

Annual Report & Accounts

For the period **1 April 2015** to **31 March 2016**



15/16



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

Aberdeen City Council, Administering Authority for the Aberdeen City Council
Pension Fund, known as North East Scotland Pension Funds.

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Management Commentary

The Management Commentary as required by The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 includes details of the Fund's business, risk and the uncertainties facing the Fund, performance and financial position including key performance indicators and environmental and social issues within a strategic report.

“The following report aims to address the above providing strategic and operational commentary on the performance, the management and rules and responsibilities of all those involved with the Pension Fund.”



1. About the North East Scotland Pension Fund

The North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF) and the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund (ACCTF) are administered by Aberdeen City Council within Local Government Pension Scheme regulations.

The Scheme was established under the Superannuation Fund Act 1972 and is a statutory scheme contracted out of the Second State Pension. The Scheme is open to all employees of the 11 scheduled bodies, except for those whose employment entitles them to belong to another statutory pension scheme (e.g. Police, Fire, Teachers). Employees of admitted bodies can join the Scheme subject to the admitted bodies' individual admission criteria, which are outwith the control of Aberdeen City Council.

The Funds' investments are externally managed in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2010.

All pension benefits are paid in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits Membership and Contributions) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 as amended.

The Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund was created in October 1986 for employees of the former passenger Transport Undertaking who transferred to the limited company now known as First Aberdeen, which was created at that time.

The Funds are built up from contributions from both employees and employing bodies, together with interest, dividends and rent from investments, out of which pensions and other benefits are paid.

Employee contributions are fixed by statute while employer contributions are assessed every three years by an independent Actuary to determine the level of contributions necessary by employing bodies to ensure that the Funds are able to meet all future benefits.

With effect from 1 April 2009, employee contributions are based on tiered rates. Below are the tiered rates for 2015/16:

Band	Range	Contribution Rate
1	On earnings up to and including £20,500	5.50%
2	On earnings above £20,500 and up to £25,000	7.25%
3	On earnings above £25,000 and up to £34,400	8.50%
4	On earnings above £34,400 and up to £45,800	9.50%
5	On earnings above £45,800	12.00%

2. Fund Administration 2015/16

Administering Authority	Aberdeen City Council
Committees	Pensions Committee, Pensions Board
Head of Finance	Steven Whyte
Actuary	Mercer
Global Custodian	Bank of New York Mellon
Performance Measurement	Bank of New York Mellon
Bank	Clydesdale Bank
AVC Providers	Prudential, Standard Life Assurance Company
External Auditors	Audit Scotland
Internal Auditors	Aberdeenshire Council
Investment Consultant	KPMG
Employers	For full details see Appendix 2





3. Pension Fund Committees

Pensions Committee

Aberdeen City Council is the administering authority for the North East Scotland Pension Fund and the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund. The Council delegates this responsibility to the Pensions Committee.

The Pensions Committee carries out a role similar to that of trustees of a pension scheme. It is the key decision maker for all matters under LGPS Regulations including benefit administration and investment management.

The Council and the Pensions Committee recognise that they have fiduciary duties and responsibilities towards pension scheme members, participating employers and local taxpayers.

The Pensions Committee is comprised of 9 elected members of Aberdeen City Council.

Membership during 2015/16

Councillor Barney Crockett (*Convener*)
Councillor John Reynolds (*Vice Convener*)
Councillor Jim Noble
Councillor Aileen Malone
Councillor Alan Donnelly
Councillor James Kiddie
Councillor Jenny Laing | *Left 8 October 2015*
Councillor M. Tauqueer Malik | *Joined 8 October 2015*
Councillor Willie Young
Councillor Neil MacGregor

Pensions Board

In line with new scheme regulations, the Fund established a Pensions Board in 2015/16. The Pension Board is responsible for assisting the Scheme Manager in relation to compliance with scheme regulations and the requirements of the Pensions Regulator. Board membership consists of equal numbers of trade union representatives and employer representatives, drawn from Councils and scheduled or admitted bodies.

Membership during 2015/16

Unison

Mr. J Mulholland (*Chairperson*)

GMB

Mr. R Henderson | *Left October 2015*

Mr. K Masson | *Joined February 2016*

Unite

Mr. A Walker

Robert Gordon University

Mr. D Briggs

The Moray Council

Councillor J Cowe

Aberdeenshire Council

Councillor W Howatson

Aberdeen City Council

Councillor L Ironside

In line with the training policy, Board members undertook 2 training sessions within 2015/16 with further dates/opportunities identified including Fund Manager Presentations and investment seminars in 2016/17.

The Board sits at the same time as the Pensions Committee and receives the Committee report for each meeting which includes reports on all areas of the Pension Fund; Investment, Accounting, Governance, Employer Relationship, Administration and Technical.

In assisting with compliance the Board can report the Fund to the Pensions Regulator for non-compliance with guidance or regulations. In 2015/16 no issues were reported by the Board to the Pensions Regulator.

The full Pensions Board Annual Report can be viewed on the Fund's website at www.nespf.org.uk





4. Fund Achievements

Building upon the achievements made in the development of administration facilities in 2014/15, 2015/16 saw the Fund focus on streamlining processes and utilising advanced technical programmes to provide an integrated service.

This was achieved by the continued implementation and promotion of I-Connect and Employer Services, online solutions which enable employers to provide data electronically. In addition, the Fund introduced ALCARE, which enabled those employers not on I-Connect to submit monthly pay data. The mobilisation of these three facilities has improved data efficiency and accuracy, resulting in several benefits including:

- Monthly updates for 97% of active members.
- A reduction in the cost of processing member updates from £1.04 to £0.15
- Reduced year end processing by 108 days
- 682,787 system updates automatically processed; reducing processing times and the potential for keying errors.

With the advancements in data collection, the Fund has been able to increase its performance monitoring of employers and the Fund to ensure both meet the performance levels required by the Pensions Regulator and the Fund's Pension Administration Strategy.

Full details on the above can be found in the Pension Fund Administration and Performance Report.

The Fund has continued to adhere to a dedicated communications strategy designed to keep members engaged and aware of pensions information. A key highlight of the 2015/16 communications plan was the introduction of a customer satisfaction survey to gauge opinions and satisfaction levels as well as identify areas of improvement. The feedback offered in the surveys has been essential towards shaping and forming future communications. The Fund also delivered a number of pension surgeries including an Annual and Lifetime Allowance seminar and Pensioners Open Day. In line with long term e-communication strategy, the Fund began the process of updating Member Self Service, to make the facility more user friendly and to improve functionality.

Despite market volatility, the Fund has continued to implement and focus on a long term investment strategy which includes the diversification of assets and therefore risk. This has helped the Fund maintain and increase its overall value by £10million.



5. Investment & Accounting

The Investment and Accounting Team are responsible for the financial management of the Pension Fund, including the following:

- Delivery of an investment strategy having due regard to risk and return within the objectives and liability requirements;
- To receive monies in respect of contributions, transfer values and investment income;
- To carry out Fund investment business;
- To provide funds to pay out monies in respect of scheme benefits, transfers, costs, charges and expenses; and
- To account for the Funds' assets and all monies received and paid from the Fund.

During 2015/16 the North East Scotland Pension Fund continued to implement the Funds' investment strategy following the review that took place during 2012. A further review took place in the first quarter of 2016 which detailed the Funds' current investment strategy and made a number of changes to take the strategy forward over the next 5 to 10 years. This will include a calculated move over that time period from Growth assets to Income/Protection assets.

The Fund continues to expand its Alternative program, appointing Capital Dynamics, Unigestion and RCP within the Private Equity asset class while funding two Diversified Growth Funds in early April 2016.

The Accounting Team provides support across the Fund and continues to ensure accurate and timely data. The team has also worked closely with third party providers including Fund Managers, the Global Custodian and Consultants to ensure data consistency. In addition the Accounting Team participated in a Council run work experience scheme, allowing a local school pupil the opportunity to gain valuable experience.

Looking forward to 2016/17, the Accounting Team will seek to raise cost awareness within the Pension Fund's new Management Team. This awareness should improve the budgetary control process and help maximise resources. The Team also aims to simplify the coding structure to improve data accuracy.

6. Investment Strategy

The Funds' investment strategy is one of diversified investment, which means that investments are spread across different investment asset types and different countries, sectors and companies, in order to reduce the overall risk.

Equity benchmarks are designed to encourage diversification of the equity mix. There are a range of fund managers to again spread risk, each with clear and documented agreements in place detailing their investment mandates. The Funds also employ an independent Global Custodian.

The objective of the investment strategy is to deliver long term returns which are greater than the growth in expenditure to be paid out in pensions. The investment strategy has been monitored on an ongoing basis by the Pensions Committee, focusing on long term policies with consideration given to short tactical strategies.

The suitability of particular investments and types of investments are detailed in the Statement of Investment Principles.

The Fund takes proper advice at reasonable intervals regarding its investments, through its advisors to the Pensions Committee.

Asset Structure 2015/16

Asset Class	Distribution as at 31 March 2015		Distribution as at 31 March 2016	
	Fund Actual %	Fund Benchmark %	Fund Actual %	Fund Benchmark %
Equities <i>(including Alternative Assets)</i>	82.2	80.0	78.7	80.0
Bonds	7.8	10.0	12.9	10.0
Property	6.9	10.0	7.3	10.0
Cash	3.1	0.0	1.1	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The current benchmark asset allocation for the North East Scotland Pension Fund as set out in the Statement of Investment Principles is as follows:

Equities	70% (range +/- 5%)
Alternative Assets (including private equity)	10%
Bonds	10% (range +/- 2%)
Property	10% (range +/- 2%)

There is no strategic allocation to cash in the current benchmark.

The Fund continues to rebalance assets in line with its investment strategy, reducing its exposure to equities and increasing alternatives and bonds in line with the 2016 investment strategy review. Property continues to be behind benchmark due to the challenging market conditions while the Fund has made adjustments to a number of asset mandates to reduce the level of cash it holds.

7. Investment Performance

Economic and Market Background – 12 Months to 31 March 2016

Major equity markets generally performed positively in the early part of the period, encouraged by a broadly supportive environment of solid corporate profits. Signs of a general improvement in the US economic backdrop and continued low interest rates in many developed countries were also helpful. However, fears over a sharper than anticipated slowdown in Chinese growth, concerns about the timing of US interest rate rises, and falling commodity prices contributed to the subsequent volatility. North American equities delivered positive returns to sterling investors for the 12 months as a whole, but other regions recorded negative returns. Overall, fixed interest markets benefited from the uncertainty and posted positive performance for the period.

US:

In the US, the improving economic tone, combined with other factors such as the return of considerable amounts of cash to shareholders, drove the US stock market to all-time highs in June before it surrendered some of the gains. Regardless, the economic environment continued to strengthen and in December the Federal Reserve announced a 0.25% rise in interest rates, the first increase since 2006.

UK:

In the UK, the stock market reached record levels in April 2015, however, subsequently lost momentum. Caught up in broader concerns about global economic growth, the UK market ended the period in negative territory.

Europe:

Economic recovery remained muted across the Eurozone during the period. Despite the announcement in early 2016 that the European Central Bank would further reduce interest rates, while increasing quantitative easing to €80 billion per month, market weakness persisted and European stock markets posted a decline overall.

Japan:

In Japan, company results during the period suggested that profitability was improving, and companies increased pay-outs to shareholders. However, growth in the Japanese economy remained lacklustre. In a surprise move, the Bank of Japan introduced negative interest rates in early 2016 in an attempt to stimulate the economy. Japanese markets ended the period at lower levels.

Emerging Markets:

Slowing growth, collapsing commodity prices and currency weakness affected sentiment within Emerging Markets. Weaker economic growth in China was a particular concern given its links to the wider Asian region, and beyond.

Bonds:

As the year progressed, the investment environment became more challenging as concerns increased over China and emerging markets, falling commodity prices and uncertainty around the pace of future interest rate rises in the US. Both the European Central Bank and Bank of Japan have increased monetary stimulus with growth and inflation remaining elusive and, in the last quarter, corporate bonds were included in the European Central Bank's expanded asset purchase programme. In December, buoyed by an improving US economy, the Federal Reserve announced a widely-anticipated interest rate rise for the first time in ten years. Against this backdrop, UK Government bonds provided positive returns with yields moving lower over the year. Investment grade corporate bonds delivered a modest positive return, benefiting from the supportive interest rate environment.

Property:

UK property markets were strong over the period, generating a return of over 10% across all property types. Office and Industrial property generated the highest returns at around 15%, with Retail property providing a return of 7.5%. Property returns are from the IPD UK Monthly Property Index.

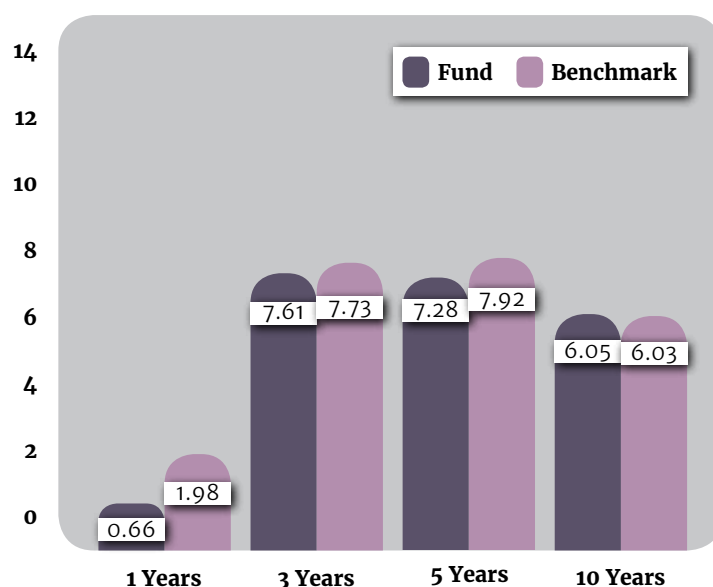
Market Returns	1 Year (%)	3 Years (% p.a.)	5 Years (% p.a.)
Equities:- FTSE All Share Index	-3.9	3.7	5.7
FTSE All World Index	-0.5	8.2	8.1
FTSE All World ex UK	-0.2	8.6	8.4
FTSE North American Index	3.6	12.7	12.7
FTSE Europe (ex UK) Index	-4.2	6.5	4.8
FTSE Japan Index	-3.2	6.6	6.9
FTSE Developed Asia Ex Japan Index	-5.4	-0.8	2.2
FTSE Emerging Markets Index	-8.9	-1.8	-1.5
Bonds:- FTA Government Securities All Stocks	3.2	4.7	6.7
ML UK Corporate Bonds	0.4	5.0	7.1
FTA Index Linked All Stocks	1.7	5.1	8.6

(Note: Values above are total returns in Sterling)

North East Scotland Pension Fund

In 2005 a long term investment strategy for the NESPF was agreed with a customised benchmark that aimed to deliver a return of 1% above the benchmark over a rolling three year period.

The graph below shows the Fund's performance over the short, medium and long term against the Fund's customised benchmark.



2015/16 was a challenging year for investment returns with many markets returning negative performance, which is reflected within the Fund's benchmark and performance.

Over the longer term the Fund continues to deliver benchmark returns while outperforming the longer term comparators of CPI and Average Earnings. This provides assurance that the Fund's Investment Strategy will continue to deliver the required returns over the longer term.

Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund

De-Risking

With effect from 1 April 2015 the Administering Authority and the scheme employer agreed a revised investment strategy for the Transport Fund – ‘a de-risking or “flightpath” strategy’. That is to say, the performance of the Fund will no longer be measured against a benchmark of global equities and bonds but rather against its funding target of 100%.

The aim of the strategy is to reach the funding requirement of 100% funding in a manner that reduces both interest and inflation risk exposure. The strategy consists of a portfolio of growth assets to achieve the 100% funding target and portfolio of matching assets to meet current liabilities.

The aim of the flightpath is to “lock in” improvements in funding by switching from growth to defensive or matching assets. The de-risking plan is to be reviewed triennially in line with the triennial actuarial valuation and is structured to keep contributions as stable as possible.

For the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, the Funding level position moved from 86.5% to 85.3%. The move in funding level resulted from a combination of interest rate concerns in the first quarter of 2016 and underperformance within the growth portfolio of assets.



