.734m at 31 March 2017, is allocated to the following asset classes at 31 March 2016: Convertible Bonds, Emerging Markets Debt, High Yield (Bonds), Commodities, Insurance-Linked Securities, Property, GTAA/Global Macro, Event Oriented, Market Neutral, Thematic Opportunities, Infrastructure and Private Equity.

Investment Movement Reconciliation

	Opening Market Value £'000	Purchases & Derivative Payments £'000	Sales & Derivative Receipts £'000	Other Movements £'000	Closing Market Value £'000
Investment Assets					
Equities	203,952	46,538	(43,747)	50,805	257,548
Managed Funds:					
Property	32,546	7,888	(3,741)	(4,524)	32,169
Equities	147,036	109	(1,240)	35,948	181,853
Bonds	18,643			1,736	20,379
Diversified Fixed Income	39,913	1,133		1,768	42,814
Alternatives	92,526	11,588		6,208	110,322
Derivative Contracts:					
Passive Currency Hedge	1,447		(1,447)		0
Net Investments exc. Cash Deposits	536,063	67,256	50,175	91,941	645,085

Significant Transactions during the year:

Following strategic asset allocation review £11.5m initial funding made to Private credit allocation with Alternatives.

Investments representing more than 5% of Net Assets

The value of the following investments exceeds 5% of the total value of the net assets of the Pension Fund at 31 March 2017. Each of the investments comprises units in a managed fund.

Value as at 31 March 2016	£'000
M&G Alpha Opportunities Fund	42,814
Morgan Stanley Global Brands Fund	105,284
LGT Crown SBC Segregated Portfolio	98,734
UBS UK Passive Equities	74,744

Investment Analysed by Fund Manager

Investment Management was undertaken on behalf of the Fund during the financial year by six firms of investment managers: UBS Global Asset Management, Baillie Gifford & Co, Morgan Stanley, Harris Associates and M&G, Partners Group and LGT Capital Partners. The Fund's passive currency hedging programme to December 2017 was provided by State Street Global Advisors. As at 31 March 2016 the market value of the assets under management, broken down by manager and mandate (including cash held within each mandate) was:

31-Mar-16				31-Mar-17	
£'000	%			£'000	%
62,415	11.49	UBS	UK Equities - Passive	74,745	11.44
39,111	7.20	Baillie Gifford	UK Equities	44,112	6.75
120,370	22.16	Baillie Gifford	Global Equities	151,003	23.12
50,278	9.26	Harris	Global Equities	69,221	10.60
82,947	15.27	Morgan Stanley	Managed Fund - Global Equities	105,284	16.12
39,913	7.35	M&G	Managed Fund - Diversified Income	42,814	6.55
18,643	3.43	M&G	Managed Fund - Bonds	20,379	3.12
32,812	6.04	UBS	Property	33,257	5.09
92,337	17.00	LGT	Managed Fund - Alternatives	98,734	15.12
1,447	0.27	State Street	Derivatives - Passive Currency Hedge		
		Partners Group	Managed Fund – Private Credit	11,588	1.77
2,871	0.53	Internal	Internally Managed Cash & Investments	2,070	0.32
543,144	100.00			653,207	100.00

The benchmarks and performance targets for each manager as at the 31 March 2017 are contained in Annex 1, Section 4.3, page 65 for information.

Fund Performance

The total Fund return for the year was 21.5% including the currency hedging. The hedging arrangements had a negative impact, decreasing the return by 1.4%. Excluding the currency hedging, the return on the Fund was 22.9% with a relative return over benchmark of 2.0%.

Over three years the Fund has generated an annualised return of 10.9% per annum, including the currency hedging, with a relative return over benchmark of 0.9% per annum. Further information on this is contained in the Management Commentary – Review of Investment Performance, page 9.

17 STOCK LENDING

As at 31 March 2017 no stock had been released to a third party under a stock lending arrangement.

18 FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY

Assets and liability valuations are classified into three levels according to quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values.

- Level 1 are those where fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities and unit trusts. Prices are quoted at bid prices.
- Level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data.
- Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

Values as at 31 March 2017	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
	level 1 £'000	level 2 £000's	level 3 £000's	£000's
Designated as fair value through fund account	494,027	34,427	116,547	645,001
Loans & receivables	6,099	5,015	38	11,152
Financial liabilities at fair value through fund account		(1,490)		(1,490)
Net Investment Assets	500,126	37,952	116,585	644,663

Values as at 31 March 2016	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
	level 1 £'000	level 2 £000's	level 3 £000's	£000's
Designated as fair value through fund account	407,870	34,220	92,526	534,616
Loans & receivables	4,295	2,786	1,447	8,528
Financial liabilities at fair value through fund account	-	-	-	-
Net Investment Assets	412,165	37,006	93,973	543,144

19 NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows.

Responsibility for managing the Fund's risk rests with the Pension Fund Committee. A risk register for the Fund has been established to identify and analyse the risks that the Fund faces and the key messages from this process are covered in the Risk Management Statement on page 24. The Market Risk and Credit Risk aspects below come under the risk category of Assets and Investment in the Risk Register, whilst Liquidity Risk is a separate category of risk.

In addition, the Funding Strategy Statement and Statement of Investment Principles address risk management considerations as they apply to the particular objectives of each document.

A) MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix. The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Council and its Investment Consultants undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

(i) Other Price Risk

Other 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 price risk, arising from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments.

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.

Other Price Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

In consultation with the Fund's independent provider of performance and analytical data (WM), it has been determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for this reporting period.

Asset Type	Potential Market Movement +/- (% p.a.)
UK Equities	10.76
Global Pooled Equities	10.72
UK Bonds	6.84
Cash	0.01
Property	1.88
Alternatives	1.97

Potential price changes are determined based on the observed historical volatility of asset class returns. The potential volatilities are consistent with a one standard deviation movement in the change in value of the assets over the latest three years. Had the market price of the Fund investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price could have been as follows:

Asset Type	Value as at 31 Mar 17 £'000	+/- % Change*	Value on Increase £'000	Value on Decrease £'000
UK Equities	118,857	20.2	142,866	94,848
Global Equities	325,508	20.5	392,238	258,779
Total Bonds	63,193	6.1	67,048	59,338
Cash	2,070	1.1	2,093	2,047
Property	33,257	13.0	37,580	28,934
Alternatives	110,322	17.9	130,070	90,574
Total Assets Exc. Currency Hedge	653,207		771,894	534,520

*The percentage change for total assets includes the impact of correlation across asset classes.

(ii) 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 represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the Council and its Investment Consultants, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017 is set out below and includes investment and operational cash balances. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

Asset Type	At 31 March 2016 £'000	At 31 March 2017 £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	7,080	9,665
Fixed Interest Securities	58,556	63,193
	65,636	72,858

Interest rate risk sensitivity analysis

The Council recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits.

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 100 Basis Points (BPS) change in interest rates:

Asset Type	Value as at 31 Mar 17 £'000	Effect on Asset Values	
		Favourable Rate Move + 100 BPS £'000	Unfavourable Rate Move -100 BPS £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	9,665	97	(97)
Fixed Interest Securities	63,193	632	(632)
	72,858	729	(729)

(iii) 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 is invested in equities overseas that are denominated in currencies other than £UK. To help manage this risk, the Fund hedges 50% of its exposure to equities denominated in certain major foreign currencies through the operation of a passive currency overlay programme, operated by State Street.

