












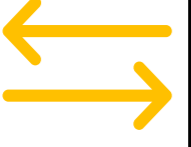












Pension Fund Risk Register - Investment Risk													
Risk Group	Risk Ref.	Trending	Risk Description	Impact				Likelihood	Total risk score	Mitigation actions	Revised Likelihood	Net risk score	Reviewed
				Fund	Employers	Reputation	Total						
Liability Risk	1		Price inflation is significantly more than anticipated in the actuarial assumptions. Inflation continues to remain high in the UK and globally due to labour shortages, supply chain issues, and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. CPI inflation was 6.7% as at August 2023, down from the peak of 11.1% in October 2022.	5	3	3	11	4	44	TREAT: 1) The Fund holds investments in bonds, inflation linked long lease property, private debt and infrastructure to mitigate CPI risk. Moreover, equities will also provide a degree of inflation protection. 2) The Pension Fund has increased its holdings within infrastructure and intends to increase allocations to property into 2023. 3) Officers continue to monitor the increases in CPI inflation on an ongoing basis. 4) Short term inflation is expected due to a number of reasons on current course.	3	33	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	2		Investment managers fail to achieve benchmark/ outperformance targets over the longer term: a shortfall of 0.1% on the investment target will result in an annual impact of £1.8m. The Fund returned 3.21% net of fees in the year to 31 August 2023, underperforming the benchmark by -2.50% net of fees.	5	3	3	11	4	44	TREAT: 1) The Investment Management Agreements (IMAs) clearly state WCC's expectations in terms of investment performance targets. 2) Investment manager performance is reviewed on a quarterly basis. 3) The Pension Fund Committee should be positioned to move quickly if it is felt that targets will not be achieved. 4) Portfolio rebalancing is considered on a regular basis by the Pension Fund Committee. 5) The Fund's investment management structure is highly diversified, which lessens the impact of manager risk compared with less diversified structures.	3	33	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	3		Increased risk to global economic stability, with the collapse of a number of banks since March 2023. Outlook deteriorates in advanced economies because of heightened uncertainty and setbacks to growth and confidence, with volatility in oil and commodity prices, as well as the weakening of the pound. Leading to tightened financial conditions, reduced risk appetite and raised credit risks.	3	4	3	10	4	40	TREAT: 1) Continued dialogue with investment managers re management of political risk in global developed markets. 2) Investment strategy involving portfolio diversification and risk control. 3) The Fund alongside its investment consultant continually reviews its investment strategy in different asset classes. 4) The City of Westminster Pension Fund can report that as at January 2023, the value of investments to Russia or Ukraine within the Pension Fund's asset classes is valued at zero. 5) Currency hedging takes place within the LGIM Future World Fund and LCIV Absolute Return Fund, this will offer some protection against the weakening of the pound. 5) Officers have assessed any exposures to SVB, with minimal direct exposure within the Fund.	3	30	28/09/2023










Regulatory and Compliance Risk	4		The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC's) has proposed new regulations for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administering authorities in England and Wales to assess, manage and report on climate-related risks, in line with the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The first reporting year is now expected to be the financial year 2024/25, with the regulations now delayed. Therefore, the first reports will be required by December 2025.	3	1	4	8	4	32	TREAT: 1) The Pension Fund's investment consultant has already started work on identifying the climate risks to the Fund, and how these can be assessed and reported on. 2) The Pension Fund already collects and reports on carbon emission data, which will form part of the TCFD metrics and targets. This data can currently be found in the Responsible Investment Statement. 3) Officers attend training sessions and conferences on TCFD reporting, including London Pension Fund Officers Forum, where there is an open arena for discussions. 4) The City of Westminster Pension Fund has submitted a response to the DLUHC consultation on the proposed climate reporting regulations, with the regulations still outstanding.	3	24	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	5		Failure of an admitted or scheduled body leads to unpaid liabilities being left in the Fund to be met by others. Current economic conditions will cause strain on smaller employers.	5	3	3	11	3	33	TREAT: 1) Transferee admission bodies required to have bonds or guarantees in place at time of signing the admission agreement. Regular monitoring of employers and follow up of expiring bonds.	2	22	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	6		Scheme members live longer than expected leading to higher than expected liabilities.	5	5	1	11	2	22	TOLERATE: 1) The scheme's liability is reviewed at each triennial valuation and the actuary's assumptions are challenged as required. The actuary's most recent longevity analysis has shown that the rate of increase in life expectancy is slowing down.	2	22	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	7		Increased scrutiny on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, leading to reputational damage. The Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019.	3	1	3	7	4	28	TREAT: 1) Review ISS in relation to published best practice (e.g. Stewardship Code) 2) Ensure fund managers are encouraged to engage and to follow the requirements of the published ISS. 3) The Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) and Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA), which raises awareness of ESG issues and facilitates engagement with fund managers and corporate company directors. 4) The Pension Fund has committed 6% towards renewables and 5% to affordable and social supported housing, alongside moving equities into ESG-tilted mandates. 5) An ESG and RI Policy was drafted for the Pension Fund as part of the ISS and a Responsible Investment Statement has been drafted for 2023. 6) Officers regularly attend training events on ESG and TCFD regulations to ensure stay up to date with latest guidance.	3	21	28/09/2023