Long Term Fund Performance

Whilst employee contribution rates and benefits payable are set by statute, the long-term liabilities of the Fund are linked either to wage inflation or to price inflation. It is the Funds' performance against these benchmarks that affect the long-term employer contribution rate, which is variable. **Over the longer term, performance of the Fund remains ahead of both Average Earnings and CPI.**

Year Ending	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	3 Year Annualised %	5 Year Annualised %
CPI	2.7	1.2	0.5	0.7	1.7
Average Earning	0.9	1.5	1.9	2.5	1.6
NESPF Return	10.4	11.6	0.66	7.61	7.28

Investment Management Structure

Manager	31 March 2015 £M	31 March 2015 %	31 March 2016 £M	31 March 2016 %
SSGA	1,043	33.0	1,049	33.0
Baillie Gifford	733	23.1	750	23.6
BlackRock	397	12.5	376	11.8
Barings	268	8.4	273	8.6
AAM Global	278	8.8	262	8.2
AAM Property	217	6.8	237	7.5
Harbour Vest	90	2.8	94	3.0
SL Capital Partners	45	1.4	45	1.4
Partners Group	17	0.5	35	1.1
AAM Frontier Fund	38	1.2	36	1.1
Maven Capital	3	0.1	4	0.1
Capital Dynamics	0	0.0	1	0.0
RCP Advisors	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unigestion	0	0.0	4	0.1
NESPF	0	0.0	0	0.0

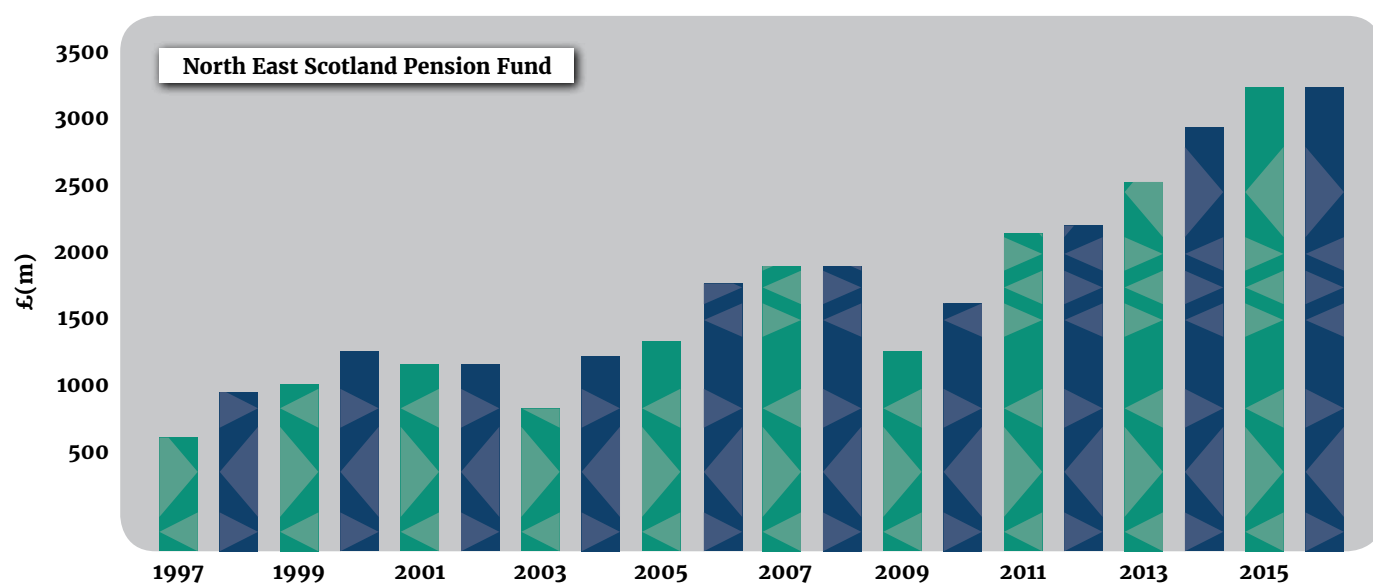
8. Financial Performance

North East Scotland Pension Fund Financial Summary Fund

	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000
Contributions Less benefits and expenses paid Net additions / (deductions)	35,229	361	(14,958)	(12,357)	(13,485)
Net investment income Change in Market Value Net return on Investment	15,879	300,543	278,513	350,131	23,929
Net increase in Fund	51,108	300,904	263,555	337,774	10,444
Fund Balance as at 31 March (Market Value)	2,269,116	2,570,020	2,833,575	3,171,349	3,181,793

Net Additions/(deductions)* - From 2013/14 onwards 'Management Expenses' are included within this figure resulting in a negative position.

Fund balance as at 31 March 2016 (£m)





Achievements this year include:

For 2015/16, the North East Scotland Pension Fund show that members' contributions have increased slightly to £27.5 million from £26.7 million. Total overall income in respect of members has increased to £122 million from £118.3 million in 2014/15, with expenditure increasing to £135.5 million from £130.7 million over the same period in 2014/15.

Investment income has increased from £50.9 million in 2014/15 to £52.4 million in 2015/16.

The Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund shows that members' contributions decreased from £134,000 in 2014/15 to £127,000 in 2015/16. Total overall income in respect of members has decreased to £2.6 million from £2.7 million in 2014/15, with expenditure rising to £4.0 million from £3.4 million in 2014/15.

Investment income has decreased from £1.7 million in 2014/15 to £0.5 million in 2015/16.

With most major investment markets delivering poor returns over the financial year to 31 March 2016, the Fund's assets have decreased in value by £28.4 million with the Transport Fund experiencing a decrease in asset value of £2.6 million. This was due to a number of factors including increased market volatility and low investor confidence.

The North East Scotland Pension Fund saw an overall rise in value over the period of £10m, while the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund decreased in value by £3m. Full investment returns can be found in the Annual Report.

The monies belonging to North East Scotland Pension Fund and the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund are managed entirely by appointed investment fund managers and are held separate from any of the employing bodies which participate in the North East Scotland Pension Funds. The only exception to this is a small investment in Aberdeen City Council's Loan Fund, which varies year on year, and represents surplus cash from contributions not yet transferred to the fund managers.

After meeting the cost of current benefits, all surplus cash is invested and the increasing value of investment is then available to meet future liabilities to employees within the Funds. In addition to a contingent liability to meet future pension benefits payable to existing employees, the Funds must also provide for the future payment of deferred pension benefits which have been preserved by former employees in respect of service prior to their leaving.

The Funds have been invested in accordance with the investment controls laid down in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Scotland) Regulations 2010, and quoted investments of the Funds have been re-valued to market value at 31 March 2016 with the gain/loss on revaluation being attributed to the Funds. Due to the mature and closed nature of the Aberdeen City Council Transport a De-Risking strategy, as outlined on page 15, was implemented as of March 2015. The monitoring of this Fund has moved away from traditional benchmarking with performance now monitored by funding level. This will be evident throughout this annual report.

Membership Statistics

NESPF	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Active	20,361	20,869	22,880	24,089	24,546
Pensioners	15,768	16,472	17,106	17,726	18,328
Deferred	16,425	16,876	17,267	17,759	18,455

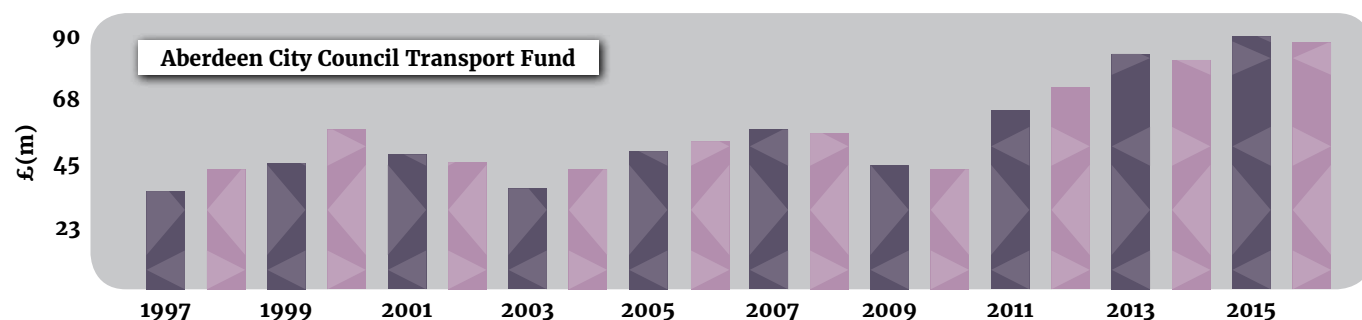
Active membership has continued to rise steadily over a 5 year period, with factors such as auto enrolment and Fund promotion positively impacting membership. Pensioner numbers continues to rise because of several potential factors such as an accelerated trend in longevity seen in recent years.

Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund Financial Summary

	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000
Contributions Less benefits and expenses paid					
Net additions / (deductions)	(650)	(1,190)	(1,033)	(762)	(1,347)
Net investment income					
Change in Market Value					
Net return on Investment	5,095	9,583	137	10,564	(2,050)
Net increase in Fund	4,445	8,393	(896)	9,802	(3,397)
Fund Balance as at 31 March (Market Value)	72,341	80,734	79,838	89,640	86,243

Net Additions/(deductions)* – From 2013/14 onwards ‘Management Expenses’ are included within this figure resulting in a negative position. In addition, the ACC Transport Fund is a closed fund which means a reducing balance of active members contributing toward the Scheme.

Fund balance as at 31 March 2016 (£m)



Membership Statistics

Transport Fund	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Active	105	92	85	78	71
Pensioners	381	393	405	403	411
Deferred	163	166	155	150	142

Active and deferred membership numbers for the Transport Fund have reduced over a 5 year period due to the closed nature of the Fund resulting in more members moving to a pensioner status.

Remuneration Report

There is no need to produce a remuneration report for the Pension Funds as the Funds do not directly employ any staff. All staff are employed by Aberdeen City Council and their costs reimbursed by the Pension Funds. The councillors who are members of the Pensions Committee and the Pensions Board are also remunerated by the Council.

Key management personnel for the Funds are explained in the North East Scotland Pension Fund and the Transport Fund annual accounts. Full details of councillor and senior employee remuneration can be found in the Remuneration Report in Aberdeen City Council's financial statements.



9. Pension Fund Administration and Performance

2015/16 was always going to be a challenging year with the introduction of a new Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which changed from Final Salary to Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE), a new code of practice from The Pensions Regulator (TPR) for the governance and administration of public sector pension schemes and the ongoing reconciliation of guaranteed minimum pensions with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). There was also a few surprises to contend with for transfers and annual allowance.

This year's report focuses on how the North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF) and employers have performed and worked together to deliver the new CARE scheme requirements.

The table below sets out targets based on Local Government Pensions Committee industry standards used in benchmarking exercises to compare against other Funds' performance.

NESPF service standard	Target	2014/15	Amount	Achieved	2015/16
Letter notifying death in service	5 days	62%	37	29	78%
Letter notifying retirement estimate	10 days	94%	1,036	961	93%
Letter notifying actual retirement benefits	10 days	88%	1,279	1,217	95%
Letter notifying deferred benefits	10 days	92%	1,381	1,318	95%
Letter notifying amount of refund	10 days	98%	1,044	1,018	98%
Letter detailing transfer in quotes	10 days	95%	120	105	88%
Letter detailing transfer out quotes	10 days	88%	385	350	91%
Overall Performance		92%	5,282	4,998	95%

NESPF performance measurements are reported as part of the Pension Administration Strategy (PAS) introduced in July 2013 in accordance with Regulation 60A of the LGPS (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2008.¹

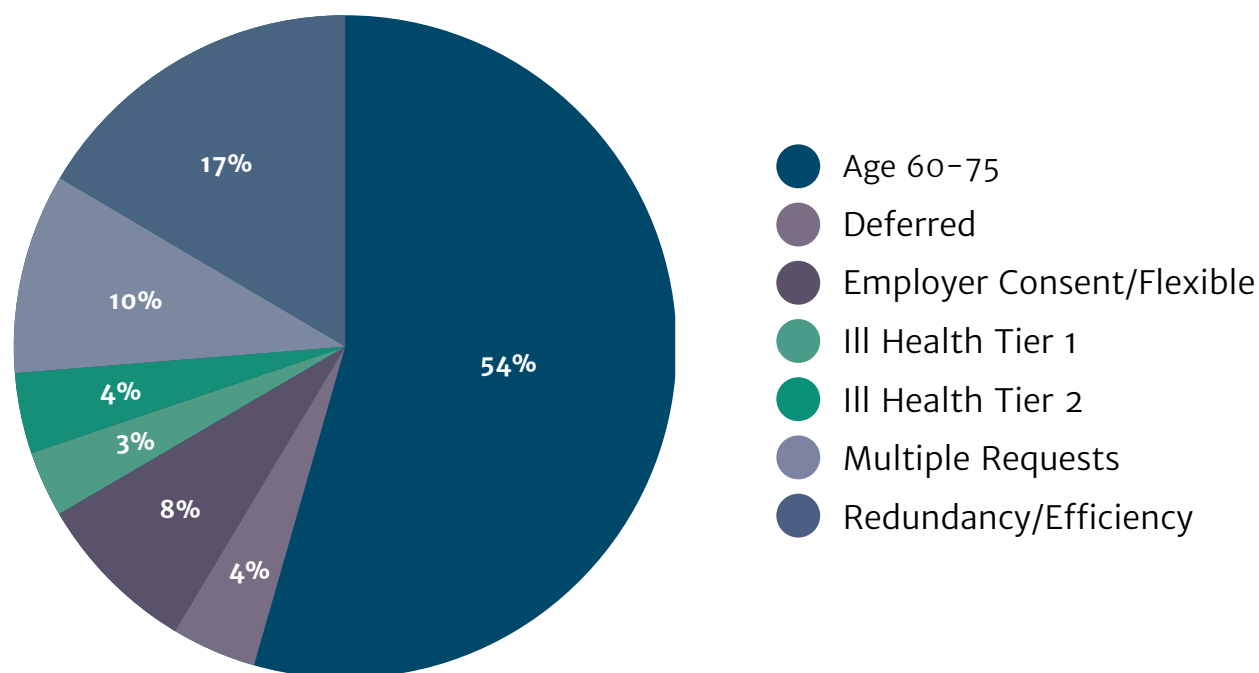
Despite the introduction of a new scheme this year's overall performance increased by 3% from the previous year and is the highest ever published. This is particularly pleasing given some manual processing was required through the first part of the year and there was a significant increase in estimate provision, refund, deferred and retirement benefit processing.

New workflow cases were introduced from April 2015 which helped staff with new scheme processing as well as providing more accurate management information.

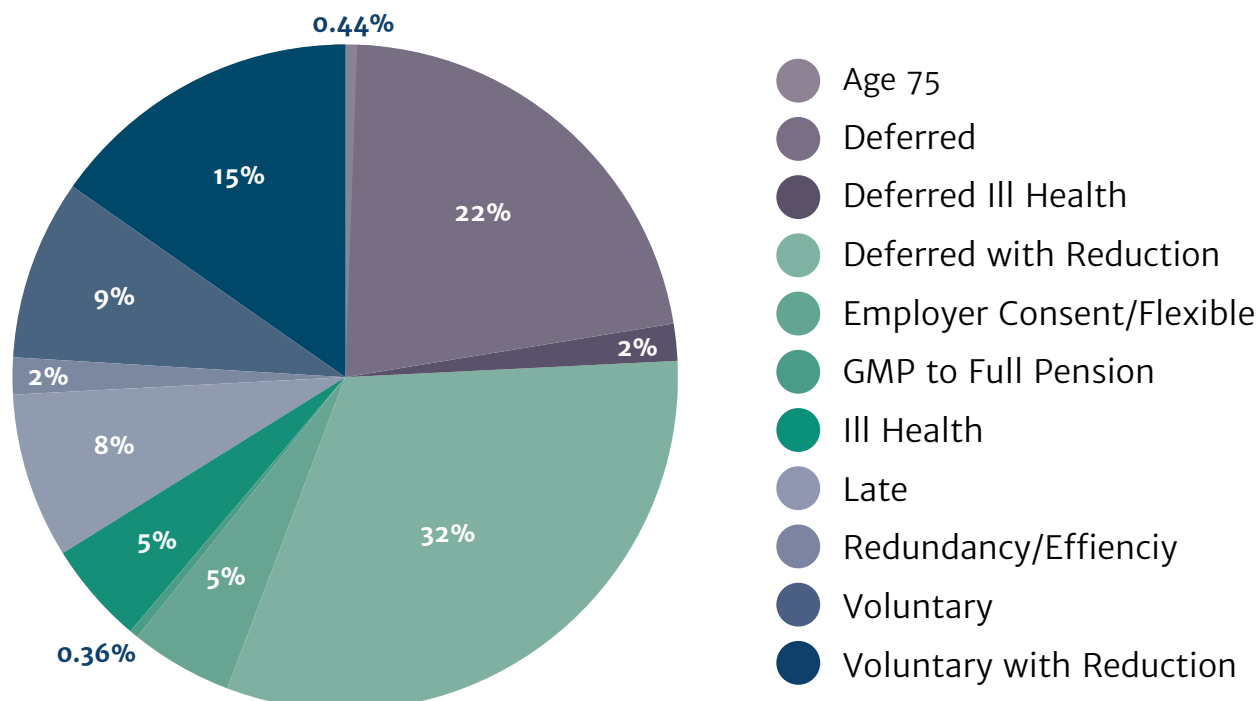
¹ Amended to Regulation 57B of the LGPS (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

During 2015/16 the type of estimate and retirement benefit processed can easily be reported:

Retirement Estimates



Actual Retirements



Statements

In 2014/15 the decision was taken to issue active and deferred benefit statements by 31 August as a trial for 2016 when new regulations would require annual statements to be issued by this date. The Fund managed to successfully issue more than 36,000 active and deferred statements by 31 August 2015 and more than 40,000 benefit statements will be issued to members in 2016.