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure at 31 March 2016:

Currency exposure by asset type	As 31 March 2016 £'000	As 31 March 2017 £'000
Overseas Equities	243,370	309,504
Diversified Bonds	39,913	42,814
Alternatives	92,526	110,322
Cash - Foreign Currency	1,778	1,332
Total	377,587	463,972

Currency Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with KPMG the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange movements on an individual currency basis is shown on the table on the following page. The weight of each currency in relation to the total currency basket is multiplied by the change in its exchange rate (relative to GBP) to create the aggregate potential currency change of the ‘basket’.

Currency	Value as at 31 Mar 17 £'000	+/- % Change	Value on Increase £'000	Value on Decrease £'000
Australian Dollar	970	12.15%	1,088	852
Brazilian Real	991	17.55%	1,165	817
Canadian Dollar	1,197	10.24%	1,319	1,074
Chinese Yuan	1,886	10.33%	2,081	1,691
Danish Krone	2,404	9.22%	2,625	2,182
EURO *	41,461	9.25%	45,471	37,771
Hong Kong Dollar	4,114	10.29%	4,538	3,691
Japanese Yen *	12,598	15.19%	14,512	10,684
Mexican Peso	2,303	13.54%	2,615	1,991
Norwegian Krone	1,285	11.68%	1,435	1,135
South African Rand	5,005	17.25%	5,868	4,141
South Korean Won	907	14.14%	1,035	779
Swedish Krona	17,402	11.49%	19,402	15,403
Swiss Franc	6,313	12.23%	7,085	5,541
Taiwan Dollar	611	10.01%	672	550
US Dollar	176,184	10.57%	194,807	157,561
Total Currency *	275,791		305,718	245,863

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

B) CREDIT RISK

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities. The selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

The Fund is separately mentioned within the Council's Annual Treasury Strategy and this document sets out the Fund's approach to credit risk for internally managed funds. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Council's credit criteria. The Fund has also set limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits placed with any one class of financial institution.

The Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and the Fund has had no experience of default or uncollectable deposits over the past five financial years. The Fund's cash holding under its internal treasury management arrangements at 31 March 2016, including current account cash, was £2.78m (31 March 2015: £3.14m). This was held with the following institutions:

	Rating	Balance at 31 March 2016 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2017 £'000
Money Market Accounts			
Ignis	AAA	355	505
Scottish Widows	AAA	355	505
Blackrock	AAA	355	505
Prime Rate	AAA	355	505
Bank Current Accounts			
Bank of Scotland	A	1,365	1,507
Total		3,138	3,527

C) LIQUIDITY RISK

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council therefore takes steps to ensure that the Pension Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments.

The Council has immediate access to its internally managed Pension Fund cash holdings through use of instant access accounts or money market funds.

The Fund defines liquid assets as assets that can be converted to cash within three months. Illiquid assets are those assets which will take longer than three months to convert in to cash. As at 31 March 2016, the Fund's only illiquid assets under this definition are some of the Property fund of funds holdings which are only tradable in the secondary market.

20 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Pension Fund had an average balance of £1.797m (2015: £6.603m) of cash administered by Scottish Borders Council within separate external banking arrangements, which earned interest of £0.010m (2015: £0.022m). The Council charged the Pension Fund £0.339m in respect of expenses incurred in administering the Fund. There are no additional related party transactions that require to be disclosed. The Pension Fund balance due from Scottish Borders Council to the Pension Fund at the balance sheet date and disclosed in the net assets statement was as follows:

As at 31 March	2016 £'000	2017 £'000
Due (to)/from Scottish Borders Council	(671)	168

Governance

All members of the Pension Fund Committee were active member of the pension fund during 2016/17. None of the Pension Fund Committee were in receipt of pension benefits from the Fund.

21 KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the fund is Scottish Borders Council Chief Financial Officer. Total remuneration payable is set out below

31 March 2016 £000's		31 March 2017 £000's
85	Short-term benefits	86
-	Post-employment benefits	
2-	Other long-term benefits	2
-	Termination benefits	-
-	Share-base payments	-
87	Total	88

The figures above reflect the full remuneration as reported in Scottish Borders Council Accounts. The Pension Fund is recharged 12% of the above post.

22 MEMBERSHIP RECONCILIATION 2016/17

	Membership Reconciliation – Number of Members			
	Contributing Members	Pensioners	Deferred Pensioners	Total
Number at 31 March 2016	4,594	3,157	2,508	10,259
Adjustments (late notifications etc.)	(33)	(1)	(11)	(45)
New Members	530		2	532
Transfers to Other Schemes	(9)		(13)	(22)
Refunds of Contributions	(264)			(264)
Retirement of Contributing Members	(142)	142		0
Transfer to Deferred Pensioners	(258)		258	0
Re-employed Deferred Pensioners	51		(27)	24
Retirement of Deferred Pensioners		64	(64)	0
Dependants' Pensions		43		43
Deaths	(3)	(86)	(1)	(90)
Commutation (trivial pensions)				0
Ill Health Grant				0
End of Entitlement		(5)		(5)
Number at 31 March 2017	4,466	3,314	2,652	10,432

23 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2014, the Fund's actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period.

The Actuarial Valuation assesses the health of the fund and provides a check that the funding strategy and assumptions used are appropriate.

The Funding Strategy Statement

The latest Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) was approved by the Pension Fund Committee on 22 June 2017 and a copy of this document can be found at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/pensions. Key elements of the FSS are the Funding Objectives and Funding Strategy for the Pension Fund and these have been extracted and included below:

Funding Objectives (Section 1, page 2 of FSS)

To:

- set levels of employer contribution that will build up a fund of assets that will be sufficient to meet all future benefit payments from the Fund;
- build up the required assets in such a way that produces levels of employer contribution that are as stable as possible;
- ensure effective and efficient management of employer's liabilities; and
- allow the return from investments to be maximised within reasonable risk parameters.

Funding Strategy (Section 3, page 4 of FSS)

The funding strategy seeks to achieve (via employee and employer contributions and investment income) two key objectives:

- A funding level of 100%, as assessed by the Fund's appointed actuary, triennially, in accordance with the Regulations; and
- As stable an employer contribution rate as is practical

2014 Actuarial Valuation

The 2014 Actuarial Valuation was undertaken for the Fund as at 31 March 2014 and was completed during the financial year 2014/15 by the Fund's actuaries, Barnett Waddingham. It has been undertaken in accordance with Regulation 32 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2008.

The funding level of the Fund as at the 31 March 2014 was 101%, above the valuation as at 31 March 2011 and this corresponded to a surplus of £2.9m. The following table summarises the funding position.

Past Service Funding Position – Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund		
Valuation Date as at 31 March	2011 £m	2014 £m
Value of the Scheme Liabilities	(402.2)	(487.6)
Smoothed Asset Value	384.8	490.5
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(17.4)	2.9
Funding Level	96%	101%

The value of the scheme liabilities is an estimate of the assets required to pay pensions over the coming years. The smoothed asset value is the contributions received from employers and members as well as investment returns. The surplus or deficit on the Fund is the difference between the two.

