

Maxell Europe Limited Pension & Life Assurance Scheme (the "Scheme")

Statement of Investment Principles

Barnett Waddingham LLP

25 January 2024

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Choosing investments.....	3
3. Investment objectives	3
4. Kinds of investments to be held	4
5. The balance between different kinds of investments.....	4
6. Risks.....	5
7. Expected return on investments	6
8. Realisation of investments	6
9. Financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities, and non-financial matters	6
10. Policy on arrangements with asset managers.....	7
11. Agreement	9

Appendix 1

1. The balance between different kinds of investment.....	10
2. Choosing investments.....	12
3. Fee agreements	14
4. Investments and disinvestments.....	16

Appendix 2 – Financially material considerations, non-financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities

1. Financially Material Considerations.....	17
2. Non-financially material considerations.....	18
3. The exercise of voting rights.....	19
4. Engagement activities.....	19

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is the Statement of Investment Principles for the Maxell Europe Limited Pension & Life Assurance Scheme (the "Scheme"), as prepared by the Trustees of the Scheme ("the Trustees"). This statement sets down the principles which govern the decisions about investments that enable the Scheme to meet the requirements of:
 - the Pensions Act 1995, as amended by the Pensions Act 2004;
 - the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 as amended by the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, the Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) Regulations 2015, the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) Regulations 2018 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment) Regulations 2019.
- 1.2. In preparing this statement the Trustees have consulted Maxell Europe Ltd, (the "Employer"), and obtained advice from Barnett Waddingham LLP, the Trustees' investment consultants. Barnett Waddingham LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
- 1.3. This statement has been prepared with regard to the 2001 Myners review of institutional investment (including subsequent updates), and Scheme Funding legislation.
- 1.4. The Trustees will review this statement at least every three years or if there is a significant change in any of the areas covered by the statement.
- 1.5. The investment powers of the Trustees are set out in Clause 20 of the Trust Deed and Rules dated 5 April 2001. This statement is consistent with those powers.

2. Choosing investments

- 2.1. The Trustees' policy is to set the overall investment target and then monitor the performance of their managers against that target. In doing so, the Trustees consider the advice of their professional adviser, who they consider to be suitably qualified and experienced for this role.
- 2.2. The day-to-day management of the Scheme's assets is delegated to one or more investment managers. The Scheme's investment managers are detailed in Appendix 1 to this Statement. The investment managers are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, and are responsible for stock selection and the exercise of voting rights.
- 2.3. The Trustees review the appropriateness of the Scheme's investment strategy on an ongoing basis. This review includes consideration of the continued competence of the investment managers with respect to performance within any guidelines set. The Trustees will also consult the Employer before amending the investment strategy.

3. Investment objectives

- 3.1. The Trustees have discussed key investment objectives in light of an analysis of the Scheme's liability profile as well as the constraints the Trustees face in achieving these objectives. As a result, the Trustees'

investment objective is to generate sufficient returns to meet the ongoing funding objective in the medium term, while minimising risks to the extent possible.

- 3.2. The ongoing funding objective of the Scheme is to be fully funded on a measure of liabilities which takes into account risk free returns plus an explicit allowance for excess return derived from the growth assets. The risk free measure used is again based on yields on government bonds and related instruments. The excess return is based on the proportion of growth assets that the Scheme holds and an anticipated return that the Trustees are comfortable with in context of the covenant of the sponsoring employer.
- 3.3. The Trustees also have an objective of ensuring the Scheme can meet the members' entitlements under the Trust Deed and Rules as they fall due.
- 3.4. The Trustees are aware of the relationship that exists between the particular investment portfolio that is held and the level of funding of the Scheme's liabilities. The Trustees have obtained exposure to investments that they expect will meet the Scheme's objectives as best as possible.

4. Kinds of investments to be held

- 4.1. The Scheme is permitted to invest in a wide range of assets including equities, bonds, cash, property, alternatives and annuity policies.
- 4.2. The Trustees monitor from time-to-time the employer-related investment content of their portfolio as a whole and will take steps to alter this should they discover this to be more than 5% of the portfolio. Typically this check is carried out annually by the Scheme's auditors.