Pension saving statements were issued in September 2015 to members close to, or exceeding, the £40,000 annual allowance.

GMP reconciliation

With contracting out ending on 6 April 2016 HMRC provided a Scheme Reconciliation Service (SRS) to assist pension funds with reconciling non-active members guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) values held on their systems with the values they hold. Although not compulsory this exercise has to be completed prior to December 2018 when HMRC will send individuals information about their contracting out history.

NESPF requested and received a file from HMRC that contained 11888 exact matches. As at March 2016 NESPF have raised 1725 queries with HMRC who have confirmed that 496 have been resolved.

Testing Working Party

NESPF participated in testing working parties (TWP) organised by the Computerised Local Authority Superannuation System (CLASS) group which consists of all 11 Scottish administering authorities and the majority of English and Welsh authorities who work together with a single software provider to ensure that pension administration software delivers LGPS requirements. Two of the main developments in 2015/16 were for transfers and annual allowance.

The Government Actuaries Department (GAD) published transfer guidance on 2 April 2015 that required a change in calculation methodology for Scotland in respect of club transfers in. The late notification meant that there was no time to include this change in the software developed for the new CARE scheme. NESPF helped test the new transfer calculations which were made available in November as part of the 2015.1 release.

The budget delivered on 8 July 2015 announced changes to both annual allowance (maximum amount of pension savings you can make in any one tax year that benefits from tax relief) and lifetime allowance (maximum overall value of pension benefits you can receive over your working life before a tax penalty applies) from 6 April 2016. To prepare for the changes the pension input period (the period over which the amount of pension savings are measured for the purposes of comparing them against the annual allowance) had to be brought into line with the tax year so for 2015/16 the LGPS has two pension input periods:

- 1 April to 8 July 2015
- 9 July to 5 April 2016

NESPF helped test calculations to realign pension input periods which were made available in February as part of the 2016.0 release.

“Overall performance increased by 3% and is the highest ever published.”



Working Together

Throughout the year NESPF staff were involved locally and nationally to help deliver new LGPS requirements participating in:

- Scottish Pension Liaison Group (SPLG) with other Scottish authorities, the Scottish Public Pensions Agency and the Local Government Association to discuss new scheme experience, administration issues and Regulations
- CLASS TWP
- CLASS user group meetings with other Scottish authorities and the software provider to discuss system performance and requirements going forward
- Workshops organised by the CLASS group to discuss product development for workflow and an employer management tool
- Webinar organised by CLASS group with English and Welsh authorities who shared their first CARE year end experience in 2014/15
- Site visit from another Scottish administering authority about monthly automated processing using I-Connect
- Conference call with English authorities about monthly automated processing using I-Connect
- Site visits to employers to assist with electronic data provision.

Electronic data provision

NESPF believes that to deliver new scheme requirements there has to be a move away from traditional year-end returns to more regular updates.

Two software solutions are available as part of the PAS for employers to efficiently manage the collation and transfer of electronic data regularly to the NESPF; Employer Services and I-Connect.

Employer Services is a secure web portal, accessed through the Pension Fund website, for small employers to provide electronic data by completing online forms that generate interface files for automated processing of starters, amendments and leavers on the pensions administration system.

Interface processing from Employer Services	2014/15	2015/16
Starters	450	174
Amendments	152	49
Leavers	297	121
Total	899	344

The reduction in interface processing is due to The Robert Gordon University moving from Employer Services to I-Connect to provide electronic data monthly from January 2015.



I-Connect is a cloud based data exchange portal for large employers to provide monthly data that generates events for automated processing on the pensions administration system.

Event processing from I-Connect	2014/15	2015/16
Starters	1,818	4,355
Amendments	2,245	33,464
Leavers	816	3,416
Contributions (employee, employer and additional)	85,389	260,665
Salary	82,362	148,677
CARE pay	N/A	231,866
Total	172,630	682,787

The huge increase in event processing is a result of The Moray Council (01/04/2015) followed by Aberdeenshire Council (01/07/2015) joining Aberdeen City Council (01/04/2014) and The Robert Gordon University (01/01/2015) in providing monthly data through I-Connect. As at March 2016 ten employers currently use the I-Connect solution to provide electronic data monthly to NESPF:

Aberdeen City Council	Aberdeenshire Council	Bon Accord Care
Bon Accord Support	Grampian Valuation Joint Board	NESTRANS
Northern Community Justice Authority	Police Scotland	The Moray Council
The Robert Gordon University		

I-Connect delivers benefits to everyone involved with the LGPS:

- It takes data from an employer's payroll system and then automatically identifies and processes starters and leavers monthly
- It identifies and automatically submits essential data items monthly including changes to personal information, salary, contributions and CARE pay
- It allows data to be reconciled monthly rather than annually which provides more accurate and up to date member records
- It reduces the amount of time and resources required at year end for employers and the NESPF
- It allows members to watch their CARE pension grow throughout the year in member self service
- It is compliant with Pension Reform and The Pensions Regulator's code 14.

In June 2015 Heywood published a case study about automation efficiencies being achieved by NESPF which can be viewed at www.heywood.co.uk/news/case-studies.html.

In October 2015 an article published on Pensions Expert website highlighted time saved at year end by receiving monthly data which can be viewed at www.pensions-expert.com/DB-Derisking/NESPF-saves-108-days-with-new-payroll-software.

Given the volume of electronic data received NESPF run a number of checks after each file submission to validate the accuracy of the data. Once the checks are completed the quality of the data is categorised as:

H = High quality data

- For I-Connect > 90% of events processed
- For Employer Services no formatting amendments required

M = Medium quality data

- For I-Connect > 75% of events processed
- For Employer Services minor formatting amendments required

L = Low quality data

- For I-Connect missing and/or incorrect data that may require another file submission
- For Employer Services missing and/or incorrect data that may require another file submission

Low quality data submissions received in March 2016 were promptly identified and resolved by employers who re-submitted high quality data within 2 working days.

CARE Pay provision

A significant new scheme requirement for employers was to provide NESPF with CARE pay. CARE pay refers to Career Average Revalued Earnings and replaced the Final Salary scheme in April 2015. This change was administered to meet new laws on Public Sector Pension Schemes in the UK.

The CARE year end experience in 2014/15 for English and Welsh authorities showed that for those who waited until year end to receive CARE pay many received low quality returns that resulted in them failing to meet the benefit statement deadline and having to report a breach of law to the Pensions Regulator.

To avoid a similar situation NESPF made a spreadsheet called ALCARE available for employers not using I-Connect to provide CARE pay well in advance of year end.

As at March 2016 the following employers had provided CARE pay monthly using ALCARE:

Aberdeen International Youth Festival	Aberdeen Cyrenians	Aberlour Childcare Trust	Tenants First
Archway	Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust	Forth and Oban	Sport Aberdeen
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners	Gordon Rural Action	Inspire	Scottish Water
Moray College	North East Sensory Services	Peterhead Port Authority	
Robertson Facilities Management (Aberdeen City)	Robertson Facilities Management (Aberdeenshire)	Sanctuary Housing	

As a result, NESPF received CARE pay monthly for 97% of active members through I-Connect and ALCARE prior to year-end.

Since March a further 10 employers are now providing ALCARE monthly.

Discretions Policy

A further new scheme requirement for employers was to provide NESPF with a policy on discretions under Regulation 58 of the LGPS (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

As at March 2016 80% of employers had provided a policy*.

Aberdeen City Council	Aberdeen Cyrenians	Aberdeen Endowments Trust
Aberdeen Foyer	Aberdeen Heat and Power	Aberdeen Performing Arts
Aberdeen Sports Village	Aberdeen Youth International Festival	Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership
Aberlour	Alcohol Support Ltd	Archway
Bon Accord Care	Bon Accord Support	Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust
Fersands and Fountain	First Aberdeen	Forth & Oban
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners	Gordon Rural Action	Grampian Valuation Joint Board
Home Start Aberdeen	Inspire	Mental Health Aberdeen
Middlefield Community Project	Moray College	North East Scotland College
North East Sensory Services	Pathways	Peterhead Port Authority
Printfield Community Project	Robert Gordon's College	Sanctuary Housing
Scotland's Lighthouse and Museum Trust	Scottish Fire and Rescue	Scottish Police Authority
Scottish Water	Sport Aberdeen	St Machar Parent Support
Tenants First	The Manor Project	The Moray Council
The Robert Gordon University	Visit Scotland	

*Aberdeenshire Council provided a policy in April 2016 and all but one of the other employers still to provide a policy have kept NESPF updated on their progress.



Communications

Following the introduction of the new scheme in April 2015, the Fund continued to focus on member communication, reviewing documentation and guides to ensure content was clear and easy to understand. In 2015/16, 11 member presentations were delivered in addition to a Pensioners Open day and Annual and Lifetime Allowance seminar. The latter was a targeted event for those members who were most likely to be affected by the changes to tax and pensions.

The Fund conducted its first ever Customer Satisfaction Survey. The survey was issued to a random sample of active and deferred members along with their benefit statements and was also made available on the Fund's website. The survey revealed 81% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall service provided, while 77% were satisfied or very satisfied with Fund communication. A similar survey was issued for Pensioners in April 2016.

The new start survey which is issued to recently joined members was also redeveloped to improve response rates and ensure more useful information could be collated. Both surveys will enable the Fund to identify areas of improvement and will help shape future communication materials and strategy.

Towards the end of 2015/16 the Fund began upgrading the online Member Self Service facility as part of the Fund's long term move to e-communications. This follows the increasing promotion of Member Self Service and the bulk mailing of activation keys to Active members in September 2015. The upgrade will enable the facility to be more user friendly, engaging and improve overall functionality.

The Fund continued to maintain an active social media presence via its Twitter account, using infographics to break down complex issues and providing information on the scheme, local news and general pension matters.

A particular highlight of the year was the Fund's four award nominations including Best Use of IT and Technology, DB Scheme of the Year and Public Sector Scheme of the Year. These national awards celebrate excellence within UK workplace pension schemes and reflect the Fund's achievements in 2015/16.

10. Risk

A key element to risk management is the structured delegation of powers from the Council to the Pensions Committee and then to senior officers. To complement the delegation to senior managers, there is an extensive and detailed accountability back to Committee on how these delegations have been exercised. Full details of the structure of delegated powers are contained in the **Pension Fund Governance Statement**.

Investment risk is recognised as falling into distinct areas: market risk (beta) and manager skill (alpha). The structure of the investment strategy reflects this and is designed with the support of external expert advice. Details are contained in the **Statement of Investment Principles and the Funding Strategy Statement**. The operational management of investment risk forms the basis of quarterly reporting to the Pensions Committee and Pensions Board.

The Funds' approach to risk is dynamic, and can be revised in response to short term market events.

Benefits risk is recognised as falling into distinct areas: operational risk (regulation compliance and staffing) and Information Technology (IT) risks. The risks associated with the operational payment of benefits and recording of pensioner records produces a complex set of risks, which are mitigated with the use of a dedicated pension fund administration system that is thoroughly and regularly tested, combined with the technical hierarchy checking of output by pension staff. IT risk is mitigated through the use of an externally hosted benefit administration system subject to regular update and review.

It is recognised that all Fund services are very dependent upon third party contracts ranging from IT through to investment managers. All are subject to regular review and monitoring.



Risk Management Review

A Risk Management Review was completed during 2015/16, establishing and maintaining a detailed Risk Register and Action List. The review formalised the risk management process and identifies areas for development.

Risk management is an on-going process with quarterly reporting provided to the Pensions Committee. These reports detail the progress achieved in the implementation of the action plan, the ongoing review of the Risk Register and reporting of new risks that have been identified.

Identified below are key risks impacting the Pension Fund and the control measures in place to mitigate those risks.

Risk	Scope	Control Measure	Are controls operating Effectively
Operational			
Fraud and Negligence	Overpayments, unauthorised payments, system corruptions, audit criticism, reputational damage	All Pension payments signed off by a Senior Pensions Officer – segregation of duties for staff processing lump sums	Yes
Funding			
Fall in bond yields leading to risk in value placed on liabilities	Increase in employer contributions	Quarterly funding updates reported to the Pensions Committee to monitor market	Yes
Financial			
Failure in world stock markets	Increase in employer contributions	Diversification of scheme assets, investment strategy review following outcome of triennial valuation	Yes
Regulatory & Compliance			
Failure to comply with LGPS regulations	Audit criticism, legal challenge, reputation risk	Regular review of compliance with regulations and report to Pensions Committee	Yes
Governance			
Failure to monitor AVC arrangements	Audit criticism, legal challenge, reputation risk	Annual review of AVC arrangements carried out by the Scheme Actuary	Yes



11. Funding Strategy Statement

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 and its subsequent amendments require administering authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a written Funding Strategy Statement (FSS).

The FSS sets out how the administering authority balances the potentially conflicting aims of affordability of contributions, transparency of process, stability of employers' contributions, and prudence in the funding basis. As part of the 2014 actuarial valuation exercise, the Funding Strategy Statement was reviewed, providing a statement that was prepared by Aberdeen City Council (the Administering Authority) to set out the funding strategy for the North East Scotland Pension Fund and the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund (the Funds), in accordance with Regulation 31 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the guidance papers issued in March 2004 by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Pensions Panel.

The detail of the main body of this Statement relates primarily to the North East Scotland Pension Fund ("the Main Fund"). Where there are differences in the application of this Statement to the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund ("the Transport Fund"), these are set out separately.

A copy of the full statement is available on the Funds' website www.nespf.org.uk.

12. Statement of Investment Principles

This statement sets out the principles governing decisions about investments for the North East Scotland Pension Fund and Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund and is effective from 4 June 2012. In its preparation, the Council has obtained appropriate professional advice.

All investment decisions are governed by The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Scotland) Regulations 2010.

The Fund's objective is to meet the benefit liabilities as they fall due at a reasonable cost to the participating employers, given that employee contributions are fixed. Reasonable, in this context, refers to both the absolute level of contribution – normally expressed as a percentage of pensionable payroll – and its predictability. The employer contribution rates are impacted by both the assessed level of funding – ratio of the value of assets to liabilities – and the assumptions underlying the actuarial valuation.

The Fund targets a 100% funding level. 'Growth' assets, such as equities, are expected to give a higher long-term return than 'liability-matching' assets, such as bonds. The benefit of higher investment returns is that, over the long-term, a higher level of funding should achieve lower employer contribution rates. However the additional investment returns from growth assets come with a price: greater volatility relative to the liabilities, thus introducing risk. The risk is evidenced by the potential volatility of both the funding level and the employer contribution rate. There is therefore a trade-off between the additional investment return from greater exposure to growth assets and its benefits – higher funding level, lower employer contribution level – and the benefits of greater predictability – of both funding level and employer contribution rate – from having greater exposure to liability matching assets.

The trade-off, and its consequences on both funding level and employer contribution level, was examined by both the Pensions Committee and Joint Investment Advisory Committee and led to the strategic benchmark. The full statement is available on the Funds' website www.nespf.org.uk.



13. Corporate, Environmental and Social Governance

The North East Scotland Pension Fund supports the view that the willingness and ability of a company to adopt the highest standards of corporate responsibility is increasingly important to its long-term growth. Good corporate governance and good social and environmental practice can have a favourable effect on financial performance and improve investment returns to shareholders as well as society at large.

Conversely, companies that fail to adequately manage good governance and social and environmental risks may become vulnerable to higher operating costs (including fines, lawsuits, damage to reputation) and subsequent loss of confidence to the detriment of all shareholders.

