



City of Westminster

Committee Report

Decision Maker:	PENSION FUND COMMITTEE
Date:	29 June 2023
Classification:	Public
Title:	United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals
Wards Affected:	None
Policy Context:	Effective control over council activities
Financial Summary:	There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.
Report of:	Phil Triggs <i>Tri-Borough Director of Treasury and Pensions</i> ptriggs@westminster.gov.uk 020 7641 4136

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals provide a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Pension Fund Committee is requested to:
 - Note the progress the Fund's asset managers have made in meeting the UN's 17 SDGs.

3 Background

3.1 During 2015, all United Nations (UN) members adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the heart of this was the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals call for urgent action by all developed and developing countries, for ending poverty, global hunger, improving health and education, reducing inequality, tackling climate change and promoting global economic growth.

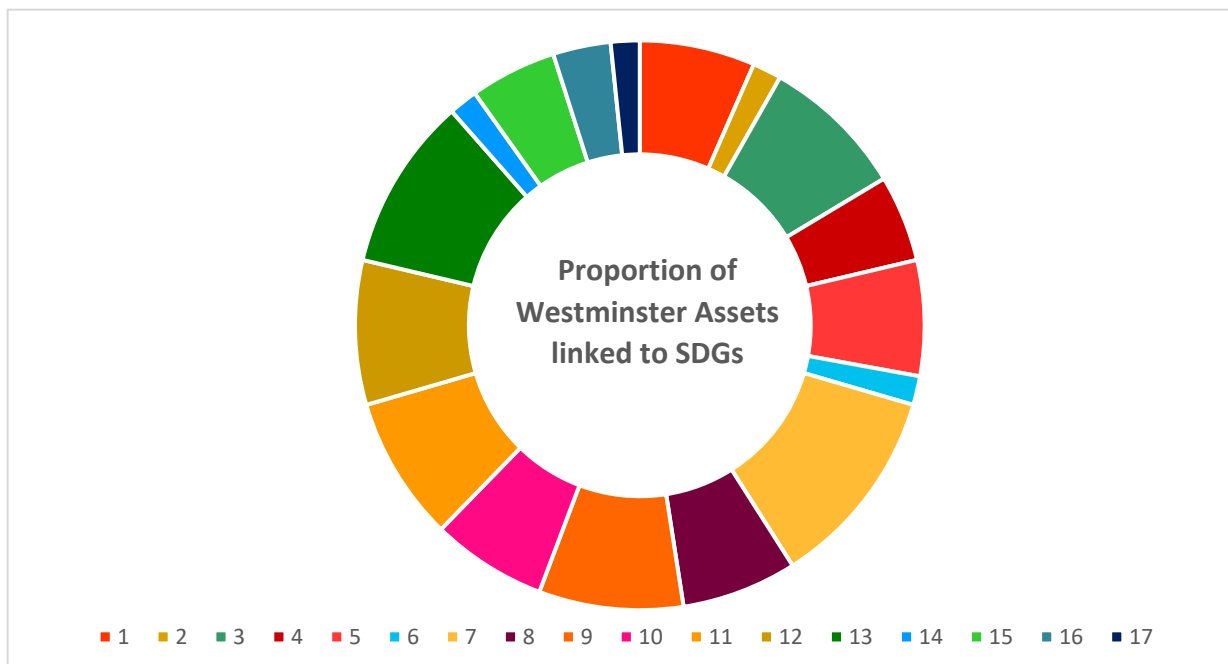
3.2 The 17 SDGs are set out as follows:

- **Goal 1: No Poverty**
End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- **Goal 2: Zero Hunger**
End hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.
- **Goal 4: Quality Education**
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **Goal 5: Gender Equality**
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
- **Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities**
Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- **Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
Makes cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- **Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact.
- **Goal 14: Life below Water**
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- **Goal 15: Life on Land**
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- **Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- **Goal 17: Partnerships for Goals**
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

4 Statistics and Case Studies

- 4.1 The Westminster Pension Fund's asset managers meet a number of the SDGs as set out by the United Nations. The chart below highlights the goals which the funds asset managers have been most successful in addressing. These include significant work towards addressing the gender pay gap, reducing deaths and illness from air pollution, developing reliable renewable infrastructure, efficient use of natural resources and improving impact on climate change mitigation.