Asset and Investment Risk	8		Global investment markets fail to perform in line with expectations leading to deterioration in funding levels and increased contribution requirements from employers.	5	3	2	10	3	30	TREAT: 1) Proportion of total asset allocation made up of equities, bonds, property funds, infrastructure and fixed income, limiting exposure to one asset category. 2) The investment strategy is continuously monitored and periodically reviewed to ensure optimal risk asset allocation. 3) Actuarial valuation and strategy review take place every three years post the actuarial valuation. 4) IAS19 data is received annually and provides an early warning of any potential problems. 5) The actuarial assumption regarding asset outperformance is regarded as achievable over the long term when compared with historical data.	2	20	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	9		Employee pay increases are significantly more than anticipated for employers within the Fund. Persistently high inflation will potentially lead to unexpectedly high pay awards.	4	4	2	10	3	30	TREAT 1) Fund employers should monitor own experience. 2) Assumptions made on pay and price inflation (for the purposes of IAS19/FRS102 and actuarial valuations) should be long term assumptions. Any employer specific assumptions above the actuary's long term assumption would lead to further review. 3) Employers to made aware of generic impact that salary increases can have upon the final salary linked elements of LGPS benefits (accrued benefits before 1 April 2014). 4) Employee pay rises currently remain below inflation.	2	20	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	10		That the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV) fails to produce proposals/solutions deemed sufficiently ambitious.	4	3	3	10	2	20	TOLERATE: 1) Partners for the pool have similar expertise and like-mindedness of the officers and members involved with the fund, ensuring compliance with the pooling requirements. Ensure that ongoing fund and pool proposals are comprehensive and meet government objectives. 2) Member presence on Shareholder Committee and officer groups. 3) The LCIV has recently bolstered its investment team with the successful recruitment of a permanent CIO, Head of Responsible Investment & Client Relations Director. 4)Fund representation on key officer groups. 5) Ongoing Shareholder Issue remains a threat.	2	20	28/09/2023
Resource and Skill Risk	11		Committee members do not have appropriate skills or knowledge to discharge their responsibility leading to inappropriate decisions.	4	3	2	9	3	27	TREAT: 1) External professional advice is sought where required. Knowledge and skills policy in place (subject to Committee Approval) 2) Comprehensive training packages will be offered to members.	2	18	28/09/2023