Voting is an integral part of good governance, it gives the Fund a direct route to influence the company's management and over the last year the Fund has voted at 210 Annual General Meetings/Special meetings on 3300 resolutions. The Fund's voting advice is provided by P.I.R.C (Pensions & Investments Research Consultants Ltd) with additional advice is received from the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum.

During the year to 31 March 2016 the most contentious areas were:

Directors

- Insufficient independence at board level
- Independent Directors who have spent over 9 years on the board
- Poor attendance

Executive Pay Schemes

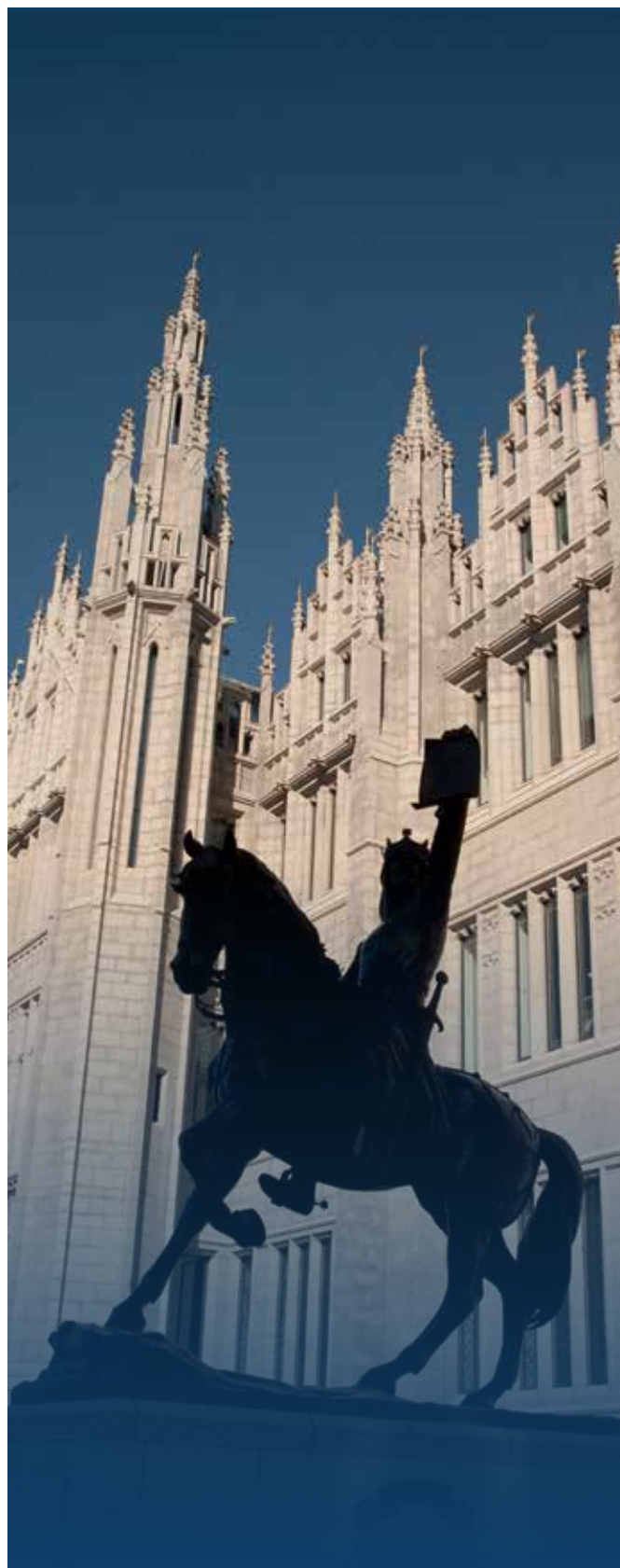
- Potential awards available considered excessive
- Performance conditions and targets not being disclosed
- Vesting period not considered sufficiently long term

Auditors Appointment

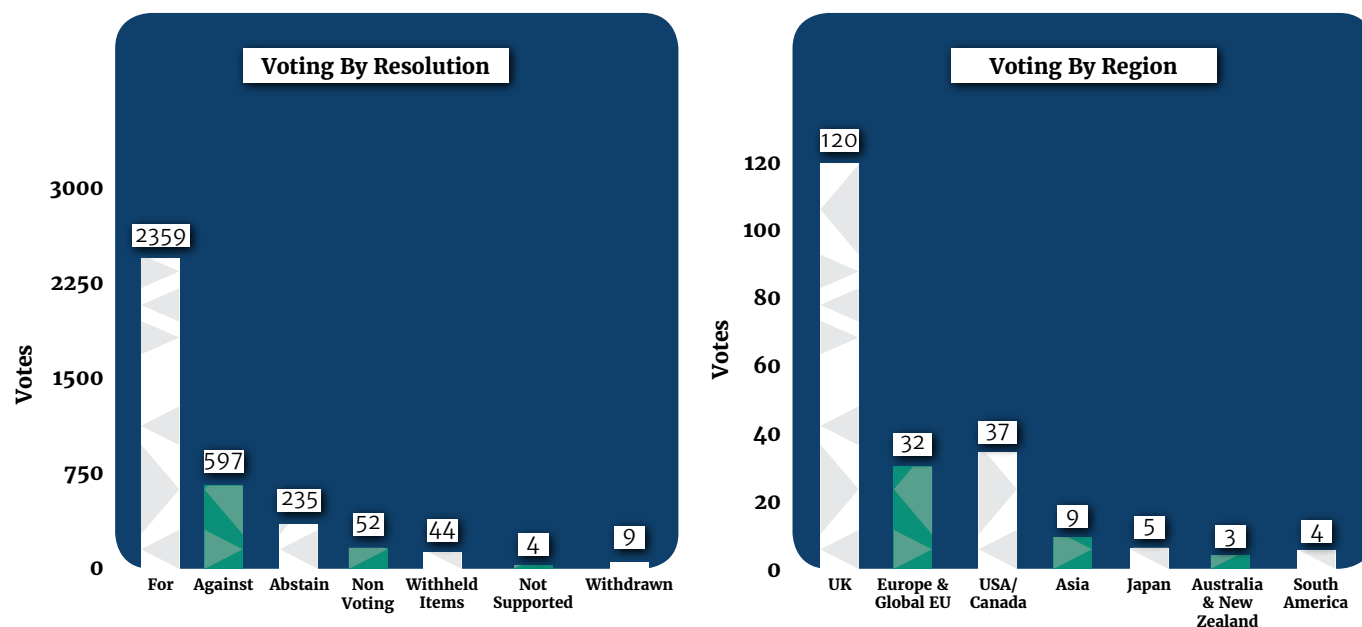
- Concerns about high levels of non-audit fees creating the potential for conflicts of interest.
- Not rotating audit firms on a regular basis

Annual Reports

- Vote on dividend or dividend policy not put to shareholders.



Voting By Resolution and Region



Engagement

Local Authority Pension Fund Forum

Engagement is a fundamental part of good corporate and social governance. To be effective in this area it is vital that Local Authority Pension Funds work together to achieve the best results; which is why the Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF). These engagements enable the Fund to be a responsible long term investor.

LAPFF is the UK's leading collaborative shareholder engagement group. Formed in 1990, LAPFF brings together 70 local authority pension funds from across the country with combined assets of over £175 billion. The Forum provides a unique opportunity for Britain's local authority pension funds to discuss shareholder engagement and investment issues. Our Pensions Committee convener Councillor Crockett was re-elected to the LAPFF executive committee in January 2016.

Some examples of the engagement work undertaken by the Fund through LAPFF are noted opposite.



Employment Practices

LAPFF first began work on overseas supply chain concerns in relation to child labour in 1998, since then there have been various initiatives.

Most recently LAPFF has engaged with companies regarding labour conditions in Qatar, attending the Carillion AGM to ask how as an international infrastructure company based in the UK is taking steps to address poor labour conditions at some Qatari building sites under construction for the 2022 World Cup.

From a UK perspective, some UK companies faced accusations of blacklisting trade union workers. LAPFF met with these companies to ensure that they had eradicated blacklisting from their own operations, as well as ensuring that their suppliers do not engage in this practice.

Inappropriate use of zero hour contracts has also been a concern of the Forum, and LAPFF attended an investor briefing with other investor groups held by the Trade Union Share Owners Group to understand how better to address this issue.

Climate Change

Environmental issues continue to generate significant concern for investors, particularly considering the significant impact these issues have on corporate reputations and on companies' ability to operate effectively among more stringent environmental regulations.

From its inception, LAPFF has encouraged companies to adopt and implement effective environmental management policies.

Collaboration is frequently the key to leveraging change with companies and this has been particularly evident with the Forums participation in the 'Aiming for A' investor coalition.

From 2012 the coalition initiated by CCLA focused on long-term engagement to encourage companies to move towards a low carbon economy.

The engagement process led to the filing of shareholder resolutions on strategic resilience and LAPFF members combined in large numbers to co-file and publicly declare support for resolutions to Shell and also BP.

The primary request of the resolutions was for an assessment of the company's asset portfolio resilience against a range of International Energy Agency scenarios, which includes remaining within two degree temperature increase limits. Votes of over 98% in support of both resolutions were achieved.

The impact of climate change for companies and investors remain high on LAPFF's agenda and this issue is frequently raised with company boards at AGMs.



Tax Transparency

Investor concerns in this area are regarding the number of multinational companies that are accused of adopting tax avoidance schemes.

Though arguably not illegal, a number of parties have deemed this practice unfair and have asked that companies pay their fair share of tax in places where they operate.

LAPFF have appointed a tax expert to draft a questionnaire which will be sent to the FTSE 100 companies to complete regarding their approach to tax reporting as part of a LAPFF Corporate Tax Transparency Initiative (CCTI).

The questions focused on a range of tax-related topics, from disclosure of tax policies to the role of auditors in tax practices, to country-by-country reporting. This style of reporting is promoted by the OECD/G20 BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Sharing) project, which began in 2013 and led to a 15 point action plan to address the issue.

BEPS aims to address the issue of companies operating in one country but channelling money through countries so that they avoid substantial tax liability.

Further information of LAPFF engagements can be found at www.lapfforum.org.

United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment. (UNPRI)

To enable the Fund to be more Global in its engagement in August 2010 the Fund signed up to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI). This is a worldwide initiative with a set of aspirational and voluntary guidelines for investment entities wishing to address environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) issues. Over 1500 companies representing over US\$60 trillion assets under management have signed up to the Principles.

Our main focus this year has been on the issue of:

Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) – we are members of a group of 42 PRI signatories representing US\$ 7.6 trillion in assets under management (AUM) which is engaging with stock exchanges globally to ask that they enhance the sustainability performance of their listed companies, with particular emphasis on ESG disclosure.

Sep 2015 – Release of the SSE Model Guidance which functions as a globally consistent resource that Exchanges can customise to create their own guidance for companies on reporting ESG information to investors.

Oct 2015 – Letter campaign, led by Allianz Global Investors was in line with the SSE Model Guidance and over 100 asset managers and asset owners representing US \$10 trillion in AUM signed the letter requesting 77 stock exchanges to put in place a voluntary guidance for issuers on reporting ESG information by the end of 2016.

Updates – by April 2016 the outreach led to 23 exchanges committing to put an ESG guidance in place by the end of 2016.

14. Future

Following on from 2015/16 which was again a very busy and challenging year within the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Fund now looks to the new financial year and the interim valuation of both the North East Scotland Pension Fund and Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund.

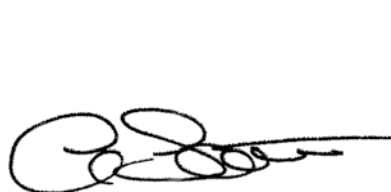
The Fund's Actuarial Valuation will take place as of March 2017 however the Fund will undertake an interim valuation during 2016. This is due to the increase in market volatility, where the Fund and the Administering Authority believe to be an appropriate course of action that will inform and position the Fund to deliver early engagement with all stakeholders leading into the 2017 Actuarial Valuation.

As stated earlier in the Annual Report an investment strategy review took place during the first quarter of 2016, the revised strategy will be implemented over the coming year and the interim valuation will also assist in the implementation and provide evidence that the strategy will deliver the required asset return profile.

The Fund continues to engage with all stakeholders in line with the Fund's governance and communication policy which can be found on the Funds' website along with the Funds' Business Plan. This engagement will be enhanced with the introduction of the Pension Fund Staff Restructure that was finalised during April 2016. Six very specific areas have been identified through the restructure process, Administration, Technical, Governance, Employer Relationship, Accounting and Investment. These teams will deliver the service in a continued efficient and accountable manner.

15. Acknowledgement

The production of the Annual Report and Accounts is very much a team effort involving many staff as well as information supplied from our advisors. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the considerable efforts of all staff in the production of the 2015/16 Annual Report and Accounts.



Angela Scott
Chief Executive



Steven Whyte, CPFA
Head of Finance



Councillor Barney Crockett
Pensions Committee Convener

On behalf of Aberdeen City Council
19 September 2016

Statement of Responsibilities

The North East Scotland Pension Funds are governed by an Administering Authority, Aberdeen City Council, and are required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that the proper officer of the authority has responsibility for the administration of those affairs (section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973). For the North East Scotland Pension Funds, that officer is the Head of Finance of Aberdeen City Council.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014), and so far as is compatible with the legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003).
- Approve the Annual Accounts for signature.

I confirm that these Annual Accounts were approved for signature by the Pensions Committee at its meeting on 19 September 2016.

Signed on behalf of Aberdeen City Council



Councillor Barney Crockett
Pensions Committee Convener
The Head of Finance's responsibilities

The Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Pension Funds' Annual Accounts in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Accounting Code).

In preparing the Annual Accounts, the Head of Finance has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with legislation;
- complied with the Local Authority Accounting Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation).

The Head of Finance has also:

- kept adequate accounting records which are up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Financial Position:

I certify that the Annual Accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the North East Scotland Pension Funds at the reporting date and the transactions of the Funds for the year ended 31 March 2016.



Steven Whyte, CPFA
Aberdeen City Council, Head of Finance
19 September 2016

Annual Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

Aberdeen City Council has statutory responsibility for the administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in the North East of Scotland, both on its own behalf and in respect of the other 2 local authorities in the area and some 50 other employers.

As the administering authority for the Pension Fund, the Council is responsible for ensuring that its business, including that of the Pension Fund, is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Aberdeen City Council Pensions Committee is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Funds' affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance which is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.

Purpose of the Governance Framework for North East Scotland Pension Fund

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes and culture and values by which Aberdeen City Council as the administering authority, and therefore the Pension Fund, is directed and controlled, and its activities through which it accounts to and engages with its stakeholders. It enables the Pension Fund to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of effective services.

The North East Scotland Pension Fund is governed by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations. These include requirements for the preparation and production for a number of key policy documents including a Funding Strategy Statement and Statement of Investment Principles. These documents set out the Fund's objectives together with the main risks facing the Fund and the key controls in place to mitigate those risks.

The system of internal control is a significant part of the governance framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

A governance framework has been in place at Aberdeen City Council and North East Scotland Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2016 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Accounts.

The Governance Framework

The Funds' place reliance upon the internal financial controls within the Council's financial systems and the monitoring in place to ensure the effectiveness of those controls. Within the overall control arrangements, the system of internal control is intended to ensure that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

To help provide a framework of control, the Council's governance framework includes standing orders, financial regulations, financial monitoring and financial and administrative procedures (including segregation of duties, management supervision, and a system of delegation and accountability). In addition, the terms of reference for the Pensions Committee sets out its role and delegated functions.

The systems include:

- Managing receipt of contributions from employees and employers and payment of benefits to retired members of the Fund;
- Review of financial and performance reports against forecasts, benchmarks and targets set;
- The preparation of regular financial reports which include funding updates and actual expenditure against forecasts; and
- Consideration of external and internal audit reports by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee and by the Pensions Committee.