The next detailed actuarial valuation will be carried out for the Fund as at 31st March 2017.

New LGPS Benefits Impact on Benefits Projections

The Actuarial Valuation Report identified the estimated additional pension and lump sum benefits projected to come into the payments of benefits in each year during the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018 as a result of the changes to the LGPS benefits. These are set out as follows:

Financial year	Additional Retirement Benefits	Increase versus 2014/15 Base
2014/15 Base (per Note 8)		19.1
2015/16	3.4	17.8%
2016/17	5.2	27.2%
2017/18	5.4	28.3%

Valuation Assumptions

The valuation of the Fund has been undertaken using the projected unit method under which the salary increase for each member is assumed to increase until they leave active service by death, retirement or withdrawal from service.

Financial Assumptions

The principal assumptions used in the last triennial valuation (to March 2014) were:

	2011 Valuation		2014 Valuation	
	% p.a.	Real % p.a.	% p.a.	Real % p.a.
Investment Return				
Equities/absolute return funds	6.9	3.4	5.9	2.6
Gilts	4.3	0.8	3.6	-
Bonds	5.5	2.0	4.1	0.5
Property	5.5	2.0	5.5	1.9
Multi Asset Fund	-	-	5.9	2.3
Expense Allowance				
Retail Price Inflation (RPI)	3.5	-	3.6	-
Pay Increases – Long Term	5.0	1.5	4.6	2.0
Pension Increases	3.0	(0.5)	2.8	(0.8)
Discount Rate	6.4	2.9	5.5	1.9

Mortality assumptions

The mortality assumptions used and applied to all members are those underlying the S1PA mortality tables allowing for Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI) 2013 projections, with a long term rate of improvement 1.5%.

Commutation Assumption

It is assumed that future retirees will commute pension to provide a lump sum of 50% of the maximum allowed under HMRC rules.

Employer Contribution Rates

As part of the 2014 Actuarial Valuation, the actuary certified the common rate of contribution as 18% of payroll for the next three years.

Individual and pooled employers' rates vary from the common contribution rate (18.0%) depending on the demographic and actuarial factors particular to each employer. The table below highlights the key employer contribution rates (i.e. the rate which employers in the Fund pay):

Employers Contribution Grouping	Employers Contribution Rate	
	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders Council Common Pool	18.0%	18.0%
Leisure Trusts Common Pool *	15.5%	15.5%
LIVE Borders		18.0%
Scottish Borders Housing Association – Individual	-	19.0%

* During the inter-valuation period the Pension Fund Committee agreed, in consultation with the actuary, to reduce the rate for Borders Sport and Leisure Trust in order that they would undertake work to open up the LGPS scheme to their employees again. This was set at 15.5%. The amalgamation of BSLT and the Council Culture services into LIVE Borders however resulted in a revised rate of 18%.

24 ACTUARIAL PRESENT VALUE OF PROMISED RETIREMENT BENEFITS

In addition to the Triennial Funding Valuation, the Fund's actuary also undertakes a valuation of pension fund liabilities (actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits) at the accounting date as required by International Accounting Standard (IAS) 26, and calculated in line with IAS 19 assumptions.

This uses the same base data as the Triennial Funding Valuation rolled forward to the current financial year, taking account of changes in membership numbers and updating assumptions to the current year. This valuation is not carried out on the same basis as that used for setting Fund employer contribution rates and the Fund Account does not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

The actuarial present values, calculated in line with IAS 19, are set out in the table below.

	Net Pension Asset as at:		
	31 March 2015 £m	31 March 2016 £m	31 March 2017 £m
Present value of the defined benefit obligations	(716.6)	(696.9)	(906.9)
Fair Value of Fund Assets* (bid value)	537.4	542.7	652.7
Net Asset/(Liability)	(179.2)	(154.2)	(254.2)

This figure is used for statutory accounting purposes by the Fund and complies with the requirements of IAS 26. The assumptions underlying the figure are detailed below:

	At 31 March 2015		At 31 March 2016		At 31 March 2017	
	% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.a.	Real % p.a.	% p.a.	Real % p.a.
Discount Rate	3.3	0.1	3.7	0.4	2.7%	0.0%
Retail Price Inflation (RPI)	3.2	-	3.3	-	2.7%	-
Pay Increases – Long Term	4.2	1.0	4.2	0.9	3.7%	1.0%
Pension Increases	2.4	(0.8)	2.4	(0.9)	2.7%	0.0%

As noted above, the liabilities above are calculated on an IAS 19 basis and therefore will differ from the results of the 2014 Triennial Funding Valuation (see Note 20) because IAS 19 stipulates a discount rate rather than a rate that reflects the market rate for investment returns on the Fund's assets.

25 CONTINGENT ASSETS

One of the admitted body employers in the Pension Fund holds an insurance bond to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the Pension Fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default.

26 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL PENSION FUND STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES 2017

**Finance
Chief Executive
Version: 2017 Pension Fund Committee**

Introduction

This is the Statement of Investment Principles (the SIP) adopted by the Scottish Borders Council to govern the investment operations of its Pension Fund. It covers the matters required by regulations together with certain other aspects of investment management, which it is felt should be included for the sake of completeness.

This version of the SIP was agreed by the Pension Fund Committee (the Committee) on 22 June 2017.

1. The statutory requirements concerning the SIP

1.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds)(Scotland) Regulations 1998 as amended require administering authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) that includes the policy on:

- The types of investment to be held
- The balance between different types of investment
- The risk considerations, including the ways in which risks are to be measured and managed¹
- The expected return on investments
- Realising of investments
- Taking account of social, environmental or ethical considerations in investments
- Exercising the rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments
- Stock Lending¹

1.2 The Statement must also state the extent of compliance with guidance given by the Scottish Ministers. This guidance requires reference to the 6 principles of investment practice published by CIPFA in December 2009.¹

¹ “Investment Decision Making and Disclosure in the Local Government Pension Scheme: A Guide to the Application of the Myners Principles (2009)”

2. Governance

- 2.1 Scottish Borders Council (the Council) is the Administering Authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) set up for the Scottish Borders geographic area, the Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund (the Fund).
- 2.2 The Council has delegated its pension's functions to the **Pension Fund Committee** (the Committee) which has ultimate responsibility for making decisions in relation to the maintenance and revision of the SIP, and approving decisions in relation to changes in fund manager, investment adviser or custodian.
- 2.3 The **Pension Fund Investment and Performance Sub-Committee** (the Investment Sub-Committee) is a sub-committee established to undertake specific investment monitoring responsibilities as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 The **Pension Board** (the Board) is established under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Governance) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 with the remit to securing the Fund's compliance with the Regulatory Framework. A constitution has been agreed for the Board with the responsibilities set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.5 The SIP sets out the principles governing decisions about the investments of the Fund. The Fund recognises the importance of corporate governance and responsibility in ensuring the long term financial performance of the organisations in which they invest.
- 2.6 The SIP forms part of a governance framework that includes:
 - The Statutory Regulations
 - The Pension Fund Committee
 - The Pension Fund Investment & Performance Sub-Committee
 - The Pension Board
 - The Fund's Advisers
 - The Funding Strategy Statement²²and
 - The Governance Policy and Compliance Statement².
- 2.7 Underlying the SIP and the Council's related decision making processes is the requirement that the Council must obtain and consider "proper advice" and this is provided by Council Officers and expert, professional advisers under contract to the Council.

