

**Barnett Waddingham**



# **City of Westminster Pension Fund**

**Funding Update Report**

**as at 31 March 2014**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. We have carried out a monitoring assessment of the City of Westminster Pension Fund as at 31 March 2014. The purpose of this assessment is to provide an update on the funding position.
- 1.2. We assess the funding position on a smoothed basis which is an estimate of the average position over a 6 month period spanning the reporting date. As the smoothing adjustment reflects average market conditions spanning a 6 month period straddling the reporting date, the smoothed figures are projected numbers and likely to change up until 3 months after the reporting date. The smoothed results are indicative of the underlying trend.
- 1.3. In addition, we assess the funding position on an “unsmoothed” basis where assets are taken at market value and discount rates are taken as the spot rates at the reporting date.

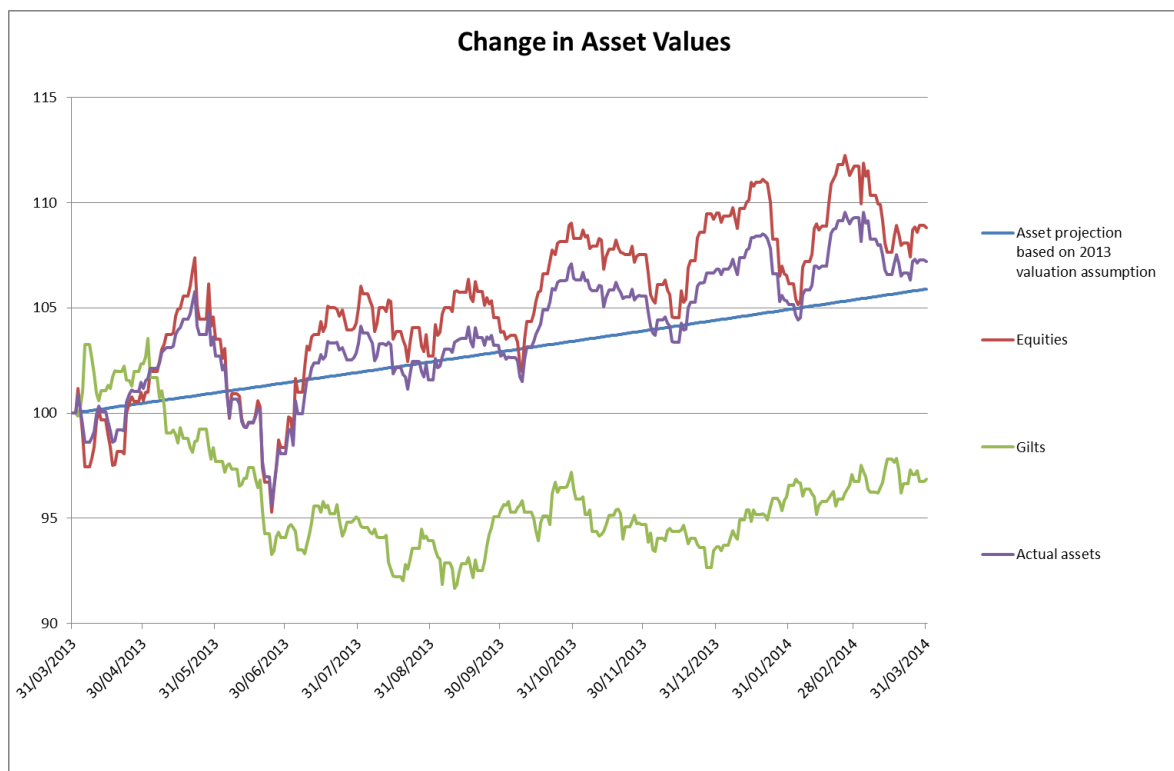
## 2. Assets

2.1. The estimated (unsmoothed) asset allocation of the City of Westminster Pension Fund as at 31 March 2014 is as follows:

Assets (Market Value)	31 March 2014		31 March 2013	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	712,005	71.6%	643,179	73.6%
Bonds	112,663	11.3%	111,092	12.7%
Property	82,509	8.3%	35,787	4.1%
Gilts	15,679	1.6%	49,821	5.7%
Cash	71,564	7.2%	34,303	3.9%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>994,420</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>874,182</b>	<b>100%</b>

2.2. The investment return achieved by the Fund's assets in market value terms for the year to 31 March 2014 is estimated to be 7.2%.

2.3. The following chart shows the changes in equity and bond markets since the previous actuarial valuation and compares with the estimated actual fund returns and the expected fund returns assumed at the previous valuation:



2.4. As we can see asset value as at 31 March 2014 in market value terms is more than where it was projected to be at the previous valuation.

### 3. Changes in Market Conditions – Market Yields and Discount Rates

3.1. The actual investment returns earned by the Fund will affect the value of the Fund's assets. The value of the Fund's liabilities however is dependent on the assumptions used to value the future benefits payable. The following tables show how these assumptions have changed since the last triennial valuation:

Assumptions (Smoothed)	31 March 2014		31 March 2013	
	Nominal %p.a.	Real	Nominal %p.a.	Real
Pension Increases	2.78%	-	2.74%	-
Salary Increases	4.58%	1.80%	4.54%	1.80%
Discount Rate				
<i>Scheduled Bodies</i>	6.00%	3.22%	5.90%	3.16%
<i>Admission Bodies (in service)</i>	5.08%	2.30%	4.90%	2.16%
<i>Admission Bodies (left service)</i>	3.80%	1.01%	3.50%	0.76%

Assumptions (Unsmoothed)	31 March 2014		31 March 2013	
	Nominal %p.a.	Real	Nominal %p.a.	Real
Pension Increases	2.83%	-	2.80%	-
Salary Increases	4.63%	1.80%	4.60%	1.80%
Discount Rate				
<i>Scheduled Bodies</i>	6.09%	3.26%	5.91%	3.11%
<i>Admission Bodies (in service)</i>	5.14%	2.32%	4.86%	2.06%
<i>Admission Bodies (left service)</i>	3.82%	0.99%	3.40%	0.59%

3.2. The key assumption which has the greatest impact on the valuation of liabilities is the real discount rate – the higher the real discount rate the lower the value of liabilities. As we see the real discount rates are higher than at the 2013 valuation, reducing the value of liabilities used for funding purposes.