5. The balance between different kinds of investments

- 5.1. The Scheme invests in assets that are expected to achieve the Scheme's objectives. The allocation between different asset classes is contained within Appendix 1 to this Statement.
- 5.2. The Trustees consider the merits of both active and passive management for the various elements of the portfolio and may select different approaches for different asset classes. The current arrangements are set out in Appendix 1 to this Statement.
- 5.3. From time to time the Scheme may hold cash and therefore deviate from its strategic or tactical asset allocation in order to accommodate any short-term cashflow requirements or any other unexpected items.
- 5.4. The Trustees are aware that the appropriate balance between different kinds of investments will vary over time and therefore the Scheme's asset allocation will be expected to change as the Scheme's liability profile matures.

6. Risks

- 6.1. The Trustees have considered the following risks for the Scheme with regard to its investment policy and the Scheme's liabilities, and considered ways of managing/monitoring these risks:

Risk versus the liabilities	The Trustees will monitor and review the investment strategy with respect to the liabilities in conjunction with each actuarial valuation. The investment strategy will be set with consideration to the appropriate level of risk required for the funding strategy as set out in the Scheme's Statement of Funding Principles.
Covenant risk	The creditworthiness of the Employer and the size of the pension liability relative to the Employer's earnings are monitored on a regular basis. The appropriate level of investment risk is considered with reference to the strength of the Employer covenant.
Solvency and mismatching	This risk is addressed through the asset allocation strategy and ongoing triennial actuarial valuations. The Trustees are aware that the asset allocation required to minimise the volatility of the solvency position may be different from that which would minimise the volatility on the Scheme's funding basis.
Asset allocation risk	The asset allocation is detailed in Appendix 1 to this Statement and is monitored on a regular basis by the Trustees.
Investment manager risk	The Trustees monitor the performance of each of the Scheme's investment managers on a regular basis in addition to having meetings with each manager from time to time as necessary. The Trustees have a written agreement with each investment manager, which contains a number of restrictions on how each investment manager may operate.
Governance risk	Each asset manager is expected to undertake good stewardship and positive engagement in relation to the assets held. The Trustees monitor these and will report on the managers' practices in their annual Implementation Statement.
ESG/Climate risk	The Trustees have considered long-term financial risks to the Scheme and believe that ESG factors as well as climate risk are potentially financially material. The Trustees will continue to develop their policy to consider these, alongside other factors, when selecting or reviewing the Scheme's investments in order to avoid unexpected losses.
Concentration risk	Each investment manager is expected to manage broadly diversified portfolios and to spread assets across a number of individual shares and securities.
Liquidity risk	The Scheme invests in assets such that there is a sufficient allocation to liquid investments that can be converted into cash at short notice given the Scheme's cashflow requirements. The Scheme's administrators assess the level of cash held in order to limit the impact of the cashflow requirements on the investment policy.

Currency risk	The Scheme's liabilities are denominated in sterling. The Scheme may gain exposure to overseas currencies by investing in assets that are denominated in a foreign currency or via currency management. Currency hedging is employed to manage the impact of exchange rate fluctuations.
Loss of investment	The risk of loss of investment by each investment manager and custodian is assessed by the Trustees. This includes losses beyond those caused by market movements (e.g. default risk, operational errors or fraud).

7. Expected return on investments

- 7.1. The Trustees have regard to the relative investment return and risk that each asset class is expected to provide. The Trustees are advised by their professional advisors on these matters, who they deem to be appropriately qualified experts. However, the day-to-day selection of investments is delegated to the investment managers.
- 7.2. The Trustees recognise the need to distinguish between nominal and real returns and to make appropriate allowance for inflation when making decisions and comparisons.
- 7.3. In considering the expected return from investments, the Trustees recognise that different asset classes have different long-term expected returns and expected volatilities relative to the liabilities.
- 7.4. Having established the investment strategy, the Trustees monitor the performance of each investment manager against an agreed benchmark as frequently as appropriate according to market conditions and the Scheme's funding position. The Trustees meet the Scheme's investment managers as frequently as is appropriate, in order to review performance.