² Funding Strategy Statement and Governance Policy and Compliance Statement can be found at www.scotborders.gov.uk/pensions

3. The Fund's Objectives

Primary Aim

3.1 The primary aim of the Fund is:

“To provide for members’ pension and lump sum benefits on their retirement or for their dependants’ benefits on death before or after retirement, on a defined benefits basis.”

In order that this primary objective can be achieved, the following funding and investment objectives have been agreed.

Funding Objectives

3.2 The funding objectives are set out in the Funding Strategy Statement (the FSS) and are as follows:

- i To set levels of employer contribution that will build up a Fund of assets that will be sufficient to meet all future benefit payments from the Fund.
- ii To build up the required assets in a way that produces employer contributions, which are as stable as possible.

3.3 The funding objectives must complement the Fund's investment strategy so that the appropriate amount of risk is adopted in the pursuit of investment returns.

4. Investment Policy

Investment Strategy

- 4.1 The Committee sets an Investment Strategy for the Fund, taking into account the funding status and liabilities. The strategy is subject to regular review and, as appropriate, asset liability modelling techniques are used to assist in these reviews.
- 4.2 The Investment Strategy's primary aim is to deliver the funding objective in Section 3.2 ii) above which is to build up the required assets in a way that produces stable employer contributions to the Fund.
- 4.3 The Committee in pursuing this primary aim will, as far as is practicable and as an aid to long-term stability, seek to maintain a positive ratio of assets to liabilities at each actuarial valuation.
- 4.4 The Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) states that the discount rate that is adopted in the actuarial valuation of the Fund's liabilities is derived by considering the expected return from the underlying investment strategy but makes no allowance for additional returns from active management. The strategic benchmark that is established for the Fund's investment strategy is therefore expected to produce a return over the long term in excess of the investment return assumed in the triennial Actuarial Valuations.
- 4.5 The Fund presently has a marginal positive cash flow and currently has more actively contributing members compared to members receiving pensions. It however also has 2,652 deferred members which are currently neither contributing nor receiving – as a result it is not mature and therefore need not, at present, provide a high level of annual income to meet the cost of benefits. It will therefore continue to seek capital growth to meet future liabilities.
- 4.6 The Investment Strategy for the Fund has been developed with the support of external investment consultants who have supported the Committee in their decision making process. The approved investment strategy is presented as a strategic asset allocation which sets benchmark percentage allocations across the various asset classes.
- 4.7 In establishing strategic asset allocations the Committee recognises that it is not possible at reasonable cost to consistently hold investments of a type that maintains an exact match with the Fund's liabilities to pensioners and other members.
- 4.8 The Committee undertook a full review exercise in 2013, taking into account the funding status and liabilities and using asset liability modelling. A further review was again undertaken in August 2016 resulting in the revised strategy contained in this SIP. The Committee will review the strategy, if appropriate, at least once per three year period.
- 4.9 **Appendix 3** contains a summary of the strategic asset allocation benchmark for the Fund.

Investment Management Arrangements

- 4.10 The Investment Strategy is implemented by employing external investment managers currently UBS Global Asset Management (UBS), LGT Partners (LGT), Morgan Stanley Investment Management (Morgan Stanley), M&G Investments (M&G), Harris Associates (Harris), Partners Group, Blackrock, Permira and Baillie Gifford, as appropriate.
- 4.11 The objective is to employ a combination of managers and investment mandates that will deliver, in aggregate, the target performance for the Fund.

- 4.12 The Committee sets the target for the Fund and this overall target is expressed as an out performance against the Fund's strategic benchmark which is a composite of the various benchmarks for the different managers and asset allocations.
- 4.13 The pursuit of a target implies active management of a substantial part of the Fund and the acceptance of a degree of risk in managing investments.
- 4.14 The Fund's current **total target is to generate a return of at least 2.7% above CPI inflation** assumed as the real discount rate at the actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2014.
- 4.15 The investment managers are responsible for the selection of individual holdings within each type of investment category within the parameters set out in their agreement which includes the need to achieve targets which are measured.
- 4.16 The Fund holds some temporary cash on short term deposit or in money market funds, which are managed by Finance staff.
- 4.17 The Committee determines the distribution of the Fund for investment purposes from time to time.
- 4.18 **Appendix 4** contains details of the investment arrangements that are in place at the 31 March 2015.

Risk Measurement and Management

4.19 *Asset Allocation*

- i The key investment risks are recognised as arising from asset allocation. The investment strategy of lowest funding risk would be 100% investment in duration, matched index-linked government bonds, i.e. the most natural "matching" asset for pensions liabilities. However, this is not necessarily the most cost-effective approach.
- ii In the long-term, investment in assets of calculated risk is likely to produce higher returns and therefore reduce the overall cost of funding the pension liabilities. Following this rationale, the Fund deliberately runs an unmatched strategy which is heavily biased towards "growth" assets such as equities, property and other alternative assets.
- iii The asset allocation risks are assessed triennially, typically using asset liability modelling techniques following the actuarial valuation of the Fund, after which the Committee take advice on the continued appropriateness of the existing investment strategy.
- iv As these risks were assessed as part of the asset and liability modelling exercise undertaken in 2016 by the Fund's investment consultant, it is envisaged that this will next be done during 2018/19 following the actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2017.
- v The retrospective impact of investment risk on the Fund's funding position is monitored on a quarterly basis via investment reports prepared by the Fund's investment managers, the Fund's performance monitoring company and the investment consultants.

4.20 *Investment Managers*

- i To reduce the risk that the Fund significantly underperforms, performance and risk targets and controls are set for each manager relative to their benchmark. These are set out in formal Investment Management Agreements or Subscription Agreements with each of the appointed managers.

- ii The managers are required to provide data monthly and report quarterly on portfolio management issues. This information is reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis. The monitoring includes assessing their achievement of performance that meets or outperforms their individual targets.
- iii The managers must also provide data to Northern Trust, the company chosen by the Committee to provide it with independent performance comparisons.
- iv The managers are also required to attend at the Pension Fund Investment and Performance Sub-Committee at least once a year to give an account of their activities and performance.
- v The managers must comply with all lawful instructions given to them by the Committee (in accordance with the mandates agreed) and their contracts can be terminated at no more than one month's notice.
- vi All manager mandates will always impose the investment restrictions contained in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

4.21 *Proper Advice*

- i The Committee is required to secure proper advice to ensure that their decision making processes are appropriately informed. The current advisers to the Fund are:

Investment Consultant	KPMG
Actuaries	Barnett Waddingham

4.22 *Concentration Risk and Diversification*

- i Concentration risk arises from the failure of any investments which constituted a significant proportion of the Fund's assets. In order to reduce this risk a spread of assets is held. The diversification is both within, and across, the major asset classes and will be enhanced through investment in alternative asset classes.
- ii Diversification is used to manage the risk involved in pursuing an active management approach to a substantial part of the fund.
- iii This is achieved through diversification of investment over various types of asset, by the use of at least two managers with different styles or specialism, and by requiring a wide range of individual stocks and shares to be held.