These arrangements also include:

- A training programme to ensure that Pensions Committee and Pension Board members develop the required standard of knowledge and understanding of the LGPS;
- Identifying the objectives of the Funds in the Funding Strategy Statement, Statement of Investment Principles and Service Plan. A written report covering the Pension Fund's Investment Strategy was presented to the Pensions Committee in June 2016;
- Monitoring the achievement of objectives by the Pensions Committee and senior officers;
- A systematic approach to monitoring service performance by Pensions Committee, senior officers and stakeholders including benchmarking of services in terms of quality and cost against other Local Government Pension Scheme funds;
- A clear statement of risk, combined with effective risk management arrangements. A risk register is updated and regularly reported to the Pensions Committee;
- The Monitoring Officer reports on any non compliance with laws and regulations of which they are made aware to the Pensions Committee in respect of the Funds;
- Operating within clearly established investment guidelines defined by the Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Regulations and the Funds' Statement of Investment Principles;
- Compliance with the CIPFA Principles for Investment Decision Making in the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Myners Principles on investment;
- Appropriate investment custody arrangements with a global custodian and access to the custodian's extensive internal control framework;
- Monitoring of appointed Fund managers and third party providers ensuring compliance within their management agreements and receipt of assurances from them on the adequacy of the internal financial control systems operated by them.

The Public Sector Act 2013 introduced new regulatory requirements including the introduction of a Pensions Board. The Board assist the Administering Authority in delivering a regulatory compliant scheme and was implemented from the 1 April 2015. In addition the Scheme now reports to The Pensions Regulator under the new governance arrangements. This provides additional assurances to all stakeholders that the Scheme has the appropriate internal and external governance framework in place.

From the 1 April 2016 the Pension Fund has also implemented a new structure that identified six key areas; Investment, Accounting, Administration, Technical, Employer Relationship and Governance.

Teams are now in place to continue to deliver an efficient and effective service to all stakeholders while providing succession planning and clear and accountable roles.

Review of Effectiveness

The Pension Fund has a responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its control environment including the system of internal control.

The Pension Fund approaches this with reference to the Council and its approach. This considers different layers of assurance, namely management assurance both internally through the Council and the assurance and recommendations provided by internal audit; and external audit and other external scrutiny reports.

Management Assurance:

As the administration of the Pension Fund is directly within the remit of the Head of Finance, assurance has been sought from him in relation to the effectiveness of internal financial controls. These assurances include internal financial controls and provide the opportunity to highlight any weaknesses or areas of concern that should be taken account of. For 2015/16, no significant areas of weakness were highlighted.

In reviewing this, it has been assessed that the Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010). Furthermore in relation to

statutory postholders, the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements can be evidenced through the relationship that they have had throughout the year with the Council and its officers, being full members of the Corporate Management Team. In addition the Head of Finance (CFO) and the Monitoring Officer are generally in attendance to advise not only the Council at its meetings, but the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee, Finance, Policy and Resources Committee and the Pensions Committee.

The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee remains responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the internal audit function and also considering reports prepared by the external auditor. Further to this, the Pensions Committee is responsible for the internal and external audit functions in respect of the Pension Fund.

Assurance from Internal Audit:

The internal audit function for the Council and the Pension Fund was under contract to Aberdeenshire Council during the financial year.

The internal audit work programme has been completed and in respect of the Pension Fund, a written report including an agreed action plan on the Pension Fund's Investment Strategy and controls over the performance of fund managers was presented to the Pensions Committee in June 2016. Controls work was also undertaken across the Council's financial systems and was largely found to be satisfactory.

External Audit and Other External Scrutiny:

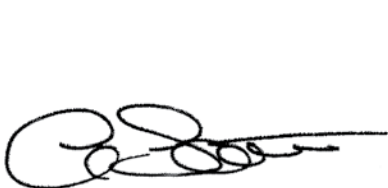
The external auditor, Audit Scotland, reports regularly to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee and the Pensions Committee and their reports cover the range of year-end financial audits that are required at a local level and with a national perspective.

Governance Compliance Statement

The LGPS regulations require administering authorities to measure their governance arrangements against the standards set out in the guidance. Where compliance does not meet the published standard, there is a requirement for administering authorities to set out any reasons for non-compliance in their governance compliance statement. There are no significant issues to highlight on the Governance Compliance Statement (pages 44-45).

Certification

It is our opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of systems of governance operated by Aberdeen City Council and the North East Scotland Pension Fund and that the annual review demonstrates sufficient evidence that the governance and internal control environment operated effectively during the 2015/16 financial year. A written report of the Pension Fund's Investment Strategy was presented to the Pensions Committee in June 2016.



Angela Scott
Chief Executive



Steven Whyte, CPFA
Head of Finance



Councillor Barney Crockett
Pensions Committee Convener

On behalf of Aberdeen City Council
19 September 2016

Governance Compliance Statement

Principle	Compliance
1. Structure	
<p>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.</p> <p>b) That 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.</p> <p>c) That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.</p> <p>d) That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.</p>	Partially compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement
2. Committee Membership and Representation	
<p>a) That all key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented within the main or secondary committee structure. These include:-</p> <p>i) employing authorities (including non-scheme employers, e.g. admitted bodies);</p> <p>ii) scheme members (including deferred and pensioner scheme members),</p> <p>iii) where appropriate, independent professional observers, and</p> <p>iv) expert advisors (on an ad-hoc basis).</p> <p>b) That where lay members sit on a main or secondary committee, they are treated equally in terms of access to papers, meetings and training and are given full opportunity to contribute to the decision making process, with or without voting rights.</p>	Partially compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement
3. Voting	
<p>a) The policy of individual administering authorities on voting rights is clear and transparent, including the justification for not extending voting rights to each body or group represented on main LGPS committees.</p>	Fully compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement
4. Training/Facility time/Expenses	
<p>a) That 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.</p> <p>b) That where such a policy exists, it applies equally to all members of committees, sub-committees, advisory panels or any other form of secondary forum.</p> <p>c) That the administering authority considers the adoption of annual training plans for committee members and maintains a log of all such training undertaken.</p>	Fully compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement



5. Meetings (frequency /quorum)

a) That an administering authority's main committee or committees meet at least quarterly.	Fully compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement
b) That an administering authority's secondary committee or panel meet at least twice a year and is synchronised with the dates when the main committee sits.	
c) That an administering authority who 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.	

6. Access

a) That 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.	Fully compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement
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7. Scope

a) That administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.	Fully compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement
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8. Publicity

a) That 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.	Fully compliant as per the Scheme Governance Statement
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Accounting Policies

The North East Scotland Pension Funds Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on local authority accounting in the UK (the Code).

The Annual Accounts summarise the Funds' transactions for the 2015/2016 financial year and its position at year end as at 31 March 2016.

The Annual Accounts do not take account of the obligation to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the year.

The Funds' Annual Accounts are generally prepared on an accruals basis.

Contribution Income

Normal contributions, from both members and employers, are accounted for on an accruals basis. Employers' deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the Scheme Actuary or on receipt (if earlier than the due date).

Employers' pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amounts due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset.

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 Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.



Investment Income

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

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

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

Property related income consists primarily of rental income. Rental income is demanded in accordance with the terms of the lease, generally being quarterly in advance.

The property portfolio accounts are prepared on an accrual basis.

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

Fund Account – Expenses

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 Schedule 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.

Management Expenses

The Code does not require any breakdown of Pension Fund management expenses. However in the interests of greater transparency, the Pension Fund discloses its management expenses in accordance with CIPFA guidance on Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs.

a) Administrative Expenses and Oversight and Governance Costs

All administrative expenses and oversight and governance costs are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs are charged direct to the Fund. Accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to the Fund in accordance with Aberdeen City Council policy.

b) Investment Management Expenses

All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis.

Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates 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.

In addition the Fund has negotiated performance related fees with a number of its investment managers. Performance related fees were £3,842,823 in 2015/16 (2014/15 £2,606,700).

Where an investment manager's fee note has not been received by the balance sheet date, an estimate based upon the market value of their mandate as at the end of the year is used for inclusion in the Fund account.

The accounts show the income and expenditure that the Pension Fund has generated and consumed in delivering the LGPS.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised by the Fund.

Valuation of Investments

All investments are valued at their market value at 31 March 2016 and are determined as follows:

All stocks within the FTSE 100 are valued on the basis of the last traded price recorded on SETS (the Stock Exchange Electronic Trading Service), while all other listed securities are valued on the basis of the market conventions where primarily traded, which is either last traded or bid market price.

Investments held in foreign currency have been valued on the above basis and translated into sterling at the rate ruling at the balance sheet date.

Managed funds including unit trusts are stated at the bid price of the latest prices quoted or the latest valuation by the Funds' custodian.

Private equity assets are independently valued by the appointed Fund Manager and General Partners. Fair value is calculated by applying Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines.

Unlisted investments are valued using one of the following methodologies:

- Multiple (based on comparable quoted multiples and significant third party transactions)
- Price of Recent Investment
- Net Assets
- Discounted Cash Flows or Earnings from Underlying Business

When applying an Earning Multiple, the Fund Manager/General Partner will use the best estimate of maintainable earnings. In accordance with guidelines, discounts have been applied for size, quality of earnings, gearing and dependency on one customer where appropriate. A Marketability Discount will also have been applied to reflect liquidity.

Direct property investments are valued by an external valuer (Colliers International), in accordance with the Valuation Standards issued by The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

The valuer's opinion of Market Value was primarily derived using:

- Comparable recent market transactions on arm's length terms.

A full copy of the valuer's report including all general assumptions and definitions is available on request from the Head of Finance, Aberdeen City Council, Corporate Governance, Level 1 West, Business Hub 7, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB.

Derivatives

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

The value of future contracts is determined using exchange prices at the reporting date. Amounts due from or owed to the broker are the amounts outstanding in respect of the initial margin and variation margin.

The future value of forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end date 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

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 changes in value.

Financial Liabilities

The Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from the change in the fair value of the liability are recognised.

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits of each of the Funds is assessed on a quarterly basis by the Scheme Actuary, and in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under IAS 26, the Funds have opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net assets statement, (Note 1) together with the full Statement by the Consulting Actuary found on Appendix 1.

Orphan liabilities are liabilities in the North East Scotland Pension Fund for which there is no sponsoring employer within the Fund. Ultimately, orphan liabilities must be underwritten by all other employers of the Fund.

Under the termination policy of the Funds, as set out by the Scheme Actuary, a termination assessment will be made on a least risk funding basis, unless the admission body has a guarantor within the Fund or a successor body exists to take over the liabilities. This is to protect the other employers in the Fund as, at termination, the admitted body's liabilities will become "orphan liabilities" within the Fund.

Additional Voluntary Contributions

North East Scotland Pension Fund provides an additional voluntary contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Pension Fund. The Fund has appointed Prudential as its AVC provider together with Standard Life. AVC's are paid to the AVC provider by the employers and are specifically for providing additional benefits for the individual contributors. Each AVC contributor receives an annual statement showing the amount held in their account and the movements in the year, from each service provider. AVCs are not included within the Annual Accounts however they are detailed in Note 22.

Critical Judgments in applying Accounting Policies

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 judgments involving many factors. Unquoted private equities are valued by the investment managers.

These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS. Valuations are usually undertaken annually at the end of December. Cash flow adjustments are used to roll forward the valuations to 31 March as appropriate.

The value of unquoted private equities at 31 March 2016 was £162,199,749 (31 March 2015 £137,031,608).

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

Each fund is required to disclose the estimated actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits as at the end of the financial year. These estimates are prepared by the Fund Actuary. These values are calculated in line with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19) assumptions and comply with requirements of IAS 26. However, the results are subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

The figures are only prepared for the purposes of IAS 26 and have no validity in other circumstances. In particular, it is not relevant for calculations undertaken for funding purposes and setting contributions payable to the Fund.

Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the reporting period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material affect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

Changes in Accounting Policies

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the changes provides more reliable or relevant information. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code requires the disclosure of information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2016/17 Code:

- Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements (Disclosure Initiative);
- Annual Improvements to IFRS 2010–2012 and 2012–2014 Cycles;
- The changes to the format of the Pension Fund account and the Net Assets statement.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2016 and there is therefore no impact on the 2015/16 annual accounts. Overall, these new or amended standards are not expected to have a significant impact on the annual accounts.

North East Scotland Pension Fund Accounts

Fund Account for the year ended 31 March 2016

This statement shows a summary of the income and expenditure that the Pension Fund has generated and consumed in delivering the Local Government Pension Scheme. Included is the income generated from employers' and employees' contributions and investment income, as well as the cost of providing benefits and administration of the Fund.

	Notes	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Contributions Receivable			
Employees' Contributions	2	26,726	27,477
Employers' Contributions	2	86,572	92,708
Transfer Values	3	4,958	1,837
Other Income		38	3
		118,294	122,025
Benefits Payable			
Retirement Pensions	4	87,772	91,490
Retirement Allowances	4	19,881	18,225
Death Gratuities	4	3,180	4,452
Contributions Refunded	5	741	848
Transfer Values	5	3,991	3,978
		115,565	118,993
Management Expenses	6	15,086	16,517
Return on Investment			
Investment Income	7	50,851	52,357
Profits and (Losses) on Disposal of Investments and Changes in Market Value of Investments	8	299,280	(28,428)
Net Return on Investments		350,131	23,929
Net Increase/(decrease) in the Net Assets available for Benefits during the year		337,774	10,444
Opening Net Assets of the Fund		2,833,575	3,171,349
Net Assets of the Fund at the end of the year		3,171,349	3,181,793

North East Scotland Pension Fund Accounts

Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2016

This statement provides a breakdown of type and value of all net assets at the year end.

	Notes	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Investment Assets			
Fixed Interest, Public Sector		80,070	76,680
Fixed Interest, Corporate		13,069	14,159
Fixed Interest, Overseas		164,384	187,481
Index Linked		0	2,901
Equities UK		640,326	607,732
Equities, Overseas		723,697	749,792
Pooled Vehicle		1,093,867	1,094,234
Property, Unit Trust		0	0
Property, Direct	13	211,960	232,555
Unit Trust, Other		3,136	3,440
Derivative Contracts (including, Futures Options, Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts and Swaps)		0	0
Other, Private Equity		155,003	179,867
Funds held by Investment Managers		60,457	31,489
ACC Loan Fund Deposit	19	27,560	14,640
Investment Assets		3,173,529	3,194,970
Investment Liabilities			
Derivative Contracts (including, Futures Options, Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts and Swaps)		(1,032)	(8,227)
Net Investment Assets		3,172,497	3,186,743
Long Term Asset	18	233	156
Current Assets	18	19,677	18,422
Current Liabilities	18	(21,058)	(23,528)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		(1,381)	(5,106)
Net Assets of the Fund at the end of the year		3,171,349	3,181,793



Steven Whyte, CPFA, Aberdeen City Council, Head of Finance
19 September 2016

The Unaudited Accounts were issued on 24 June 2015 and the Audited Accounts were authorised for issue by Steven Whyte on 19 September 2016.

Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund Accounts

Fund Account for the year ended 31 March 2016

This statement shows a summary of the income and expenditure that the Pension Fund has generated and consumed in delivering the Local Government Pension Scheme. Included is the income generated from employer and employees' contributions and investment income, as well as the cost of providing benefits and administration of the Fund.

	Notes	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Contributions Receivable			
Employees' Contributions	2	134	127
Employer's Contributions	2	2,219	2,176
Other Income		311	322
		2,664	2,625
Benefits Payable			
Retirement Pensions	3	2,921	2,998
Retirement Allowances	3	325	743
Death Gratuities	3	85	3
Contributions Refunded	4	1	0
Transfer Values	4	0	0
		3,332	3,744
Management Expenses*	5	94	228
Return on Investment			
Investment Income	6	1,698	510
Profits and (Losses) on Disposal of Investments and Changes in Market Value of Investments*	7	8,866	(2,560)
Net Return on Investments		10,564	(2,050)
Net Increase/ (decrease) in the Net Assets available for Benefits during the year		9,802	(3,397)
Opening Net Assets of the Fund		79,838	89,640
Net Assets of the Fund at the end of the year		89,640	86,243

Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund Accounts

Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2016

This statement provides a breakdown of type and value of all net assets at the year end.

Investment Assets	Notes	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Fixed Interest, Public Sector		2,484	2,686
Fixed Interest, Overseas		0	0
Equities UK		24	0
Equities, Overseas		0	0
Pooled Vehicle		52,129	48,304
Property, Unit Trust		0	0
Index Linked Securities		34,623	34,449
Funds held by Investment Managers		(733)	46
ACC Loan Fund Deposit	16	544	339
Net Investment Assets		<u>89,071</u>	<u>85,824</u>
Long Term Asset	15	<u>404</u>	<u>378</u>
Current Assets	15	425	286
Current Liabilities	15	(260)	(245)
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		165	41
Net Assets of the Fund at the end of the year		<u>89,640</u>	<u>86,243</u>



Steven Whyte, CPFA, Aberdeen City Council, Head of Finance
19 September 2016

The Unaudited Accounts were issued on 24 June 2015 and the Audited Accounts were authorised for issue by Steven Whyte on 19 September 2016.