Regulatory and Compliance Risk	12		Implementation of proposed changes to the LGPS (pooling) does not conform to plan or cannot be achieved within laid down timescales. Consultation on Next Steps on Investments released during July 2023, the Fund has submitted a response.	3	2	1	6	3	18	TOLERATE: 1) Officers consult and engage with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), LGPS Scheme Advisory Board, advisors, consultants, peers, various seminars and conferences. 2) Officers engage in early planning for implementation against agreed deadlines. 3) Uncertainty surrounding new DLUHC pooling guidance, expected sometime during 2023/24, following consultation.	3	18	28/09/2023
Resource and Skill Risk	13		The Stewardship Code is a set of principles set out by the Financial Reporting Council. To become a signatory of the Code, applicants must submit a Stewardship Report to the FRC demonstrating how the principles of the Code have been applied during the previous 12 months. Once accepted onto the signatories list, organisations must reapply annually. Due to the significant work required in this area this may pose a challenge for submission annually, without any additional resource, and the risk of subsequent submissions being rejected.	3	1	4	8	3	24	TREAT: 1) Use of asset manager and pool company resources in the annual review and update of the stewardship submissions. 2) Officers attending training events and conferences on ESG reporting. 3) Consider appointment of a Tri-Borough Responsible Investment (RI) officer to cover ESG and RI areas, including stewardship and TCFD reporting.	2	16	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	14		Volatility in investment markets caused by government decisions.	4	2	2	8	3	24	TREAT: 1) The Fund's investment management structure is highly diversified, which lessens the impact of market risk compared with less diversified structures. 2) Portfolio rebalancing is considered on a regular basis by the Pension Fund Committee. 3) The City of Westminster Pension Fund's strategic asset allocation was reviewed during 2023.	2	16	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	15		The global outbreak of COVID-19 poses economic uncertainty across the global investment markets.	4	3	1	8	3	24	TREAT: 1) Officers will continue to monitor the impact lockdown measures have had on the fund's underlying investments and the wider economic environment. 2) The Fund holds a diversified portfolio, which should reduce the impact of stock market movements. 3) Asset allocation was reviewed during 2023, a new strategy was agreed to reduce equities by 5% and move into renewable infrastructure. 4) Pension Fund Officers in frequent contact with Fund Managers and the Funds investment advisor.	2	16	28/09/2023

Asset and Investment Risk	16		Volatility caused by uncertainty regarding the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union. Supply chain shortages disrupting the economy. Uncertainty remains regarding the Northern Ireland Protocol.	4	3	1	8	3	24	TREAT: 1) Officers to consult and engage with advisors and investment managers. 2) Possibility of hedging currency and equity index movements. LGIM and LCIV Absolute Return mandates are currently GBP hedged. 3) The UK has exited the EU and the transition period has come to an end. There is still the potential for volatility implementing some of the post-Brexit agreements.	2	16	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	17		London CIV has inadequate resources to monitor the implementation of investment strategy and as a consequence are unable to address underachieving fund managers.	3	3	2	8	3	24	TREAT: 1) Member presence on shareholder Committee responsible for the oversight of the CIV and can monitor and challenge the level of resources through that forum. Tri-Borough Director of Treasury & Pensions is a member of the officer Investment Advisory Committee which gives the Fund influence over the work of the London CIV. 2) Officers continue to monitor the ongoing staffing issues and the quality of the performance reporting provided by the London CIV.	2	16	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	18		Impact of economic and political decisions on the Pension Fund's employer workforce. Government funding level affecting the Councils spending decisions.	5	2	1	8	3	24	TREAT: 1) Actuary uses prudent assumptions on future of employees within workforce. Employer responsibility to flag up potential for major bulk transfers outside of the Westminster Fund. The potential for a significant reduction in the workforce as a result of the public sector financial pressures may have a future impact on the Fund. 2) Need to make prudent assumptions about diminishing workforce when carrying out the triennial actuarial valuation, next valuation to take place at 31 March 2025.	2	16	28/09/2023
Resource and Skill Risk	19		Change in membership of Pension Fund Committee leads to dilution of member knowledge and understanding.	2	2	1	5	4	20	TREAT: 1) Succession planning process in place. 2) Ongoing training of Pension Fund Committee members. 3) Pension Fund Committee new member induction programme. 4) Training to be based on the requirements of CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework under designated officer.	3	15	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	20		Ill health costs may exceed "budget" allocations made by the actuary resulting in higher than expected liabilities particularly for smaller employers.	4	2	1	7	2	14	TOLERATE: 1) Review "budgets" at each triennial valuation and challenge actuary as required. Charge capital cost of ill health retirements to admitted bodies at the time of occurring. Occupational health services provided by the Council and other large employers to address potential ill health issues early.	2	14	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	21		Impact of increases to employer contributions following the actuarial valuation, next valuation to take place on 31 March 2025.	5	5	3	13	2	26	TREAT: 1) Officers to consult and engage with employer organisations in conjunction with the actuary. 2) Actuary will assist where appropriate with stabilisation and phasing in processes.	1	13	28/09/2023