4.23 *Transition Management Arrangements*

- i A specialist transition manager, currently State Street Global Markets (State Street), will be employed to manage complex changes in investment strategy and/or manager(s).
- ii The use of these specialists is intended to reduce the cost of transition to the Fund and minimise the overall impact on the Fund value at the point of transition.

4.24 *Currency Risk*

- i During 2016 the Committee approved the full removal of the Passive Currency Hedging mandate. As long term investors the overseas currency exposure will act as an offset against losses in severely stressed market environments.

4.25 *Safe Keeping of Assets*

- i The services of a global custodian, currently Northern Trust, are employed to ensure the safeguarding of the Fund's assets and ensure that all associated income is collected.
- ii The Fund is provided with statements of assets, cashflow and transactions, which Finance staff reconcile to data reported by the managers.
- iii The custodian also has a responsibility for keeping the Council informed of any concerns arising in its dealings with the investment managers.
- iv Investment in pooled funds managed by UBS, Morgan Stanley, M&G, Partners Group, Blackrock, Permira and LGT gives the Fund a right to the cash value of the units rather than to the underlying assets. The managers of the pooled funds, are responsible for the appointment and monitoring of the custodian of the pooled funds' assets.

4.26 *Cashflow Risk and Realisation of Investments/Liquidity*

- i The overall liquidity of the Fund is considered in the light of potential demands for cash. The Fund will hold sufficient cash to meet the likely benefit payments. Additionally, the Fund will hold sufficient assets in liquid or readily realisable form to meet any unexpected cashflow requirements so that the realisation of assets will not disrupt the Fund's overall policy.
- ii The majority of the Fund's investments are quoted on major stock markets and may be realised relatively quickly if required.
- iii A small proportion of the Fund's investments, in particular Property, and future investments in other alternative assets would take longer to be realised.

5. Types of Investment

5.1 The Fund has approval from the Committee to use the following different types of investment and income generating mechanisms to achieve the overall investment objectives:

- Equities (UK, Overseas and Global mandates including direct holdings, Managed Funds, Unit trusts, Investment Trusts, Open Ended Investment Companies)
- Bonds
- Property
- Currency
- Alternative assets such as commodities, hedge funds, infrastructure, emerging market debt, private equity, high yield debt, Private Credit and convertible bonds.
- Cash (including Treasury Bills and Money Market Funds)
- Derivatives and other Managed transactions
- Infrastructure

5.2 Stock Lending is not currently authorised by the Committee for the directly held investments under the custody of its custodian. For the Fund's investments in pooled funds managed by UBS, UBS participate in a stock lending programme where the revenue is reflected in the unit price. UBS AG (the parent company) acts as the principal counterparty so irrespective of the end borrower UBS' counterparty risk is only to UBS AG. Security is provided for the

stock loaned by the borrower transferring ownership of other collateral assets to UBS for the period of the loan.

6. Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Issues

- 6.1 The Committee has an overriding fiduciary duty to maximise investment returns for the benefit of the Fund members. It is aware that in doing so the financial contributions required of Fund employers will be minimised.
- 6.2 The Committee believes that environmental, social and governance issues can affect the financial performance of companies and that it has a responsibility to take these issues seriously and where appropriate, to act upon them.
- 6.3 The Committee considers engagement with companies in which the Fund invests to be the most effective means of understanding and influencing the social, environmental and business policies of those companies. The investment managers for the Fund are therefore encouraged to constructively engage with companies on issues which are consistent with the Fund's fiduciary responsibilities.
- 6.4 The Committee recognises its responsibility to exercise voting rights to ensure transparency and accountability in corporate governance.
- 6.5 The Fund's investment managers maintain close contact with the management of companies in which investments are held or contemplated and subject their affairs to considerable analysis and skilled scrutiny. In recognition of this activity, the Sub-Committee delegates to its managers all voting and other rights attaching to Fund investments.
- 6.6 The investment managers have delegated powers to exercise such rights in the best financial interests of the Fund and would in particular expect them to vote appropriately at company Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs).
- 6.7 To demonstrate their commitment to ESG Fund Managers are encouraged to sign the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment (UNPRI) Stewardship Code.
- 6.8 The Committee has, however, drawn the attention of managers to its general concern that the remuneration practices of companies should be patently fair and reasonable. It has asked that managers reflect such concern when voting shares in companies in which the Fund is directly invested. The Committee is content to allow its managers discretion on the voting of in-house pooled fund shares subject to referring any matters relating to the remuneration of Fund managers to it for direction
- 6.9 The key highlights in terms of voting actions taken by investment managers is included as part of the quarterly investment manager report to the Committee its investment consultant.

7. Audit responsibilities

- 7.1 The Pension Fund is subject to review by both the Council's external auditors and the Internal Audit team, and comes within the remit of the Council's Audit and Risk Committee.
- 7.2 The external auditors are responsible for reporting on whether the Council's Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council's Pension Fund, for the year then ended. Their audit report is formally presented to the Council each year. A detailed Annual Report of the Pension Fund is produced in addition and circulated to

employers and other interested parties. This derives information from both audited accounts and unaudited sources of background information.

- 7.3 The Internal Audit team carries out a programme of work designed to re-assure the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer that Pension Fund investment systems and records are properly controlled and that Pension Fund assets are safeguarded.

8. Compliance with the Myners principles

- 8.1 In October 2008 the Treasury report *Updating the Myners Principles: A Response to Consultation* (October 2008) created the requirement for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administering authorities to prepare, publish and maintain statements of compliance against a set of six principles for pension fund investment, scheme governance, disclosure and consultation.
- 8.2 In December 2009, CIPFA issued *Investment Decision Making and Disclosure in the Local Government Pension Scheme: A Guide to the Application of the Myners Principles*.
- 8.3 The LGPS regulations require the SIP to contain a statement of compliance with the six principles.
- 8.4 The six principles are:
- i Effective Decision Making
 - ii Clear Objectives
 - iii Risk and Liabilities
 - iv Performance Assessment
 - v Responsible Ownership
 - vi Transparency and Reporting
- 8.5 **Appendix 5** contains this statement of compliance.

Appendix 1

Pension Fund Investment and Performance Sub-Committee

The Scheme of Administration for the Council specifies that the following functions shall be referred to the Investment and Performance Sub-Committee:

1. Reviewing the Pension Fund's Statement of Investment Principles.
2. Where appropriate, recommending changes to the Pension Fund Committee in relation to the Statement of Investment Principles.
3. Ensuring appropriate investment management arrangements are in place for monies of the Pension Fund and to review investment manager performance.
4. Overseeing the contractual review of the fund managers and investment adviser(s) and custodian.
5. Where appropriate, making recommendations to the Pension Fund Committee in relation to the appointment or removal of a fund manager, investment adviser or custodian.
6. Overseeing the overall approach to investment risk management and where appropriate recommending changes to the Pension Fund's Risk Register.