Notes To The North East Scotland Pension Fund Accounts



Note 1: Actuarial Valuation Report

An Actuarial report for the North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF) was provided as at 31 March 2014.

Information from the 2014 Actuarial Valuation is detailed below:

Market Value of Assets at Valuation	£2,834,000,000
Liabilities	£3,025,000,000
Deficit	£ 191,000,000

Funding Level

The Level of Funding in Terms of the Percentage of Assets available to meet Liabilities was; **94%**

Correcting the Shortfall

The funding objective as set out in the Funding Strategy Statement is to achieve and maintain a funding level of 100% of liabilities **(the funding target)**. In line with the Funding Strategy Statement, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the valuation a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall. The maximum deficit recovery period for the Fund has been set as **19 years**.

Adopting the same method and assumptions as used for calculating the funding target, the deficit of £191million could be eliminated over a period of 19 years. Maintaining the previous average contribution rate of 19.3% of Pensionable Pay, this would imply a deficit recovery contribution of 4.4% of projected Pensionable Pay.

Post 31 March 2014 there was significant volatility in the investment markets which has led to a worsening of the funding position and an increase in the shortfall. Due to this volatility, the Administering Authority (following consultation with the Actuary and employers) agreed **that average contributions will be kept, as far as possible, at previous rates i.e. 19.3% of Pensionable Pay**. The deterioration in the funding position has increased the deficit and therefore the implied recovery period will also have increased.

In practice, each employer's position is assessed separately, details of which can be found in the 2014 Actuarial Valuation, this sets out the contributions for each employer over the three year period to 31 March 2018.

Schedule to the Rates and Adjustments Certificate

The Schedule to the Rates and Adjustments Certificate for the Fund sets out the contributions for the employer over the three year period to 31 March 2018. The rate takes into account the funding plan, as laid down in the Funding Strategy Statement, in particular in relation to deficit recovery period, assumed level of investment returns over the deficiency recovery period and implementation of changes in employer contributions where these are required. Contribution requirements for the period from 1 April 2018 onwards will be revised as part of the next actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2017 and will be confirmed in the Rates and Adjustments Certificate and Schedule accompanying that valuation report.

Assumptions used to Calculate Funding Target

Pre-retirement	4.90% p.a.
Post-retirement	4.90% p.a.
Assumed Long Term Price Inflation (CPI)	2.60% p.a.
Salary Increases – Long term	4.10% p.a.
Salary Increases – short term	1.00% p.a.
Pension Increases in Payment	2.60% p.a.

The Projected Unit Method was used for the valuation of the NESPF.

The full Actuarial Report and the Funding Strategy statement are available from the office of the Head of Finance, Aberdeen City Council, Corporate Governance, Level 1 West, Business Hub 7, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB.

Actuarial Statement

The Scheme Actuary has provided a statement describing the funding arrangements of the Fund.

The actuarial value of promised retirement benefits at the accounting date, calculated in line with International Accounting Standards 19 (IAS 19) assumptions, is estimated to be £3,803m (2015 £3,874m). The figure is used for the statutory accounting purposes by North East Scotland Pension Fund and complies with the requirements of IAS 26.

The figure is only prepared for the purposes IAS 26 and has no validity in other circumstances payable to the Fund. In particular, it is not relevant for calculations undertaken for funding purposes and setting contributions payable to the Fund.

The full statement by the Consulting Actuary can be found in Appendix 1.



Note 2: Contributions Receivable

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Employees' Normal Contributions	26,726	27,477
Employers' Normal Contributions	80,169	89,119
Employers' Deficit Recovery Contributions	6,403	3,589
Employers' Augmentation Contributions	0	0
Total Employers' Contributions	86,572	92,708
Total	113,298	120,185

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Administering Authority	33,127	34,835
Scheduled Bodies	67,195	72,338
Admitted Bodies	8,980	8,916
Transferee Admission Bodies	3,996	4,096
Total	113,298	120,185

Note 3: Transfers in from other Pension Funds

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Individual Transfers	4,958	1,837
Total	4,958	1,837

Note 4: Benefits Payable

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Pensions	87,772	91,490
Commutation and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	19,881	18,225
Lump Sum Death Benefits	3,180	4,452
Total	110,833	114,167

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Administering Authority*	28,567	29,822
Scheduled Bodies	73,018	74,813
Admitted Bodies	8,473	8,523
Transferee Admission Bodies	775	1,009
Total	110,833	114,167

*2014-15 Restated to allow for the correct allocation resulting from the new heading 'Administering Authority'

Note 5: Payment to and on Account of Leavers

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Refunds to Members Leaving Service	513	678
Payments for Members Joining State Scheme	228	170
Group Transfers	0	40
Individual Transfers	3,991	3,938
Total	4,732	4,826

Note 6: Management Expenses

	Restated* 2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Pension Fund Staffing Costs – Administration	857	965
Support Services including IT	523	545
Printing and Publications	41	32
Administration Expenses Total	1,421	1,542
Pension Fund Staffing Costs – Investment	112	101
Pension Fund Committee	35	4
Pension Board	1	1
External Audit Fee	38	45
Internal Audit Fee	30	8
Actuarial Fees	186	103
General Expenses	65	86
Oversight and Governance Expenses Total	467	348
Investment Management*	7,599	9,442
Performance Fees*	2,607	3,843
Direct Property Expenses	1,461	127
Transaction Costs [†]	1,391	1,066
Custody Fees	140	149
Investment Management Expenses Total	13,198	14,627
Management Expenses Grand Total	15,086	16,517

* Due to the early adoption of CIPFA Guidance on Accounting for Scheme Management Expenses (2016 Edition), Investment Management Fees have reduced by £1,743K and Performance Fees £2,213k. The revised guidance clarified the position for certain types of investment such as private equity and hedge funds which are commonly accessed through a fund of funds structure. Costs should now only be reported up to the level where the pension fund has a contractual liability to pay and has control. Previously, costs incurred at each tier in the investment structure were reported. Overall, Private Equity Investment Management/Performance Fees have been reduced by £3,956K (2014/15 £4,821K).

In addition, there have been some minor reallocations between other lines in Note 6 in accordance with CIPFA Guidance on Management Expenses.

A breakdown of Transaction Costs is shown below:

	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Fee/Tax	881	691
Commission	510	375
Total Transaction Costs	1,391	1,066

Note 7: Investment Income

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Fixed Interest Securities	7,576	7,412
Equity Dividends	29,718	30,411
Pooled Property Investments	1	6
Property Rental Income	11,235	11,905
Interest on Cash Deposit	253	271
Other (including P/L from Currency and Derivatives)	4,434	4,810
Total	53,217	54,815
Tax -		
Withholding Tax – Fixed Interest Securities	0	0
Withholding Tax – Equities	(2,365)	(2,452)
Withholding Tax – Pooled	(1)	(6)
Total Tax	(2,366)	(2,458)
Net Total	50,851	52,357

Note 8: Investment Assets

Reconciliation of Movements in Investments and Derivatives

	Market Value	Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Market Value
	31 March 2015 £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Fixed Interest	257,523	163,704	(147,846)	7,840	281,221
UK Equities	640,326	177,827	(179,761)	(30,660)	607,732
Overseas Equities	723,697	161,306	(138,758)	3,547	749,792
Pooled Investments	1,097,003	244,431	(222,184)	(21,576)	1,097,674
Property	211,960	26,058	(8,814)	3,351	232,555
Private Equity	155,003	46,650	(40,752)	18,966	179,867
	3,085,512	819,976	(738,115)	(18,532)	3,148,841
Derivative Contracts					
FX Contracts	(1,032)	18,130	(15,429)	(9,896)	(8,227)
	3,084,480	838,106	(753,544)	(28,428)	3,140,614
Other					
Cash	88,017				46,129
Net Investment Assets	3,172,497				3,186,743



	Market Value	Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Market Value
	31 March 2014 £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	31 March 2015 £'000
Fixed Interest	231,403	143,356	(133,375)	16,139	257,523
UK Equities	638,325	204,817	(214,979)	12,163	640,326
Overseas Equities	610,215	150,207	(156,141)	119,416	723,697
Pooled Investments	991,136	6,680	(13,629)	112,816	1,097,003
Property	159,240	43,519	(4,747)	13,948	211,960
Private Equity	136,414	37,830	(44,358)	25,117	155,003
	2,766,733	586,409	(567,229)	299,599	3,085,512
Derivative Contracts					
FX Contracts	(385)	15,784	(16,112)	(319)	(1,032)
	2,766,348	602,193	(583,341)	299,280	3,084,480
Other					
Cash	63,443				88,017
Net Investment Assets	2,829,791				3,172,497

Note 9: Analysis of Investments

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Fixed Interest Securities		
UK		
Public Sector Quoted	80,070	76,680
Corporate Quoted	13,069	14,159
Corporate Unquoted	0	0
Overseas		
Public Sector Quoted	117,201	135,283
Corporate Quoted	47,183	52,198
Corporate Unquoted	0	0
Subtotal Fixed Interest Securities	257,523	278,320
Subtotal Index Linked Securities	0	2,901
Equities		
UK		
Quoted	640,326	607,732
Unquoted	0	0
Overseas		
Quoted	723,697	749,792
Unquoted	0	0
Subtotal Equities	1,364,023	1,357,524
Pooled Funds – Additional Analysis		
UK		
Fixed Income	0	0
Unit Trusts	496,853	465,686
Pooled Property Investment	0	0
Overseas		
Fixed Income	7,022	6,896
Unit Trusts	593,128	501,344
Pooled Indexed Linked	0	123,748



	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Subtotal Pooled Funds	1,097,003	1,097,674
Private Equity	155,003	179,867
Property, Direct	211,960	232,555
Funds held by Investment Managers	60,457	31,489
ACC Loans Fund Deposit	27,560	14,640
Investment Assets Total	3,173,529	3,194,970
Investment Liabilities		
Forward Ex	(778)	(8,156)
Derivatives	(254)	(71)
Investment Liabilities Total	(1,032)	(8,227)
Net Investment Assets	3,172,497	3,186,743

Note 10: Analysis of Derivatives

Futures

Outstanding exchange traded future contracts are as follows:

Type	Expires	Economic Exposure	Market Value	Economic Exposure	Market Value
		£'000	31 March 2015 £'000	£'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Assets					
Overseas Fixed Interest	Less than one year	0	0	0	0
Liabilities					
UK Fixed Interest	Less than one year	(10,264)	(127)	0	0
Euro – Other	Less than one year	(9,189)	(127)	(11,913)	(43)
Overseas – Other	Less than one year	0	0	(24,040)	(28)
Net Futures			(254)		(71)

Forward Foreign Currency

In order to maintain appropriate diversification and to take advantage of overseas investment returns, a significant proportion of the Fund's quoted portfolio is in passive overseas stock markets. To reduce the volatility associated with fluctuating currency rates, the Fund has applied, through the passive manager, a dynamic currency hedge on a pooled basis.

As part of the Fund Investment Strategy the bond manager incorporates Foreign Exchange Contracts.

Settlement	Currency Bought	Local Value £'000	Currency Sold	Local Value £'000	Asset Value	Liability Value £'000
Up to 3 Months	GBP	9,654	AUD	10,703		1,049
Up to 3 Months	GBP	2,703	CAD	2,986		283
Up to 3 Months	GBP	3,244	CAD	3,577		333
Up to 3 Months	GBP	3,512	CAD	3,873		361
Up to 3 Months	GBP	36,831	EUR	39,644		2,813
Up to 3 Months	GBP	4,028	EUR	4,163		135
Up to 3 Months	GBP	4,036	EUR	4,123		87
Up to 3 Months	GBP	6,382	EUR	6,502		120
Up to 3 Months	GBP	1,820	EUR	1,863		43
Up to 3 Months	GBP	12,349	EUR	12,607		258
Up to 3 Months	GBP	3,750	EUR	3,806		56
Up to 3 Months	GBP	14,724	YEN	15,786		1,062
Up to 3 Months	GBP	4,518	YEN	4,742		224
Up to 3 Months	GBP	810	YEN	805	5	
Up to 3 Months	GBP	6,633	MXN	6,900		267
Up to 3 Months	GBP	2,015	MXN	2,151		136
Up to 3 Months	GBP	6,862	PLN	7,598		736
Up to 3 Months	AUD	3,478	GBP	3,165	313	
Up to 3 Months	AUD	7,225	GBP	7,134	91	
Up to 3 Months	CAD	3,012	GBP	2,768	244	
Up to 3 Months	CAD	3,550	GBP	3,480	70	
Up to 3 Months	EUR	2,498	GBP	2,412	86	
Up to 3 Months	EUR	2,379	GBP	2,341	38	
Up to 3 Months	EUR	3,885	GBP	3,851	34	
Up to 3 Months	EUR	1,506	GBP	1,505	1	
Up to 3 Months	PLN	4,066	GBP	3,971	95	
Up to 3 Months	SEK	4,206	GBP	4,009	197	
Up to 3 Months	SEK	4,291	GBP	4,110	181	
Up to 3 Months	USD	3,235	MXN	3,225	10	
Up to 3 Months	USD	1,670	GBP	1,697		27
Up to 3 Months	USD	4,453	GBP	4,405	48	
Up to 3 Months	USD	2,331	GBP	2,348		17
Up to 3 Months	USD	14,263	GBP	14,268		5



Settlement	Currency Bought	Local Value £'000	Currency Sold	Local Value £'000	Asset Value	Liability Value £'000
Up to 3 Months	USD	3,235	GBP	3,216	19	
Up to 3 Months	GBP	404	ZAR	449		45
Up to 3 Months	GBP	4,256	SEK	4,291		35
Up to 3 Months	GBP	91,019	USD	92,534		1,515
Up to 3 Months	GBP	2,439	USD	2,401	38	
Up to 3 Months	GBP	3,694	USD	3,687	7	
Up to 3 Months	GBP	5,552	USD	5,566		14
Up to 3 Months	GBP	4,949	USD	5,009		60
Up to 3 Months	GBP	2,766	USD	2,713	53	
Up to 3 Months	GBP	3,955	USD	3,966		11
Up to 3 Months	GBP	354	USD	348	6	

Open Forward Currency Contracts at 31 March 2016	1,536	(9,692)
Net Forward Currency Contracts at 31 March 2016		(8,156)
Prior Year Comparative		
Open Forward Currency Contracts at 31 March 2015	2,130	(2,908)
Net Forward Currency Contracts at 31 March 2015		(778)

Note 11: Investments Analysed by Fund Manager

	31 March 2015 £'000	%	31 March 2016 £'000	%
Investment Assets				
State Street Global Advisors	1,043,466	33.0	1,049,141	33.0
Baillie Gifford	732,509	23.1	750,177	23.6
BlackRock Asset Management	397,049	12.5	375,860	11.8
Baring Asset Managers	268,200	8.4	273,442	8.6
AAM Global Ex UK	278,334	8.8	261,873	8.2
Aberdeen Frontier	38,370	1.2	35,510	1.1
Aberdeen Property Investors	216,810	6.8	237,035	7.5
HarbourVest	90,465	2.8	94,356	3.0
Standard Life	44,923	1.4	45,102	1.4
ACC Loan Fund Deposit	27,560	0.9	14,640	0.5
Global Custodian	15,180	0.5	5,980	0.2
Partners Group	16,595	0.5	34,730	1.1
NESPF	359	0.0	199	0.0
RREEF	0	0.0	0	0.0
Maven Capital	2,677	0.1	3,512	0.1
Capital Dynamics	0	0.0	1,100	0.0
RCP Advisors	0	0.0	209	0.0
Unigestion	0	0.0	3,877	0.1
	3,172,497	100.0	3,186,743	100.2
Net Long and Current Assets				
Bank Account	5	0.0	(36)	0.0
Long Term and Current Debtors Less Creditors	(1,153)	0.0	(4,914)	(0.2)
Net Assets	3,171,349	100.0	3,181,793	100.0

The following investments represent more than 5% of the Net Investment Assets:

Security	Market Value 31 March 2015 £'000	% of Net Investment Assets	Market Value 31 March 2016 £'000	% of Net Investment Assets
MPF International Equity Index Pooled Fund	554,760	17.5	472,794	14.8
MPF UK Equity Pooled Fund	488,706	15.4	452,600	14.2

The investments listed above are Pooled Investments, i.e. where two or more parties 'pool' or combine their investments. This type of investment allows the Fund to gain from economies of scale, i.e. lower transaction costs, and diversification that can help reduce risk.