Liability Risk	22		There is insufficient cash available in the Fund to meet pension payments leading to investment assets being sold at sub-optimal prices to meet pension payments. The Fund currently has £100m in cash held within a short duration bond fund and LCIV Absolute Return Fund, which allows access at short notice.	5	4	3	12	2	24	TREAT: 1) Cashflow forecast maintained and monitored. 2) Cashflow position reported to committee quarterly. 3) Cashflow requirement is a factor in current investment strategy review, Fund is expected to be c.£25m cashflow negative per annum. However, going forward income distributions are expected to offset this.	1	12	28/09/2023
Regulatory and Compliance Risk	23		Changes to LGPS Regulations	3	2	1	6	3	18	TREAT: 1) Fundamental change to LGPS Regulations implemented from 1 April 2014 (change from final salary to CARE scheme). 2) Future impacts on employer contributions and cash flows will be considered during the 2016 actuarial valuation process. 3) Fund will respond to consultation processes. 4) Impact of LGPS (Management of Funds) Regulations 2016 to be monitored. Impact of Regulations 8 (compulsory pooling) to be monitored.	2	12	28/09/2023
Regulatory and Compliance Risk	24		Failure to hold personal data securely in breach of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation.	3	3	5	11	2	22	TREAT: 1) Data encryption technology is in place which allow the secure transmission of data to external service providers. 2)WCC IT data security policy adhered to. 3) Implementation of GDPR. 4) Pension administration transition project team in place.	1	11	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	25		Mismatching of assets and liabilities, inappropriate long-term asset allocation or investment strategy, mistiming of investment strategy.	5	3	3	11	2	22	TREAT: 1) Active investment strategy and asset allocation monitoring from Pension Fund Committee, officers and consultants. 2) Investment strategy review is currently underway with an approved switch from equities to affordable/social housing. 3) Setting of Fund specific benchmark relevant to the current position of fund liabilities. 4) Fund manager targets set and based on market benchmarks or absolute return measures. Overall investment benchmark and out-performance target is fund specific.	1	11	28/09/2023
Reputational Risk	26		Financial loss of cash investments from fraudulent activity.	3	3	5	11	2	22	TREAT: 1) Policies and procedures are in place which are regularly reviewed to ensure risk of investment loss is minimised. Strong governance arrangements and internal control are in place in respect of the Pension Fund. Internal Audit assist in the implementation of strong internal controls. Fund Managers have to provide annual SSAE16 and ISAE3402 or similar documentation (statement of internal controls).	1	11	28/09/2023
Reputational Risk	27		Failure to comply with legislation leads to ultra vires actions resulting in financial loss and/or reputational damage.	5	2	4	11	2	22	TREAT: 1) Officers maintain knowledge of legal framework for routine decisions. 2) Eversheds retained for consultation on non-routine matters.	1	11	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	28		A change in government may result in new wealth sharing policies which could negatively impact the value of the pension fund assets.	5	5	1	11	2	22	TREAT: 1) Maintain links with central government and national bodies to keep abreast of national issues. Respond to all consultations and lobby as appropriate to ensure consequences of changes to legislation are understood.	1	11	28/09/2023