Appendix 2

Pension Board

The Council approved the Constitution for the Pension Board (the Board) on 2 April 2015.

1. The Objectives of the Board are as follows:

The Board is the body responsible for assisting the Scheme Manager in relation to:

- i Securing compliance with the regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme and any statutory pension scheme that is connected with it;
- ii securing compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the Scheme and any connected scheme by the Pensions Regulator; and
- iii such other matters as the regulations may specify .

2. The Board also has the remit to determine the areas they wish to consider including, amongst others:

- d) Reports produced for the Pension Fund Committee;
- e) Seek reports from the Scheme Manager on any aspect of the Fund;
- f) Monitor investments and the investment principles/strategy/guidance;
- g) The Annual Report and Accounts for the Fund;
- h) External voting and engagement provisions in relation to investments;
- i) Pension Fund Administrative Strategy and associated performance;
- j) Actuarial reports and valuations;
- k) Funding Strategy Statement and associated policy; and
- l) Any other matters that the Board deems appropriate within the responsibilities set out in 1 above.

Appendix 3

Strategic Asset Allocation

Asset Class	Manager	Strategic Benchmark %	Permitted Range / Tolerance %
UK Equity	UBS ¹	9.0%	
	Baillie Gifford	5.0%	
	Sub Total	14.0%	12% - 16%
Global Equity	Harries Associates	7.0%	
	Baillie Gifford	16.0%	
	Morgan Stanley	10.5%	
	Sub Total	33.5%	30% - 37%
Total Equity		47.5%	42% - 53%
Bonds			
Alpha Opportunities	M&G	10.0%	
Index Linked Gilts		5.0%	
	Total	15.0%	12% - 17%
Alternatives ²			
Multi-Asset Alternatives Fund	LGT Partners	7.5%	
Private Credit	Permira	5.0%	
	Partners Group	5.0%	
Infrastructure		5.0%	
	Total	22.5%	20% - 25%
Property			
Balanced Property	UBS	5.0%	
Long Lease Property	Blackrock	10.0%	
	Total	15.0%	12% - 17%
Cash		0.0%	
Total		100.0%	

Note:

¹ This is a passive investment mandate which requires the FTSE All Share index to be tracked.

² Alternative assets such as commodities, hedge funds, infrastructure, emerging market debt, private equity, high yield debt and convertible bonds.

Appendix 4

Investment Management Arrangements

Asset Class	Manager		Performance Objective (net of fees)	Benchmark Indices Used
UK Equity	UBS	Benchmark Return	+0.0%	FTSE All-Share Index
	Baillie Gifford	Benchmark Return	+1.0%	FTSE All-Share Index
Global Equity	Harries Associates	Benchmark Return	+2.5%	MSCI All Country World Index
	Baillie Gifford	Benchmark Return	+2.5%	MSCI AC World Index
	Morgan Stanley	Benchmark Return	Not Defined	MSCI World Net Index
Bonds				
Alpha Opportunities	M&G *	Benchmark Return	+3.5% - 5%	1 Month LIBOR
Govt Fixed Interest Bonds	M&G	Benchmark Return	+0.75%	FTSE Actuaries UK Conventional Gilts All Stock Index
Corporate Fixed Interest Bonds	M&G *	Benchmark Return	+0.8%	iBoxx Sterling Non-Gilts Index
Index Linked Gilts	TBC	TBC	TBC%	TBC
Multi-Asset Alternatives Fund	LGT Partners	Benchmark Return	+4.0%	LIBOR
	Permira	Benchmark Return	+4.0%	1 month LIBOR (Cash)
	Partners Group	Benchmark Return	+4.0%	1 month LIBOR (cash)
	Infrastructure		+3.5%	RPI
Property	UBS	Benchmark Return	+0.75%	IPD UK PPFI All Balanced Funds Index
	Blackrock	Benchmark Return	+2.5%	RPI

Statement of Compliance with Myners Principles

This table summarises the principles, best practice guidance as provided by CIPFA and the Fund's current status in relation to compliance .

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>1. Effective Decision-Making</p> <p>Administering authorities should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decisions are taken by persons or organisations with the skills, knowledge, advice and resources necessary to make them effectively and monitor their implementation; and • those persons or organisations have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate and challenge the advice they receive, and manage conflicts of interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The administering authority should have a designated committee of members responsible for the management of the pension fund and wherever possible appointments to the committee should take account of relevant skills, experience and continuity. • The committee should have terms of reference, and where investment decisions are delegated the process should be recorded, with the roles of members, officers, advisers and managers specified. • The committee should have appropriate skills for, and is run in a way that facilitates, effective decision-making. • There are sufficient internal resources and access to external resources for the administering authorities and Members to make effective decisions. 	<p>Full Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fund has a designated committee – the Committee - with the experience and skills to take decisions. • The Committee's terms of reference is contained within the Scheme of Administration for the Council. • The Committee receives training either during meetings or at specific training sessions, including on investment issues. • Induction training is provided for new Members and Officers. • The Committee has an appointed investment consultant to provide specific investment advice. • The Chief Financial Officer and other senior officers provide advice and support to the Sub-Committee
<p>1. Effective Decision-Making (contd.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is good practice to have an investment sub-committee, to provide the appropriate focus and skills on investment decision-making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Investment and Performance Sub-Committee with terms of reference contained within the Scheme of Administration for the Council to enhance the focus on performance monitoring and investment decision making. • The Committee carry out regular reviews of the Fund and compliance with regulations. • The Investment Consultant,

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee should obtain proper advice at reasonable intervals from suitably qualified persons. • The Chief Financial Officer should be given responsibility for developing a training plan for committee members. • A business plan should be in place which should include milestones and should review level of resources needed. • Members allowances should be published and reviewed regularly. • Meeting papers should be clear and circulated sufficiently in advance of the meetings. 	<p>Custodian, Actuary, Investment Managers and legal advisers all input into the provision of proper advice. The Investment Adviser attends all meetings of the Committee and Sub-Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee's legal advisers and any other relevant parties review any new investment contracts put in place. • There is an approved Training Policy for the Fund and an annual Training Needs Analysis undertaken for all Committee and Board members. • Members' training is the responsibility of the Clerk to the Council with input from the Chief Financial Officer • A business plan was agreed by the Committee on 16 June 2016 • Members' Allowances are regularly published as required by the Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007. • Meeting papers are circulated 7 days in advance of meeting and public papers are published on the Council's internet site.