## 4. Summary of Results

4.1. The results of our assessment indicate that:

- The current projection of the smoothed funding level as at 31 March 2014 is 81% and the average required employer contribution would be 24.5% of payroll assuming the deficit is to be paid by 2038.
- The current projection of the unsmoothed funding level as at 31 March 2014 is 81% and the average required employer contribution would be 24.4% of payroll assuming a deficit is to be paid by 2038.
- This compares with the reported (smoothed) funding level of 74% and average required employer contribution of 29.8% of payroll at the 2013 funding valuation.

4.2. Based on the Scheduled Body discount rate of 6.0% per annum, the investment return required to restore the funding level to 100% by 2038, without the employers paying deficit contributions, would be 6.9% per annum.

4.3. The funding position for each month since the formal valuation is shown in Appendix 1. It should be borne in mind that the nature of the calculations is approximate and so the results are only indicative of the underlying position.

4.4. We would be pleased to answer any questions arising from this report.



**Graeme D Muir FFA**  
**Partner**

## Appendix 1 Financial position since previous valuation

Below we show the financial position on both a smoothed and an unsmoothed basis for each month since the previous full valuation. As the smoothing adjustment reflects average market conditions spanning a 6 month period straddling the reporting date, the smoothed figures for the previous 3 months are projected numbers and likely to change up until 3 months after the reporting date.

Smoothed										
Valuation Date	Assets £000's	Liabilities £000's	Surplus/ Deficit £000's	Funding Level %	Ongoing Cost (% of Payroll)	Past Service Ctbn	Total Ctbn (% of payroll)	Main Discount Rate	Return Required to Restore Funding Level (pa)	
March 2013	866,938	1,164,198	(297,260)	74%	13.3%	16.5%	29.8%	5.9%	7.1%	
April 2013	878,910	1,165,568	(286,658)	75%	13.8%	13.1%	26.9%	5.9%	7.1%	
May 2013	888,642	1,169,568	(280,926)	76%	13.7%	12.9%	26.6%	5.9%	7.1%	
June 2013	895,688	1,170,718	(275,030)	77%	13.5%	12.7%	26.2%	6.0%	7.1%	
July 2013	904,339	1,173,403	(269,063)	77%	13.4%	12.5%	25.9%	6.0%	7.0%	
August 2013	909,690	1,175,518	(265,828)	77%	13.3%	12.4%	25.7%	6.0%	7.1%	
September 2013	918,777	1,183,051	(264,274)	78%	13.3%	12.3%	25.6%	6.0%	7.1%	
October 2013	929,362	1,191,805	(262,443)	78%	13.4%	12.3%	25.7%	6.0%	7.0%	
November 2013	938,213	1,201,055	(262,842)	78%	13.4%	12.3%	25.7%	6.0%	7.0%	
December 2013	946,872	1,211,047	(264,176)	78%	13.4%	12.4%	25.8%	6.0%	7.0%	
January 2014	954,910	1,219,354	(264,444)	78%	13.4%	12.5%	25.9%	6.0%	7.0%	
February 2014	962,596	1,228,040	(265,444)	78%	13.4%	12.6%	26.0%	6.0%	7.0%	
March 2014	1,002,745	1,233,946	(231,201)	81%	13.3%	11.2%	24.5%	6.0%	6.9%	
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Unsmoothed									
Valuation Date	Assets £000's	Liabilities £000's	Surplus/ Deficit £000's	Funding Level %	Ongoing Cost (% of Payroll)	Past Service Ctbn	Total Ctbn (% of payroll)	Main Discount Rate	Return Required to Restore Funding Level (pa)
March 2013	874,182	1,175,148	(300,966)	74%	13.6%	13.4%	27.0%	5.9%	7.1%
April 2013	886,487	1,186,870	(300,384)	75%	13.8%	13.5%	27.3%	5.8%	7.0%
May 2013	901,919	1,182,756	(280,837)	76%	13.5%	12.8%	26.3%	5.9%	7.0%
June 2013	862,959	1,138,024	(275,065)	76%	13.5%	12.9%	26.4%	6.1%	7.2%
July 2013	911,592	1,173,707	(262,116)	78%	13.5%	12.1%	25.6%	5.9%	6.9%
August 2013	897,984	1,162,093	(264,109)	77%	13.3%	12.4%	25.7%	6.1%	7.2%
September 2013	910,261	1,176,348	(266,087)	77%	13.3%	12.5%	25.8%	6.0%	7.0%
October 2013	944,904	1,208,939	(264,035)	78%	13.2%	12.3%	25.5%	5.9%	6.9%
November 2013	939,772	1,206,750	(266,978)	78%	13.4%	12.5%	25.9%	6.1%	7.1%
December 2013	953,407	1,212,836	(259,429)	79%	13.4%	12.2%	25.6%	6.0%	7.0%
January 2014	940,435	1,213,328	(272,893)	78%	13.4%	12.9%	26.3%	6.0%	7.0%
February 2014	979,617	1,231,045	(251,428)	80%	13.4%	11.9%	25.3%	5.9%	6.9%
March 2014	994,420	1,226,711	(232,291)	81%	13.2%	11.2%	24.4%	6.1%	7.0%
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