Note 12: Stock Lending

	2014/15 £'000	Collatera Percentage	2015/16 £'000	Collateral Percentage
Stock on Loan				
Equities	154,862		184,676	
Fixed Interest	64,434		42,736	
Total Exposure	219,296		227,412	
Total Collateral	242,961	110.79	253,776	111.59

Stock Lending is the lending of stock from one investor to another that entitles the lender to continue to receive income generated by the stock plus an additional payment by the borrower.

Collateral is held at a minimum of 102% in respect of each borrower, consisting of UK and Overseas Gilts, UK Equities, Certificates of Deposit and Letters of Credit.

Note 13: Property Holdings

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Opening Balance	159,240	211,960
Additions:	2,640	76
Purchases	40,879	25,824
Construction	0	158
Subsequent Expenditure		
Disposals	(4,747)	(8,814)
Net Increase in Market Value	13,948	3,351
Other Changes in Fair Value	0	0
Closing Balance	211,960	232,555

The property holdings note shows those UK properties directly held by the Fund and as such the Fund is responsible for all repairs, maintenance or enhancements. There are no restrictions on the realisability of the property or the remittance of income or proceeds on disposal and the fund is not under any contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop any of these properties, as all are addressed within the Fund's Property Investment Strategy.

The future minimum lease payments receivable by the Fund are as follows:

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Within One Year	12,273	12,492
Between One Year and Five Years	46,161	45,840
Later than Five Years	87,798	84,679
Total	146,232	143,011

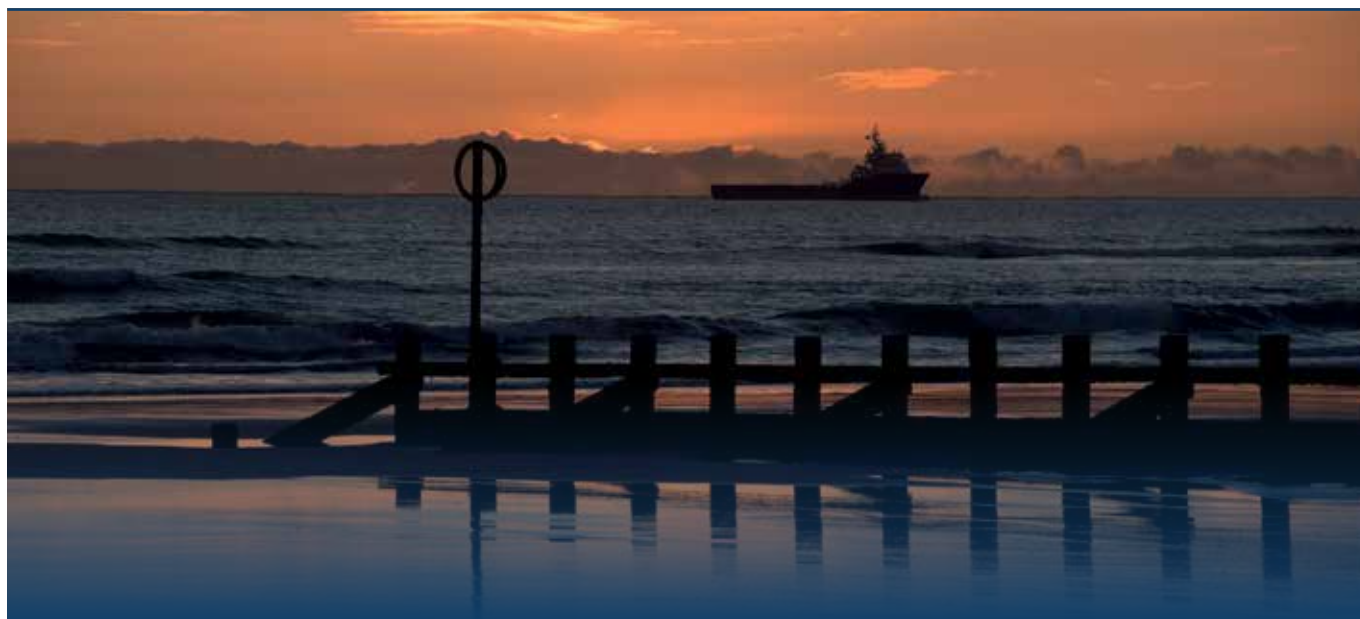
Note 14: Financial and Non-Financial Instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial and non-financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the fair value of financial assets and liabilities (excluding cash) by category and net assets statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period. Non-financial instruments have been added to the table for reconciliation to the Net Assets of the Fund.

Designated as Fair Value through Profit & Loss	Loans and Receivables	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost		Designated as Fair Value through Profit & Loss	Loans and Receivables	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost
31 March 2015 £'000	£'000	£'000		31 March 2015 £'000	£'000	£'000
Financial Assets						
257,523			Fixed Interest	281,221		
1,364,023			Equities	1,357,524		
1,097,003			Pooled	1,097,674		
0			Pooled Property	0		
155,003			Private Equity	179,867		
0			Derivative contracts	0		
	88,017		Cash		46,129	
	0		Other		0	
	19,910		Debtors		18,578	
2,873,552	107,927		Subtotal	2,916,286	64,707	
Financial Liabilities						
(1,032)			Derivative contracts	(8,227)		
			Other			
		(21,058)	Creditors			(23,528)
			Borrowings			
(1,032)		(21,058)		(8,227)		(23,528)
2,872,520	107,927	(21,058)	Financial Instruments Total	2,908,059	64,707	(23,528)
Non-Financial Instruments						
211,960			Property	232,555		
3,084,480	107,927	(21,058)		3,140,614	64,707	(23,528)
		3,171,349	Net Assets of the Fund			3,181,793

Note 15: Net Gains/(Losses) on Financial and Non-Financial Instruments

31 March 2015 £'000		31 March 2016 £'000
	Financial Assets	
285,645	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	(21,900)
0	Loans and Receivables	0
0	Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost	0
	Financial Liabilities	
(313)	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	(9,879)
0	Loans and Receivables	0
0	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	0
285,332	Net Gains/(Losses) on Financial Instruments	(31,779)
	Non-Financial Instruments	
13,948	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	3,351
299,280	Net Gains/(Losses) of the Fund	(28,428)



Note 16: Valuation of Financial and Non-Financial Instruments carried at Fair Value

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair value.

Level 1

Financial instruments at level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts.

Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2

Financial instruments at 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 input that are based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3

Financial instruments at level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instruments valuation is not based on observable market data.

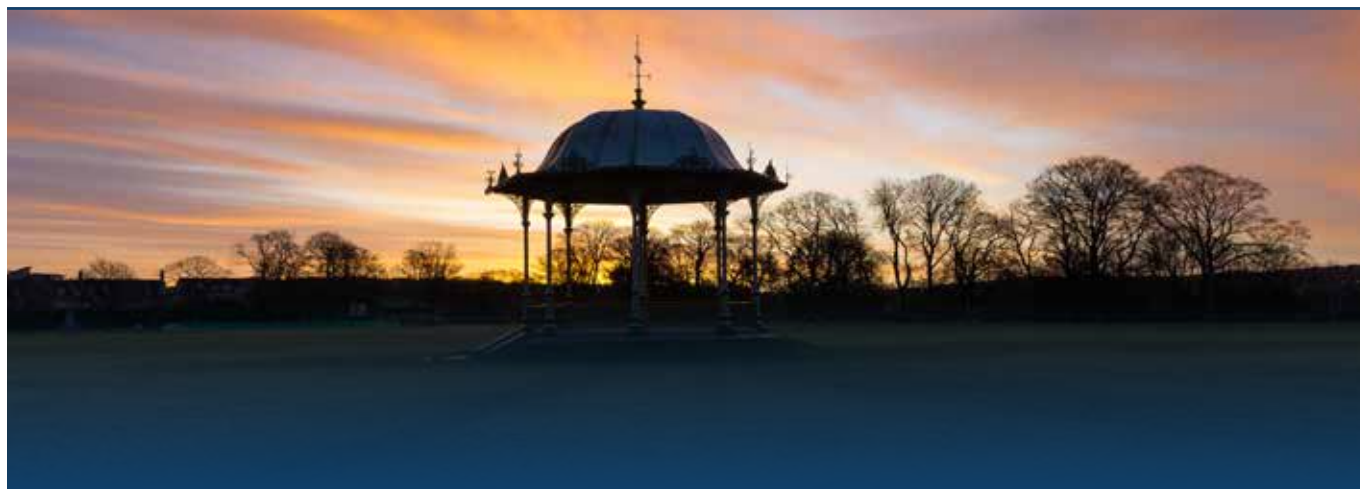
Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The values of the investment in private equity are based on valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity funds in which North East Scotland Pension Fund has invested.

These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP. Valuations are usually undertaken annually at the end of December. Cash flow adjustments are used to roll forward the valuations to 31 March as appropriate.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund grouped into Levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair values is observable.

Non-Financial instruments have been added to the table for reconciliation to Net Assets of the Fund.



	Quoted Market Price	Using Observable Inputs	With Significant Unobservable Inputs	
Values at 31 March 2016	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	2,754,086	0	162,200	2,916,286
Loans and Receivables	64,707			64,707
Total Financial Assets	2,818,793	0	162,200	2,980,993
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	0	(8,227)	0	(8,227)
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	(23,528)	0	0	(23,528)
Total Financial Liabilities	(23,528)	(8,227)	0	(31,755)
Total Financial Instruments	2,795,265	(8,227)	162,200	2,949,238
Non-Financial Instruments				
Non-Financial Instruments at Fair Value through Profit and Loss		232,555		232,555
Net Assets of the Fund	2,795,265	224,328	162,200	3,181,793



	Quoted Market Price	Using Observable Inputs	With Significant Unobservable Inputs	
Values at 31 March 2015	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	2,736,521	0	137,031	2,873,552
Loans and Receivables	107,927			107,927
Total Financial Assets	2,844,448	0	137,031	2,981,479
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	0	(1,032)	0	(1,032)
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	(21,058)	0	0	(21,058)
Total Financial Liabilities	(21,058)	(1,032)	0	(22,090)
Total Financial Instruments	2,823,390	(1,032)	137,031	2,959,389
Non-Financial Instruments				
Non-Financial Instruments at Fair Value through Profit and Loss		211,960		211,960
Net Assets of the Fund	2,823,390	210,928	137,031	3,171,349

Note 17: Risk arising from Financial and Non-Financial Instruments

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, ensuring there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows.

The Fund manages these investment risks as part of its overall Pension Fund risk management strategy.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pensions Committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Fund. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity 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.

Specific risk exposure is limited by applying risk weighted maximum exposures to individual investments.

Other Price Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year and in consultation with the Fund's Scheme Actuary, the Fund has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2015/16 reporting period.

Asset Type	Potential Market Movements (+/-)
Global Bonds	6.0%
UK Equities	20.0%
Overseas Equities	20.9%
Private Equity	27.0%
Property	13.0%
Cash	1.2%

The potential price changes disclosed above are broadly consistent with a one standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. The sensitivities are consistent with the assumptions contained in the Scheme Actuary's most recent review. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

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 would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is shown overleaf).

Non-Financial instruments have been added to the table for reconciliation to the Net Investment Assets.

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2016 £'000	Percentage Change %	Value on Increase £'000	Value on Decrease £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	37,902	1.2	38,357	37,447
Investment Portfolio Assets				
Global Bonds	411,865	6.0	436,577	387,153
UK Equities	1,073,418	20.0	1,288,102	858,734
Overseas Equities	1,251,136	20.9	1,512,623	989,649
Private Equity	179,867	27.0	228,431	131,303
Total Financial Instruments	2,954,188		3,504,090	2,404,286
Non-Financial Instruments				
Property	232,555	13.0	262,787	202,323
Total Assets Available to Pay Benefits	3,186,743		3,766,877	2,606,609

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Percentage Change %	Value on Increase £'000	Value on Decrease £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	86,985	1.8	88,551	85,419
Investment Portfolio Assets				
Global Bonds	264,545	7.0	283,063	246,027
UK Equities	1,137,179	17.1	1,331,637	942,721
Overseas Equities	1,316,825	17.4	1,545,953	1,087,697
Private Equity	155,003	24.2	192,514	117,492
Total Assets Available to Pay Benefits	2,960,537		3,441,718	2,479,356
Non-Financial Instruments				
Property	211,960	15.1	243,966	179,954
Total Assets Available to Pay Benefits	3,172,497		3,685,684	2,659,310



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 represents 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 Fund in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, 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 2015 and 31 March 2016 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

Asset Type	As at 31 March 2015 £'000	As at 31 March 2016 £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	88,017	46,129
Cash Balances	5	(36)
Fixed Interest Securities	264,545	411,865
Total	352,567	457,958

Interest Rate Risk Sensitivity Analysis

The Fund 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. A 100 basis point (BPS) movement in interest rates is consistent with the level of sensitivity applied as part of the Fund's risk management strategy. The Fund's Scheme Actuary has advised that long term average rates are expected to move less than 100 basis points from one year to the next and experience suggests that such movements are likely.

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 BPS change in interest rates:

Asset Type	Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2016 £'000	Change in Year in the Net Assets available to Pay Benefits	
		+ 100 BPS £'000	- 100 BPS £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	46,129	46,590	45,668
Cash Balances	(36)	(36)	(36)
Fixed Interest Securities	411,865	415,984	407,746
Total Change in Assets Available	457,958	462,538	453,378

Asset type	Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Change in Year in the Net Assets available to Pay Benefits	
		+ 100 BPS £'000	- 100 BPS £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	88,017	88,897	87,137
Cash Balances	5	5	5
Fixed Interest Securities	264,545	267,190	261,900
Total Change in Assets Available	352,567	356,092	349,042



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 holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than £UK.

The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by the Fund in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to currency fluctuations.

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure as at 31 March 2016 and as at the previous period end:

Currency Exposure – Asset Type	Asset Value as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Asset Value as at 31 March 2016 £'000
Overseas Quoted Securities	741,326	767,261
Overseas Unquoted Securities	134,354	157,588
Overseas Unit Trusts	600,150	508,240
Overseas Public Sector Bonds (Quoted)	117,201	135,283
Overseas Corporate Bonds (Quoted)	47,183	52,198
Total Overseas Assets	1,640,214	1,620,570

Currency Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund investment advisors, the Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements to be 10%.

This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

A 10% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets to pay benefits as shown below:

Currency Exposure – Asset Type	Asset Value as at 31 March 2016 £'000	Change to Net Assets +10% £'000	Change to Net Assets -10% £'000
Overseas Quoted Securities	767,261	843,987	690,535
Overseas Unquoted Securities	157,588	173,347	141,829
Overseas Unit Trust	508,240	559,064	457,416
Overseas Public Sector Bonds (Quoted)	135,283	148,811	121,755
Overseas Corporate Bonds (Quoted)	52,198	57,418	46,978
Total Change in Assets Available	1,620,570	1,782,627	1,458,513

Currency Exposure – Asset Type	Asset Value as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Change to Net Assets +10% £'000	Change to Net Assets -10% £'000
Overseas Quoted Securities	741,326	815,459	667,193
Overseas Unquoted Securities	134,354	147,789	120,919
Overseas Unit Trust	600,150	660,165	540,135
Overseas Public Sector Bonds (Quoted)	117,201	128,921	105,481
Overseas Corporate Bonds (Quoted)	47,183	51,901	42,465
Total Change in Assets Available	1,640,214	1,804,235	1,620,570

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.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Fund's credit criteria. The Local Government Pension Investment regulations have limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits placed with any one class of financial institution. Money market fund deposits are made through the Funds' Global Custodian and are evaluated according to their internal criteria.

Deposits made to the Aberdeen City Council (ACC) loans fund are administered within the City Council treasury policy.

The Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and has had no experience of default or uncollectable deposits. The Fund's cash holding at 31 March 2016 was £46,093,000 (31 March 2015 £88,022,000). This was held with the following institutions as shown below:

Summary	Rating	Balance as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Balance as at 31 March 2016 £'000
Money Market Funds			
Deutsche Managed GBP	AAAm	37,676	22,746
Deutsche Euro	AAAm	5,581	200
BNY Mellon LIQ USD	AAAm	1,041	3,888
Bank Deposit Accounts			
ACC Loans Fund Deposit	N/A	27,560	14,640
BNY Mellon	AAAm	11,474	713
Natwest, (API)	BBB+	4,685	3,942
Subtotal		88,017	46,129
Bank Current Accounts			
Clydesdale Bank	BBB+	5	(36)
Total		88,022	46,093

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Fund ensures that it has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. The Fund has immediate access to its cash holdings at all times.