8. Realisation of investments

- 8.1. The Trustees have delegated the responsibility for buying and selling investments to the investment managers. The Trustees have considered the risk of liquidity as referred to above.
- 8.2. Ultimately, the investments will all have to be sold when the Scheme's life comes to an end. In this situation, the Trustees are aware of the fact that the realisable value of some investments, were there to be a forced sale, might be lower than the market value shown in the Scheme accounts.

9. Financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities, and non-financial matters

- 9.1. The Trustees have set policies in relation to these matters. These policies are set out in Appendix 2.

10. Policy on arrangements with asset managers

Incentivising alignment with the Trustees' investment policies

- 10.1. Prior to appointing an investment manager, the Trustees discuss the investment manager's approach to the management of ESG and climate related risks with the Scheme's investment consultant, and how their policies are aligned with the Trustees' own investment beliefs.
- 10.2. When appointing an investment manager, in addition to considering the investment manager's investment philosophy, process and policies to establish how the manager intends to make the required investment returns, the Trustees also consider how ESG and climate risk are integrated into these. If the Trustees deem any aspect of these policies to be out of line with their own investment objectives for the part of the portfolio being considered, they will consider using another manager for the mandate.
- 10.3. The Trustees carry out a strategy review at least every three years where they assess the continuing relevance of the strategy in the context of the Scheme's membership and their aims, beliefs and constraints. The Trustees monitor the investment managers' approach to ESG and climate related risks on an annual basis.
- 10.4. In the event that an investment manager ceases to meet the Trustees' desired aims, including the management of ESG and climate related risks, using the approach expected of them, their appointment will be terminated. The investment managers have been informed of this by the Trustees.
- 10.5. Investment managers' ESG policies are reviewed in the context of best industry practice and feedback will be provided to the investment managers.

Incentivising assessments based on medium to long term, financial and non-financial considerations

- 10.6. The Trustees are mindful that the impact of ESG and climate change has a long-term nature. However, the Trustees recognise that the potential for change in value as a result of ESG and climate risk may occur over a much shorter term than climate change itself. The Trustees acknowledge this in their investment management arrangements.
- 10.7. When considering the management of objectives for an investment manager (including ESG and climate risk objectives), and then assessing their effectiveness and performance, the Trustees assess these over a rolling timeframe. The Trustees believe the use of rolling timeframes, typically 3 to 5 years, is consistent with ensuring the investment manager makes decisions based on an appropriate time horizon. Where a fund may have an absolute return or shorter term target, this is generally supplementary to a longer term performance target. In the case of assets that are actively managed, the Trustees expect this longer term performance target to be sufficient to ensure an appropriate alignment of interests.
- 10.8. The Trustees expect investment managers to be voting and engaging on behalf of the Scheme's holdings and the Scheme monitors this activity within the Implementation Statement in the Scheme's Annual Report and Accounts. The Trustees do not expect ESG considerations to be disregarded by the investment managers in an effort to achieve any short term targets.

Method and time horizon for assessing performance

- 10.9. The Trustees monitor the performance of their investment managers over medium to long term periods that are consistent with the Trustees' investment aims, beliefs and constraints.

- 10.10. The Scheme invests exclusively in pooled funds. The investment managers are remunerated by the Trustees based on the value of the assets they manage on behalf of the Trustees. Therefore as assets grow in value, due to positive returns by the investment manager or the Trustees' decision to invest more, the manager receives more in fees (and vice versa).
- 10.11. The Trustees believe that this fee structure incentivises the managers to invest in a way that benefits the Scheme.
- 10.12. The Trustees ask the Scheme's investment consultant to assess if the asset management fee is in line with the market when the manager is selected, and the appropriateness of the annual management charges are considered regularly as part of the review of the Statement of Investment Principles.