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>2. Clear Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall investment objective(s) should be set out for the fund that takes account of the scheme's liabilities, the potential impact on local tax payers, the strength of the covenant for non local authority employers, and the attitude to risk of both the administering authority and scheme employers, and these should be clearly communicated to advisers and investment managers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee should set an overall investment objective considering the fund's liabilities in the context of net cashflow, the funding position and maturity of liabilities. The desirability of asset liability modelling should be considered. Proper advice should be taken where appropriate. Specialist advice should be sought as to how the objective might be expressed as an expected, or required, rate of return. Peer group benchmarks should be avoided. 	<p>Full compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee makes decisions on the strategy, structure and managers following advice from their investment consultant, and in doing so periodically considers the results of asset liability modelling and appetite for risk of the administering authority and scheme employers to inform the Investment Strategy. The Fund has a scheme specific benchmark. Investment objectives are stated in the Statement of Investment Principles (SIP). The assets are generally managed under individual mandates where the Committee set the investment managers individual mandate objectives and risk parameters. An explicit mandate is in place with the fund managers which include clear time horizons for performance measurement and evaluation. Both short and long-term performance is measured quarterly against scheme specific benchmarks and the fund managers are required to attend twice per year to discuss performance against those indices. The Committee regularly reviews the investment

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>2. Clear Objectives (contd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appetite for risk should be considered. Asset allocation decisions should consider all asset classes currently available. • Strategic asset allocation decisions, in particular the equity: bond split, diversification of the assets and why some asset classes may be excluded should be given most attention. • The general and strategic impact of funding levels on tax should be considered and whether sub-funds should be established. • Transaction and transition costs should be fully understood. 	<p>structure of the Fund, including different asset classes, styles of management and follows the appropriate procurement regulations for the appointment of managers which includes a review of cost, objectives and mandates (including risk).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fund considers the full range of asset classes and has decided to add investments in alternative assets such as private equity, infrastructure, commodities and currencies to its portfolio. • At the time of undertaking the Triennial Actuarial Valuation the Committee considers the impact of funding levels on the contribution levels and therefore on the impact on local taxpayers. • When evaluating new investment managers, the Total Expenses Ratio as well as fees are scored. • As part of any transition the costs are reported to Committee and compared with the target level set prior to transition.

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>3. Risk and Liabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In setting and reviewing their investment strategy, administering authorities should take account of the form and structure of liabilities. These include the implications for local tax payers, the strength of the covenant for participating employers, the risk of their default and longevity risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee should have a clear policy on willingness to accept underperformance due to market conditions. Acceptable tolerances from market index benchmarks returns should be stated. Benchmarks which are absolute in nature or relative to cash returns or RPI might result in underperformance relative to market indices. Overall fund objectives should be expressed in terms which relate to the liabilities. The committee must receive an assessment of the risks associated with their liabilities, valuation and management. The annual report should include an overall risk assessment. 	<p>Full compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee does not necessarily make changes to the Fund's asset allocation or investment managers due to underperformance, as long as the reasons for this are explained and justified. Advice is taken from the investment consultant regarding any changes to investment policy. Factors affecting long-term performance and advice on how these impact on the Fund are considered as part of the triennial valuation process and when making changes to investment strategy. Advice is received from the Fund's advisors. The overall Fund investment objective is expressed in terms which relate to the liabilities. The Committee carried out an investment strategy review using asset liability modelling in 2016. This involved taking account of the form and structure of the liabilities and aiming to reduce risk where appropriate through increased diversification in the strategies or managing specific risks such as currency risk. It has agreed to undertake a similar review during 2017 following the 2017 Actuarial valuation.. The annual report includes a Risk Management Statement

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
3. Risk and Liabilities (contd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee should satisfy itself on levels of internal controls. Effective internal controls are a responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer. • The committee should ensure the investment strategy is consistent with the scheme employers ability to pay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee regularly review and develop where necessary their internal controls. In addition investment managers provide annual statements on their controls. • The Committee periodically reviews the appropriateness of the investment strategy to achieve the required objectives, taking account of employers ability to pay.

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>4. Performance Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements should be in place for the formal measurement of performance of the investments, investment managers and advisers. • Administering authorities should also periodically make a formal assessment of their own effectiveness as a decision making body and report on this to scheme members. 	<p>Investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee should consider the appropriateness of index benchmarks and whether active or passive management is more appropriate, and where active management is felt more appropriate set targets and risk controls. • The mandate provided to each investment manager should cover the investment objective, risk parameters, performance targets and measurement timescales. • Constraints on active managers should not be overly narrow or overly wide. • Investment activity should be monitored and returns measured quarterly in line with regulations, but also over longer time periods. • Variations in returns from the benchmark should be attributed to asset allocation, stock selection, sector selection and currency. <p>Advisers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment should take account of the extent of decisions delegated. 	<p>Full compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee consider, with input from the investment consultant, the suitability of active or passive management for each mandate. • Investment management agreements with each investment manager cover the investment objective, risk parameters, and performance target. • The Strategic Asset Allocation and Investment Management Benchmarks set out the tolerances and performance is considered over 3 – 5 year periods. • The performance of the investment managers is measured quarterly by an independent performance monitoring company. • A comprehensive quarterly performance report is presented to the Committee. • Variations in returns from the benchmark are attributed to asset allocation, stock selection, sector selection and currency within these reports. • The Committee take all significant decisions relating to the management of the Fund. Delegations to officers are contained within the Council's Scheme of Administration or in specific report recommendations.

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>4. Performance Assessment (contd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A framework should be established for assessing actuaries and consultants who should be assessed on a number of factors. <p>Decision making bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee's self assessment against expectations should cover manager selection, asset allocation, consultant employment and set out in annual report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors such as past performance and price are taken into account when re-tendering for external advisers. Members all participate in meetings, giving opinions and views where relevant. Each person's view is heard and asked for.

Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>5. Responsible Ownership</p> <p>Administering authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt, or ensure their investment managers adopt, the Institutional Shareholders' Committee Statement of Principles on the responsibilities of shareholders and agents, • includes a statement of their policy on responsible ownership in the Statement of Investment Principles; and • report periodically to scheme members on the discharge of such responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies regarding responsible ownership should be disclosed in Statement of Investment Principles contained in the annual report. • The administering authority should consider its approach to environmental, social and governance issues and the potential for engagement in environmental, social and governance issues to add value when formulating investment strategy and selecting investment managers. • The committee should ensure that investment managers have an explicit strategy, setting out the circumstances in which they will intervene in a company. • The committee should ensure its policies are not overridden by an investment manager's general policies. • The committee should ensure that investment consultants adopt the Institutional Shareholder Committee's (ISC) Statement of Practice relating to consultants. • The ISC's Statement of Principles on the 	<p>Full compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee are aware of the Institutional Shareholders' Committee Statement of Principles on the responsibilities of Institutional shareholders and have confirmed that their investment managers adopt the Statement of Principles on the responsibilities of shareholders and agents. • The Committee consider environmental, social and governance issues when formulating investment strategy and selecting investment managers but do not give precedent to this factor over other factors which have greater financial implications for the Fund. • The Statement of Investment Principles includes a statement of the Committee's policy on responsible ownership. • Voting on underlying shareholdings is delegated to the fund manager. • Details of the investment manager's house strategy are requested from the manager. • Feedback on interventions to be provided during meeting with manager (minimum of once per annum). • The investment consultant has confirmed that it does adopt the ISC Statement of Practice relating to consultants.

	responsibilities of Institutional shareholders should be noted.	
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Principle	Best Practice Guidance	Fund's Current Status
<p>6. Transparency and Reporting</p> <p>Administering authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> act in a transparent manner, communicating with stakeholders on issues relating to their management of investment, its governance and risks, including performance against stated objectives; and provide regular communication to scheme members in the form they consider most appropriate. 	<p>Reporting ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated approach to governance should be built and governance compliance statements should be maintained regularly. The Fund's communication statement must set out the policy on the provision of information, the format and the promotion of the scheme. Examples of good communication from other funds should be sought. Annual report content should be compared to the regulations. Funding strategy statement, statement of investment principles and governance compliance statement should be noted as core sources of information. The governance compliance statement should include information on the extent the administering authority has delegated functions to a committee, and to the extent this complies with CLG guidance. The committee should know its stakeholders and the interests they have. 	<p>Full compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Report including the Funding Strategy Statement, Statement of Investment Principles and Governance Statement are published each year. Examples of good communication from other funds are sought. Communications are sent to members whenever important changes to the Fund take place, or to provide updates. The Fund operates transparently and enhances accountability to scheme members. The Fund's Governance Statement includes information on the extent the administering authority has delegated functions to a committee, and to the extent this complies with Scottish Ministers guidance.