Macquarie Case Study

4.2 The Fund's renewable infrastructure manager, Macquarie, holds a number of assets within its portfolio including onshore and offshore wind and solar. The manager meets a number of the UN SDGs, demonstrated as follows:

- Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing**
 Reducing deaths and illnesses from air pollution, caused by pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides and particulate matter. By using renewable energy and the avoidance of fossil fuel electricity generation it is forecast to reduce the annual emissions of harmful air pollutants.
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy & Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
 Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global mix and develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure. The renewables portfolio adds 950MW of aggregate renewable energy generation to local grids.
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
 Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. By avoiding fossil fuel electricity generation, it is forecast to avoid the equivalent consumption of 206kt of oil annually.
- Goal 13: Climate Action**
 Improve human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation by raising awareness on climate change and negative impact reduction. The portfolio is forecast to avoid 967 kt CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Man Group Case Study

4.3 The Pension Fund's affordable housing manager, Man Group, has a long term goal of providing 13,000 new homes that cost no more than 35% of an average household's gross income. The asset manager has demonstrated achievement of a number of UN SDGs as follows:

- **Goal 1: No Poverty & Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities**
Providing quality and environmentally sustainable homes to meet affordable housing needs including shared ownership and rented at a % of local median income.
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**
Increasing the percentage of homes that meet the Decent Home standards, Building for Life 12 accreditation and Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS).
- **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy & Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
The portfolio provides environmentally sustainable homes, including the use of solar panels, electric charging points and a reduction in CO2 emissions against the Target Emission Rate.

Quinbrook Case Study

4.4 The Pension Fund's second renewables manager, Quinbrook, invests solely in UK assets at both the development and operational stage. Target assets include solar PV and onshore wind, alongside supporting infrastructure such as battery storage and connection assets. Quinbrook works to quantify and support a number of the UN goals, as discussed below:

- **Goal 4: Quality Education**
Supporting school programs in the adoption of renewable energy and working with universities to support improved education and access to greater diversity in the industry.
- **Goal 5: Gender Equality**
Supporting gender equality through fair and non-discriminatory hiring and engagement policies.
- **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**
Providing renewable energy, in particular in community settings and disadvantaged areas.
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
Providing jobs and economic growth opportunities in regional and rural areas where assets are located and supporting job creation and training in areas of job displacement, due to accelerating energy transition.
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

Investing and partnering with business that are driving new energy innovation and infrastructure.

- **Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
Building and maintain assets to support sustainable cities and communities and enabling a fairer transition to sustainable energy sources.
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**
Creating new assets through project development and construction that help to avoid emissions and tackle climate change.
- **Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**
Strong institutions through improved governance and alignment with the United Nations Compact.

Abrdn Case Study

4.5 Abrdn manage the Fund's allocation to long lease property, which aims to provide long-term and inflation-linked income through UK property investments. The mandate meets a number of UN SDGs as follows:

- **Goal 1: No Poverty**
Supporting the fair pay landscape, Abrdn were shortlisted for the Living Wage trailblazer award and supported the new Edinburgh Living Wage city application.
- **Goal 5: Gender Equality**
Abrdn have pledged 40% of Board members to be female, 40% male and 20% any gender, as well as this they have pledged at least 50% of the workforce to be female.
- **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**
99.5% of the electricity Abrdn procures is on a green tariff, with an aim to operate 100% of offices globally using renewable energy.
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
Abrdn is ranked in the top 75 UK Social Mobility Employer Index and supports paying staff the living wage.
- **Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities**
Abrdn has pledged to have at least 18% of the Board identify as ethnic minority.
- **Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
Avoiding the use of single-use plastics within offices and sending zero waste to landfill sites.
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**

Pledge to become net zero in operations across scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and reduce those emissions by 50% and emissions of invested assets by 50%.

- **Goal 15: Life on Land**

Improve biodiversity within UK real estate, including the implementation of wildflowers, ponds, hedgerows and shrubbery, bird boxes and bee/bug hotels.

If you have any questions about this report, or wish to inspect one of the background papers, please contact the report author:

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

APPENDICES:

None.