Portfolio turnover costs

- 10.13. The Trustees acknowledge that portfolio turnover costs can impact on the performance of their investments. Overall performance is assessed as part of the quarterly investment monitoring process.
- 10.14. During the investment manager appointment process, the Trustees may consider both past and anticipated portfolio turnover levels. When underperformance is identified, deviations from the expected level of turnover may be investigated with the investment manager concerned if it is felt they may have been a significant contributor to the underperformance. Assessments reflect the market conditions and peer group practices. The Trustees acknowledge that for some asset classes, such as LDI, a higher turnover of contracts such as repurchase agreements can be beneficial to the fund from both a risk and cost perspective.

Duration of arrangement with asset manager

- 10.15. For the open-ended pooled funds in which the Scheme invests, there are no predetermined terms of agreement with the investment managers.
- 10.16. The suitability of the Scheme's asset allocation and its ongoing alignment with the Trustees' investment beliefs is assessed every three years, or when changes deem it appropriate to do so more frequently. As part of this review the ongoing appropriateness of the investment managers, and the specific funds used, is assessed.

11. Agreement

11.1. This statement was agreed by the Trustees, and replaces any previous statements. Copies of this statement and any subsequent amendments will be made available to the Employer, the investment managers, the actuary and the Scheme auditor upon request.

Trustees of the Maxell Europe Limited Pension & Life Assurance Scheme

Name:..... **Signature:**..... **Date:**.....

Name:..... **Signature:**..... **Date:**.....

Appendix 1 Note on investment policy of the Scheme as at January 2024 in relation to the current Statement of Investment Principles

1. The balance between different kinds of investment

The Scheme has a strategic asset allocation as set out in the table below, which has been agreed after considering the Scheme’s liability profile, funding position, expected return of the various asset classes and the need for diversification.

Rebalancing

The Trustees recognise that the asset allocation of investments in different asset classes will vary over time as a result of market movements. The Trustees seek to maintain a balance between maintaining the asset allocation in line with its benchmark and limiting the costs of rebalances. Legal and General Investment Management (“LGIM”) will automatically rebalance the protection portfolio when they deem it necessary, as per the Enhanced Service Agreement in place from October 2023 in order to maintain the liability hedge and supporting collateral. Further details are provided below.

Asset class	Allocation (%)
Growth Portfolio	47.0
LGIM Future World Global Equity Fund	11.0
LGIM Future World Global Equity Fund – GBP Hedged	11.0
BNY Mellon Real Return Fund	10.0
Barings Global High Yield Credit Strategies Fund	15.0
Protection Portfolio	53.0
LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund	6.0
LGIM Enhanced Service Light (including LDI funds and holdings in the LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund)	47.0

2. Choosing investments

The Trustees have appointed the following investment managers to carry out the day-to-day investment of the Scheme:

- Barings LLC (Barings)
- BNY Mellon
- Legal and General Investment Management (LGIM)

The Trustees have appointed Legal and General Investment Management to provide the investment platform as an administrative vehicle, on which the BNY Mellon and LGIM funds are held. The Barings fund is held outside of the investment platform.

The Trustees also have an AVC contract with Prudential plc and Standard Life for the receipt of members' Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs).

The investment managers and AVC providers are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. In addition, the AVC providers are also authorised and regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority.

The investment benchmarks and objectives for each investment manager are given below:

Investment manager	Fund	Benchmark	Objective
Barings	Global High Yield Credit Strategies Fund	3 Month SOFR +5% p.a. (after fees)	Match the benchmark net of fees and generate current income.
BNY Mellon	Real Return Fund	SONIA + 4% p.a. over rolling five year periods	Match the benchmark gross of fees
LGIM	LGIM Future World Global Equity Fund	Solactive L&G ESG Global Markets Index	Track benchmark to within +/-0.60% p.a. for two years out of three
	LGIM Future World Global Equity Fund – GBP Hedged	Solactive L&G ESG Global Markets Index - GBP Hedged	Track benchmark to within +/-0.60% p.a. for two years out of three
	LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund	ICE BofA SONIA 3-Month Constant Maturity Total Return Index	Exceed benchmark by 1.50% p.a. over a rolling three-year basis gross of fees
	LDI Portfolio	Scheme liability benchmark	To protect against changes in real and nominal interest rates
	LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund	SONIA	Provide diversified exposure and a competitive return in relation to SONIA

The performance of the investment managers will be monitored as frequently as the Trustees consider appropriate in light of the prevailing circumstances. The monitoring takes into account both short-term and long-term performance.