VERSION CONTROL TABLE

Version	Nature of Amendment	Date of Change	Author
2000 1.0	SIP – created	March 2000	A Bowman
2006 1.0	SIP – update	March 2006	A Bowman
2010 1.0	Draft SIP – updated to reflect updated FSS and new Myners Principles	March 2010	L Mirley in collaboration with Aon Consulting
2010 2.0	Final Draft of SIP to present to Pension Fund Sub-Committee	June 2010	L Mirley
2013 1.0	Final Draft of SIP to present to Pension Fund Committee	Dec 2013	K Robb
DRAFT 2015 1.0	Draft of SIP to present to Pension Fund Committee – updated to reflect new governance arrangements and introduction of Pension Board, and new fund managers	June 2015	L Mirley
DRAFT 2015 2.0	Final Draft of SIP to present to Pension Fund Committee post AON Hewitt Review	June 2015	L Mirley
Draft 2017 1.0	Final draft of SIP to present to Pension Fund Committee on 22 June 2017	June 2017	K Robb

You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Kirsty Robb can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

An investment management style that seeks to outperform by way of self-selected decisions on stock choice, timing of market incursions, or asset allocation. Compare this with Passive Management.

ASSET ALLOCATION

The division of the Fund's assets between different classes of assets, for example, UK Equities, Japanese Equities, UK Bonds. In the long run the asset allocation choices should support the Fund's strategic financial objectives. In the short term tactical changes might be made to achieve short-term advantage.

ALTERNATIVE ASSETS

This is any non-traditional asset with potential economic value that would not be found in a standard investment portfolio. Due to the unconventional nature of alternative assets, valuation of some of these assets can be difficult.

BALANCED MANAGEMENT

An arrangement under which investments are spread over a range of asset classes at the manager's discretion. The manager controls investments over as many classes as are available under the Fund's overall strategy. Compare this with specialist management.

BENCHMARK RETURN

This is calculated against the Fund's chosen "benchmarking" group, which comprises a composite of different market indices. The indices in use cover all the markets in which the Fund is invested.

CONTRIBUTING MEMBER

This is someone who is currently employed by a scheduled or admitted body and is making contributions from pay to the Pension Scheme. Such a person is sometimes referred to as an "active" member.

DEFERRED MEMBER

This is someone who was once a contributing member and who has chosen to leave his or her accumulated contributions in the Fund to benefit from a pension in due course.

GROWTH MANAGER

An investment manager who fundamentally believes in picking stocks that he believes will achieve an above-average growth in profits. This is sometimes caricatured as buying stock irrespective of price because the price will rise. Compare this with value manager.

INVESTMENT MANAGER/FUND MANAGER

A person or organisation that makes investments in portfolios of securities on behalf of clients, in accordance with the investment objectives and parameters defined by these clients

MANDATE

An agreement between an investment manager and his client as to how investments are to be managed, specifying whatever targets and investment limitations are to apply.

PASSIVE MANAGEMENT

A style of investment management that seeks performance equal to market returns or to some appropriate index. Such investment entails a more mechanical approach to asset allocation and stock selection because such decisions are largely dictated by general market shifts rather than individual manager discretion. Compare this with active management.

PENSIONER/DEPENDENT MEMBER

This is someone who is receiving benefits from the Fund either as a former contributor or as a dependent of a former contributor who has deceased.

POOLED FUND

A fund in which a number of investors hold units rather than owning the underlying assets. This is a useful way for smaller funds to diversify investments without exposing them to undue risks. Unit Trusts are pooled funds as are Open-ended Investment Companies. Compare this with segregated fund.

REALISED GAIN OR LOSS

Only when an investment is sold does the Fund actually make a profit or loss.

Realised profits and losses are those that have actually arisen via sales throughout the year.

RETURN

The value of capital enhancement and income received by a fund in a year, expressed as a percentage of the opening value of the fund. If values fall "Return" would be negative.

RISK

The danger or chance that returns will vary against benchmarks or targets. If risks are high the expected return should be higher still (the risk premium).

SEGREGATED FUND

The management of a particular fund's assets independently of those of other funds managed by the same investment house. Compare this with a pooled fund.

SPECIALIST MANAGEMENT

The use of a number of managers, each specialising in a particular asset class. Such managers have no say in asset allocation, being only concerned with stock selection.

UNREALISED GAIN OR LOSS

The Statements of Accounts are based on the market value of investments at 31 March 2016. This means that these show what profit or loss would have made if the Fund had sold all its investments on that day. The result is a notional "unrealised" profit or loss.

VALUE MANAGER

A manager who selects stocks that he believes to have potential that is not reflected in the price. This is sometimes caricatured as buying stock because it is cheap. Compare this with growth manager.

VESTED/NON VESTED OBLIGATIONS

Vested obligations refer to employee benefits that are not conditional on future employment. Non vested obligations refer to employee benefits that are conditional on future employment.

PENSION FUND STRAIN

The cost to employers of the early release of pension benefits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Key Documents Online

You can find further information on our website, www.scotborders.gov.uk/pensions, including the following documents:

- Funding Strategy Statement
- Annual Report and Accounts
- Governance Policy and Compliance Statement
- Statement of Investment Principles
- Training Policy
- Business Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18
- Actuarial Valuation Statement 2014

Fund Advisers

Actuaries:	Barnett Waddingham
Auditors:	KPMG
Bankers:	Bank of Scotland
Investment Consultancy:	AON Hewitt to 31 March 2016, KPMG from 12 April 2016
Investment Custodians:	JP Morgan to 30 Nov 2106, Northern Trust from 1 Dec 2016
Investment Managers:	Baillie Gifford, UBS, Morgan Stanley, LGT Partners, M&G, Partners Group and Harris Associates
Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) Managers:	Standard Life

Contact Details

For further information and advice on administration, benefits and scheme membership please contact

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Scheme members should have a copy of the “Employees’ Guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme Administered by the Scottish Borders Council”, and can obtain their own copy of an Annual Report on request.

or visit Scottish Borders Council Pension Fund website at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/pensions

For further information on the Fund’s investments, please contact

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Capital & Investment Manager	E-mail krobb@scotborders.gov.uk