Liability Risk	29		Transfers out increase significantly as members transfer to DC funds to access cash through new pension freedoms.	4	4	2	10	2	20	TREAT: 1) Monitor numbers and values of transfers out being processed. If required, commission transfer value report from Fund Actuary for application to Treasury for reduction in transfer values. 2) No evidence in 2023/24 of members transferring out to DC schemes.	1	10	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	30		Inadequate, inappropriate or incomplete investment or actuarial advice is actioned leading to a financial loss or breach of legislation.	5	3	2	10	2	20	TREAT: 1) At time of appointment ensure advisers have appropriate professional qualifications and quality assurance procedures in place. Committee and officers scrutinise and challenge advice provided.	1	10	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	31		Financial failure of third party supplier results in service impairment and financial loss	5	4	1	10	2	20	TREAT: 1) Performance of third parties (other than fund managers) regularly monitored. 2) Regular meetings and conversations with global custodian (Northern Trust) take place. 3) Actuarial and investment consultancies are provided by two different providers.	1	10	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	32		Failure of global custodian or counterparty.	5	3	2	10	2	20	TREAT: 1) At time of appointment, ensure assets are separately registered and segregated by owner. 2) Review of internal control reports on an annual basis. 3) Credit rating kept under review.	1	10	28/09/2023
Asset and Investment Risk	33		Financial failure of a fund manager leads to value reduction, increased costs and impairment.	4	3	3	10	2	20	TREAT: 1) Fund is reliant upon current adequate contract management activity. 2) Fund is reliant upon alternative suppliers at similar price being found promptly. 3) Fund is reliant on LGIM as transition manager. 4) Fund has the services of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV).	1	10	28/09/2023
Resource and Skill Risk	34		Officers do not have appropriate skills and knowledge to perform their roles resulting in the service not being provided in line with best practice and legal requirements. Succession planning is not in place leading to reduction of knowledge when an officer leaves.	4	3	3	10	2	20	TREAT: 1) Person specifications are used at recruitment to appoint officers with relevant skills and experience. 2) Training plans are in place for all officers as part of the performance appraisal arrangements. 3) Shared service nature of the pensions team provides resilience and sharing of knowledge. 4) Officers maintain their CPD by attending training events and conferences.	1	10	28/09/2023
Regulatory and Compliance Risk	35		Failure to comply with legislative requirements e.g. ISS, FSS, Governance Policy, Freedom of Information requests.	3	3	4	10	2	20	TREAT: 1) Publication of all documents on external website. 2) Managers expected to comply with ISS and investment manager agreements. 3) Local Pension Board is an independent scrutiny and assistance function. 4) Annual audit reviews.	1	10	28/09/2023
Reputational Risk	36		Inaccurate information in public domain leads to damage to reputation and loss of confidence.	1	1	3	5	3	15	TREAT: 1) Ensure that all requests for information (Freedom of Information, member and public questions at Council, etc) are managed appropriately and that Part 2 Exempt items remain so. 2) Maintain constructive relationships with employer bodies to ensure that news is well managed. 3) Stage AGM every year.	2	10	28/09/2023
Liability Risk	37		Changes to LGPS Scheme moving from Defined Benefit to Defined Contribution	5	3	2	10	1	10	TOLERATE: 1) Political power required to effect the change.	1	10	28/09/2023

Liability Risk	38		Scheme matures more quickly than expected due to public sector spending cuts, resulting in contributions reducing and pension payments increasing.	5	3	1	9	2	18	TREAT: 1) Review maturity of scheme at each triennial valuation. Deficit contributions specified as lump sums, rather than percentage of payroll to maintain monetary value of contributions. 2) Cashflow position monitored monthly.	1	9	28/09/2023
Regulatory and Compliance Risk	39		Failure to comply with recommendations from the Local Pension Board, resulting in the matter being escalated to the scheme advisory board and/or the pensions regulator.	1	3	5	9	2	18	TREAT: 1) Ensure that a cooperative, effective and transparent dialogue exists between the Pension Fund Committee and Local Pension Board.	1	9	28/09/2023
Regulatory and Compliance Risk	40		Loss of flexibility to engage with Fund Managers and loss of elective professional status with any or all of the existing Fund managers and counterparties resulting in reclassification. (The Fund is a retail client to counterparties unless opted up).	3	2	2	7	2	14	TREAT: 1) More reliance on investment advisor to keep Officers and Committee updated. Officers are considering other financial institution outside of the current mandates to 'opt up' with. 2) Maintaining up to date information about the fund on relevant platforms. 3) Fund can opt up with prospective clients. 4) Keep quantitative and qualitative requirements under review to ensure that they continue to meet the requirements. There is a training programme and log in place to ensure knowledge and understanding is kept up to date. 5) Existing and new Officer appointments subject to requirements for professional qualifications and CPD.	1	7	28/09/2023
Regulatory and Compliance Risk	41		Procurement processes may be challenged if seen to be non-compliant with OJEU rules. Poor specifications lead to dispute. Unsuccessful fund managers may seek compensation following non compliant process.	2	2	3	7	2	14	TREAT: 1) Ensure that assessment criteria remains robust and that full feedback is given at all stages of the procurement process. 2) Pooled funds are not subject to OJEU rules.	1	7	28/09/2023
Regulatory and Compliance Risk	42		Pensions legislation or regulation changes resulting in an increase in the cost of the scheme or increased administration.	4	2	1	7	2	14	TREAT: 1) Maintain links with central government and national bodies to keep abreast of national issues. 2) Respond to all consultations and lobby as appropriate to ensure consequences of changes to legislation are understood.	1	7	28/09/2023