The AVC arrangement is reviewed from time to time.

Liability Driven Investment (“LDI”)

The Trustees have instructed LGIM to manage a Leveraged Liability Driven Investment solution for the Scheme. This was implemented in October 2023 and was designed to increase the interest rate and inflation hedge ratios to around 81% of the Scheme’s liabilities as measured on a gilts +0.5% basis.

The Leveraged LDI Solution is comprised from LGIM’s leveraged and unleveraged single stock real and nominal gilt funds. LGIM can rebalance the Leveraged LDI Portfolio at their discretion on an ongoing basis in order to maintain the target liability hedge and manage the supporting collateral. The Trustees

will also typically review the liability hedge following each actuarial valuation in order to ensure the hedge remains appropriate after allowing for membership and market movements.

3. Fee agreements

The fees paid by the Scheme are recorded in the contracts agreed between the Trustees and the investment managers, through the LGIM Investment platform or directly with the investment managers. The fee arrangements with the investment managers are summarised below:

Investment manager	Fund	Annual Management Charge
Barings	Global High Yield Credit Strategies Fund	0.600% p.a.
BNY Mellon	Real Return Fund	0.780% p.a.*
LGIM**	LGIM Future World Global Equity Fund	0.135% p.a.
	LGIM Future World Global Equity Fund – GBP Hedged	0.160% p.a.
	LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund	0.225% p.a.
	LDI Portfolio – Single Stock Gilt Funds	0.045% p.a.
	LDI Portfolio – Leveraged Swap and Gilt Funds	0.162% p.a.
	LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund	0.099% p.a.

**includes the additional "platform fee" of 0.03% p.a. charged by LGIM on funds managed by external investment managers.*

***LGIM charge a flat fee in addition to the annual management charge. This is £1,500 p.a. for total assets less than £10m, and £1,000 p.a. for total assets between £10m and £25m (as measured at the first dealing date in January of each calendar year).*

The Trustees have appointed Barnett Waddingham LLP to advise on investment matters. Barnett Waddingham are normally remunerated on a time-cost basis, although fixed fees may be agreed for specific tasks.

4. Investments and disinvestments

The Scheme is expected to have negative cashflow in general. Investments where received and disinvestments required for benefit payment purposes will normally be made so as to move the actual asset allocation more in line with the target asset allocation (excluding LDI assets, which LGIM will rebalance in line with the Enhanced Service Agreement).

Where cashflows arise which cannot result in a simple rebalancing towards the target asset allocation (e.g. because of their significant size), the Trustees will seek advice from the Scheme's investment consultant on how the monies should be invested/disinvested to account for the Scheme's position at that time.

Collateral management on the LDI funds

The Trustees have instructed LGIM to manage an LDI mandate and supporting collateral on behalf of the Scheme through their Enhanced Service Light (ESL), which provides an integrated protection portfolio solution. Under this solution, LGIM are able to manage the entire protection portfolio (including holdings in the LGIM LDI, Absolute Return Bond and Sterling Liquidity funds).

Under the terms of the ESL, LGIM have authority to invest in leveraged gilt and index-linked gilt funds. LGIM will actively manage the amount of leverage within the funds and will hold a level of collateral within the portfolio in accordance with the agreed guidelines.

Should additional capital be required, LGIM will automatically disinvest from the LGIM Sterling Liquidity fund or the LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund. In the event that the Absolute Return Bond Fund is depleted, the Trustees will be required to instruct disinvestments from the Scheme's growth assets, as appropriate.

In the event that cash collateral payouts are made from the LDI funds, LGIM will automatically pay these amounts directly into the Absolute Return Bond Fund, unless needed within the ESL for hedge management. The Trustees will then decide on a case by case basis whether to rebalance the overall asset allocation.

Appendix 2 Financially material considerations, non-financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities

1. Financially Material Considerations

After receiving training and advice from their investment advisor, Barnett Waddingham, the Trustees believe that Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) factors, including but not limited to climate change, are financially material – that is, they have the potential to impact the value of the Scheme’s investments from time-to-time. The Trustees appreciate that the method of incorporating ESG in the investment strategy and process will differ between asset classes.

The Trustees have reviewed the approach to ESG of the managers taking into account UN Principles for Responsible Investment scores where appropriate. The Trustees are comfortable that the funds currently invested in by the Scheme are managed in accordance with their views on financially material factors, as set out in this policy. This position is monitored periodically, at least annually. The Trustees have the opportunity to meet the managers and question them on policies. The views set out below will be taken into account when appointing and reviewing managers.

The Trustees have agreed to set climate change as a stewardship priority for the Scheme. Following discussions and consideration of data and trends, the Trustees have agreed that the impact of climate change may be financially material for the Scheme. In addition, the Trustees expect their relevant asset managers will be able to evidence their stewardship activity in this area which the Trustees will monitor periodically. For example, by considering the voting and engagement activity of the asset managers. Therefore, this is also an area which the Trustees believe they can meaningfully monitor progress and engage with their asset managers over time. The Trustees will review their agreed stewardship priority periodically.

A summary of the Trustees’ views for each asset class in which the Scheme invests is outlined below.

Passive Equities

The Trustees accept that investment managers must invest in line with the specified index and, therefore, may not be able to disinvest if they have concerns relating to ESG. However, the Trustees have selected ESG-focused passive global equity funds with an investment manager which they believe to be strong on active engagement with investee companies on ESG and climate related issues. Furthermore, the Trustees believe that positive engagement on ESG issues can lead to improved risk-adjusted returns over the Trustees’ intended time horizon for the investment in question. Therefore, the Trustees look to the passive equity manager to positively engage with companies where there is scope to improve the way ESG issues are taken into account when running the company. However, engagement activities (including the exercise of rights) should be consistent with, and proportionate to, the rest of the investment process.

Diversified Growth Funds

The Trustees believe that ESG issues will be financially material to the risk-adjusted returns achieved by the Scheme’s diversified growth fund manager over the Trustees’ intended time horizon for the investment in question. The investment process for any diversified growth fund manager should take ESG into account when

selecting holdings. The Trustees also support engagement activities and, where relevant, the exercise of rights attaching to the investments by the Scheme's diversified growth fund manager. However, the process for incorporating ESG issues should be consistent with, and proportionate to, the rest of the investment process.

Multi Asset Credit Funds

The Trustees believe that ESG issues will be financially material to the risk-adjusted returns achieved by the Scheme's multi asset credit fund holdings over the Trustees' intended time horizon for the investment in question. The investment process for the manager should take ESG into account when selecting holdings. The Trustees also support engagement activities, although they appreciate that fixed income assets do not typically provide voting rights. The process for incorporating ESG issues should be consistent with, and proportionate to, the rest of the investment process.

Liability Driven Investment

The Trustees believe that ESG issues are not financially material to the risk-adjusted returns achieved by the Scheme's Liability Driven Investment strategy, given its sole purpose is to provide a hedge against the Scheme's exposure to movements in nominal interest rates and inflation.

The Trustees have elected to invest the Scheme's assets through pooled funds. The choice of underlying funds is made by the Trustees after taking advice from their investment consultants, Barnett Waddingham. The Trustees, and the managers of the underlying funds, take into account ESG factors (including climate change risks) in their decisions in relation to the selection, retention and realisation of investments.

The Trustees take those factors into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments as follows:

Selection of investments: assess the investment managers' ESG integration credentials and capabilities, including stewardship, as a routine part of requests for information/proposals as well as through other regular reporting channels.

Retention of investments: Developing a robust monitoring process in order to monitor ESG considerations on an ongoing basis by regularly seeking information on the responsible investing policies and practices of the investment managers.

Realisation of investments: The Trustees will request information from investment managers about how ESG considerations are taken into account in decisions to realise investments.

The Trustees will also take those factors into account as part of its investment process to determine a strategic asset allocation, and consider them as part of ongoing reviews of the Scheme's investments.

2. Non-financially material considerations

The Trustees do not take into account the views of Scheme members and beneficiaries in relation to ethical considerations, social and environmental impact, or present and future quality of life of the members and beneficiaries of the Scheme (referred to as "non-financial matters" in the relevant Regulations) in the selection, retention and realisation of investments on the grounds that the investment objectives of the Scheme will take priority over other considerations.

3. The exercise of voting rights

The Trustees' policy on the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, and in undertaking engagement activities in respect of the investments is that these rights should be exercised by the investment managers on the Trustees' behalf. In doing so, the Trustees expect that the investment managers will use their influence as major institutional investors to exercise the Trustees' rights and duties as shareholders, including where appropriate engaging with underlying investee companies to promote good corporate governance, accountability and to understand how those companies take account of ESG issues in their businesses.

The Trustees will monitor and engage with the investment managers about relevant matters (including matters concerning an issuer of debt or equity, including their performance, strategy, capital structure, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest, risks, social and environmental impact and corporate governance), through the Scheme's investment consultant.

Investment managers will be asked to provide details of their stewardship policy and engagement activities on at least an annual basis. The Trustees will, with input from their investment consultant, monitor and review the information provided by the investment managers.

As noted above, the Trustees have agreed to set climate change as a stewardship priority for the Scheme and they will monitor their investment managers' activity in this area periodically.

4. Engagement activities

The Trustees acknowledge the importance of ESG and climate risk within their investment framework. When delegating investment decision making to their investment managers they provide their investment managers with a benchmark they expect the investment managers to either follow or outperform. The investment manager has discretion over where in an investee company's capital structure it invests (subject to the restrictions of the mandate), whether directly or as an asset within a pooled fund.

The Trustees are of the belief that ESG and climate risk considerations extend over the entirety of a company's corporate structure and activities, i.e. that they apply to equity, credit and property instruments or holdings. The Trustees also recognise that ESG and climate related issues are constantly evolving and along with them so too are the products available within the investment management industry to help manage these risks.

The Trustees consider it to be a part of their investment managers' roles to assess and monitor developments in the capital structure for each of the companies in which the managers invest on behalf of the Scheme or as part of the pooled fund in which the Scheme holds units.

The Trustees also consider it to be part of their investment managers' roles to assess and monitor how the companies in which they are investing are managing developments in ESG related issues, and in particular climate risk, across the relevant parts of the capital structure for each of the companies in which the managers invest on behalf of the Scheme.

Should an investment manager be failing in these respects, this should be captured in the Scheme's regular performance monitoring.

The Scheme's investment managers are granted full discretion over whether or not to invest in the Principal Employer's business. Through their consultation with the Principal Employer when setting this Statement of Investment Principles, the Trustees have made the Principal Employer aware of their policy on ESG and climate

related risks, how they intend to manage them and the importance that the pensions industry as a whole, and its regulators, place on them.

The Scheme's investment consultants, Barnett Waddingham, are independent and no arm of their business provides asset management services. This, and their FCA Regulated status, makes the Trustees confident that the investment manager recommendations they make are free from conflict of interest.

The Trustees expect all investment managers to have a conflict of interest policy in relation to their engagement and ongoing operations. In doing so the Trustees believe they have managed the potential for conflicts of interest in the appointment of the investment manager and conflicts of interest between the Trustees/investment manager and the investee companies.

In selecting and reviewing their investment managers, where appropriate, the Trustees will consider investment managers' policies on engagement and how these policies have been implemented.