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 into cash. As at 31 March 2016 the value of illiquid assets was £394,754,749, which represented 12.4% of the total fund assets (31 March 2015 £348,991,608 which represented 11.0% of the total fund assets).



Note 18: Breakdown of Long Term and Current Assets and Liabilities

	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Long Term Assets	233	156
Current Assets		
Employees' Contributions due	2,208	2,288
Employers' Contributions due	5,801	6,823
Sundry Debtors	11,663	9,347
	19,672	18,458
Bank	5	(36)
Total Current Assets	19,677	18,422
Total Long Term and Current Assets	19,910	18,578

Analysis of Assets	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Long Term Assets		
Other Entities and Individuals	233	156
Central Government Bodies	148	0
Other Local Authorities	7,650	8,059
Other Entities and Individuals	11,874	10,399
Total Current Assets	19,672	18,458
Total Long Term and Current Assets	19,905	18,614

Current Liabilities	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Sundry Creditors	14,170	21,941
Benefits Payable	6,888	1,587
Total Current Liabilities	21,058	23,528

Analysis of Liabilities	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Central Government Bodies	1,503	1,909
Other Local Authorities	572	417
Other Entities and Individuals	18,983	21,202
Total Current Liabilities	21,058	23,528



Note 19: Related Party Transactions

Aberdeen City Council provides administration services for the Pension Funds, the costs of which are reimbursed by the Funds.

The costs of these services for the North East Scotland Pension Fund amounted to £1,146,402 (2015 – £1,084,325).

Prior to the remittance of excess cash to the Investment Fund Managers, surplus cash is invested as a temporary loan with the Council. At the year end this amounted to £14,640,000 (2015 – £27,560,000) for the North East Scotland Pension Fund.

Interest was received from the Council of £82,828 (2015 – £126,686) for the North East Scotland Pension Fund.

Note 20: Key Management Personnel

Certain employees of Aberdeen City Council hold key positions in the financial management of the North East Scotland Pension Fund. One employee was identified and his financial relationship with the Fund (expressed as an accrued pension) is set out below:

		Accrued Pension 2014/2015 £'000	Accrued Pension 2015/2016 £'000
Steven Whyte	Head of Finance	22	24

Governance

As at 31 March 2016, 8 members of the Pensions Committee and 6 members of the Pension Board were active members or pensioners of the North East Scotland Pension Fund.

Each member of the Pension Committee/Board is required to declare any financial and non-financial interest they have in the items of business for consideration at each meeting, identifying the relevant agenda items and the nature of their interest.

In 2015/16, Elected Members' had interests in scheduled and admitted bodies as follows:

Aberdeen Sports Village – Cllr William Young

Aberdeen Performing Arts – Cllr James Kiddie, Cllr Aileen Malone and Cllr Alan Donnelly

Grampian Valuation Joint Board – Cllr Alan Donnelly

Oakbank School Trust – Cllr William Young, Cllr Alan Donnelly

Sport Aberdeen – Cllr Alan Donnelly

Note 21: Contractual Commitments as at 31 March 2016

As at 31 March 2016 the NESPF had contractual commitments in respect of Private Equity and Global Real Estate portfolios;

	Contractual Commitments £'000	Undrawn Commitments £'000
HarbourVest	114,799	23,951
Standard Life	117,054	34,812
Partners Group	80,077	44,631
NESPF	0	0
Maven (SLF)	10,000	4,033
Capital Dynamics	20,000	18,900
RCP Advisors	17,394	16,872
Unigestion	27,749	23,679
Total	387,073	166,878

Note 22: Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC)

Additional voluntary contributions are not included in the Pension Funds Accounts.

The amount of additional voluntary contributions paid by members during the year is shown as income in the tables below. The closing net assets values represent the value of the separately invested additional voluntary contributions. These closing values are subject to revaluation and are not a calculation of the opening value together with the total income and expenditure.

Members of the North East Scotland Pension Fund and the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund are included in the following tables. Standard Life and the Prudential do not provide this information by Fund.

Standard Life – Financial Statement for the period 6th April 2015 to 5 April 2016

	£
Opening Net Asset Value	2,103,397
Total Income	75,133
Total Expenditure	243,520
Closing Net Asset Value	1,994,288

Prudential – Financial Statement for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

	£
Opening Net Asset Value	22,765,446
Total Income	2,006,340
Total Expenditure	1,907,884
Closing Net Asset Value	23,347,664

Note 23: Contingent Assets/ Liabilities

The North East Scotland Pension Fund holds three insurance bonds and one cash bond, from transferee employing bodies 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.

Orphan liabilities

Orphan liabilities are managed under the Fund's termination policy, as set out by the Scheme's Actuary. The Fund has identified one potential Orphaned liability, which has yet to be quantified by the Scheme Actuary. Therefore, it has not been accrued within the accounts and is not considered to be material.

Note 24: Impairment Losses

During 2015/16 the Fund has recognised an impairment loss of £2,172,903.89 (2014/2015 £2,649,444) for possible non-recovery of pensioner death overpayments and potential non-payment of cessation values where the employer is not backed by a guarantee.

Following a post balance sheet event this non-payment of recognised impairment loss has now been paid in full.

Note 25: Investment Principles

A summary of the Statement of Investment Principles is available on the Pension Fund's Website www.nespf.org.uk. A full version of the Statement of Investment Principles is available on request from Head of Finance, Aberdeen City Council, Corporate Governance, Level 1 West, Business Hub 7, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB.

The Statement of Investment Principles is reviewed on an annual basis by the Pensions Panel and in light of any change to the investment strategy of the Pension Funds.



Note 26: Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty.

The items in the net asset statement 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 Assumption
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits.	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions 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.	The methodology used by the Scheme Actuary is in line with accepted guidelines. Further to the Fund's liability being calculated every three years, an update of the funding position is calculated by the Scheme Actuary every 3 months. Further information can be found in note 1.
Private Equity	Private equity investments are valued at fair value in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation guidelines. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total private equity investments in the Annual Accounts is £180 million. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.

Note 27: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The draft Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Head of Finance on 24 June 2016. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the Annual Accounts or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2016, the figures in the Annual Accounts and Notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. No such adjustments have been required.

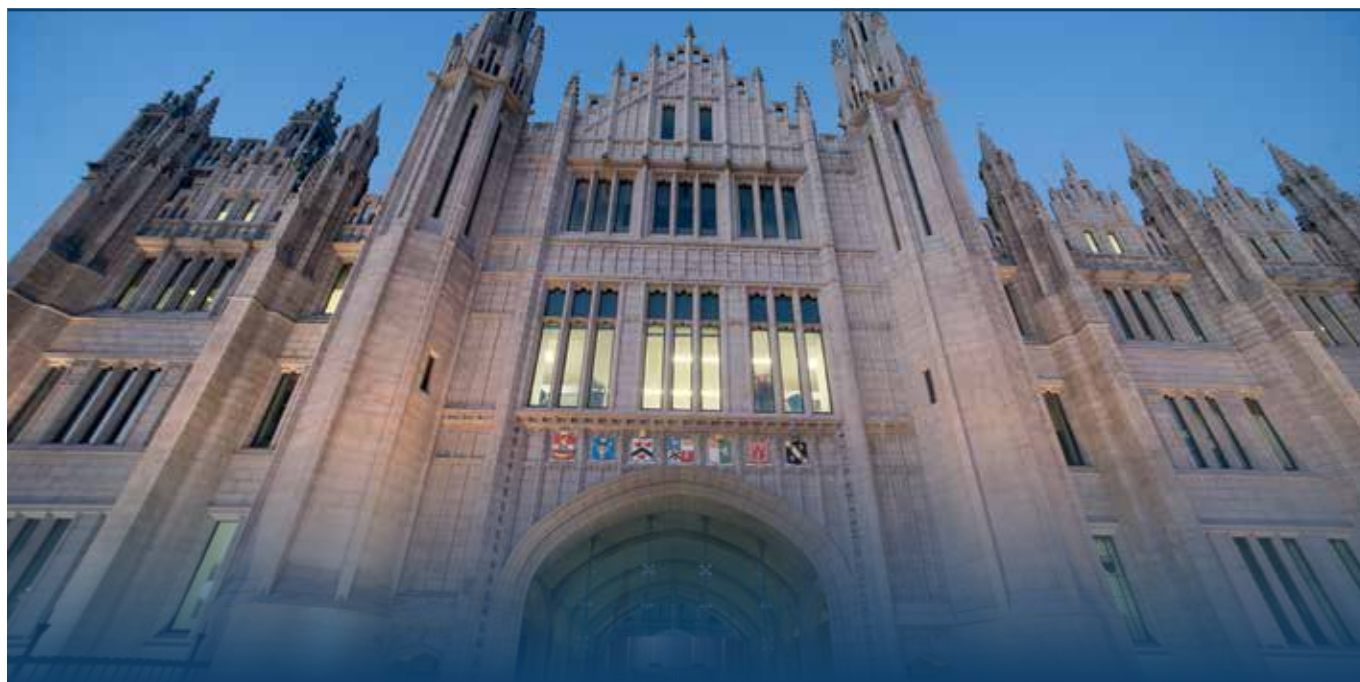
Following 31 March 2016 there have been a number of events:

The Fund terminated its Global ex UK mandate due to underperformance, which was transitioned during April 2016 and funded allocations to two Diversified Growth Funds.

Also, during the first quarter of 2016 the Fund went out to tender for Global Custody Services. The Fund is currently working with the preferred provider to transition toward the end of 2016.

Further to the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016, markets have experienced some volatility with the strength of the Pound being the most effective against the Euro and the US Dollar.

The outcome of the Referendum has created a high degree of uncertainty and market volatility is expected to continue. The Pension Fund will monitor the situation and address any issues that may arise.



Note 28: Agency Arrangements for Administering Compensatory 'Added' Years

The North East Scotland Pension Fund administers compensatory 'added' years payments for those awarded up to 2011. The Fund acts as an agent of employing bodies, in respect of staff who have had their pension augmented under The Local Government (Discretionary Payments and Injury Benefits) (Scotland) Regulations 1998.

The cash flows in respect of the relevant employing bodies and associated payroll cost for those compensatory 'added' years' payments are:

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Cost Incurred/recovered on behalf of:		
Aberdeen City Council	2,349	2,354
Aberdeenshire Council	1,394	1,379
Moray Council	714	717
Scottish Water	1,277	1,270
Other	291	299
Total	6,025	6,019
Cost Recovered	5	5

Notes To The Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund Accounts

Note 1: Actuarial Valuation Report

An Actuarial report for the Transport Fund was provided as at 31 March 2014.

Information from the 2014 Actuarial valuation is detailed below:

Market Value of Assets at Valuation	£79,800,000
Liabilities	£86,200,000
Deficit	£6,400,000

Funding Level

The Level of Funding in Terms of the Percentage of Assets available to meet Liabilities was; **93%**

Addressing the Shortfall

The funding objective as set out in the Funding Strategy Statement is to achieve and maintain a funding level of 100% of liabilities (**the funding target**). In line with the Funding Strategy Statement, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the valuation a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall. The deficit recovery period for the Fund has been set as **7 years**.

Adopting the same method and assumptions as used for calculating the funding target, by maintaining the contributions at the 2014/15 levels the deficit of £6.4 million could be eliminated in approximately 6–7 years.

Since 31 March 2014 there has been significant volatility in the investment markets which has led to a worsening of the funding position and an increase in the shortfall. However, the Administering Authority and employer (following consultation with the Actuary) have agreed that contributions will remain at the current level (as detailed in the Schedule to the Rates and Adjustments Certificate).

Total Contribution Rate (as percentage of payroll)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	33% plus	33% plus	33% plus
	£1,500,000	£1,500,000	£1,500,000

Schedule to the Rates and Adjustments Certificate

The Schedule to the Rates and Adjustments Certificate for the Fund sets out the contributions for the employer over the three year period to 31 March 2018.

The rate takes into account the funding plan, as laid down in the Funding Strategy Statement, in particular in relation to deficit recovery period, assumed level of investment returns over the deficiency recovery period and implementation of changes in employer contributions where these are required. Contribution requirements for the period from 1 April 2018 onwards will be revised as part of the next actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2017 and will be confirmed in the Rates and Adjustments Certificate and Schedule accompanying that valuation report.

Assumptions Used to Calculate Funding Target

Pre-retirement	3.65% p.a
Post-retirement	3.65% p.a
Assumed Long Term Price Inflation (CPI)	3.1% p.a
Salary Increases – Long term	5.1% p.a
Salary Increases – Short term	3.1% p.a
Pension Increases in Payment	3.1% p.a

The Transport Fund used the Attained Age method for the employing body First Aberdeen, to reflect that this scheme was closed to new entrants from 31 March 1994.

The full Actuarial Report and the Funding Strategy Statement for the Fund is available from the office of the Head of Finance, Aberdeen City Council, Corporate Governance, Level 1 West, Business Hub 7, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB.

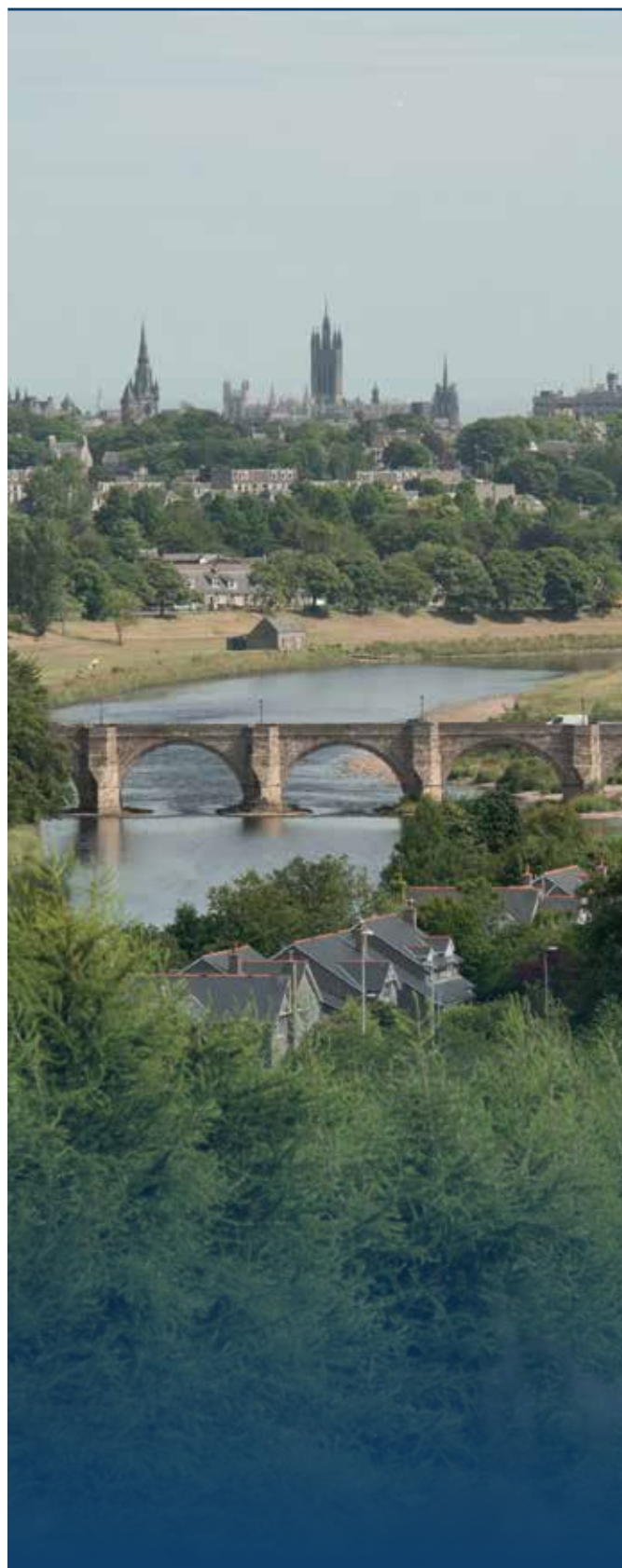
Actuarial Statement

The Scheme Actuary has provided a statement describing the funding arrangements of the Fund.

The actuarial value of promised retirement benefits at the accounting date, calculated in line with International Accounting Standards 19 (IAS 19) assumptions, is estimated to be £75.3m (2015 £78.8m). The figure is used for the statutory accounting purposes by Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund and complies with the requirements of IAS 26.

The figure is only prepared for the purposes of IAS 26 and has no validity in other circumstances. In particular, it is not relevant for calculations undertaken for funding purposes and setting contributions payable to the Fund.

The full statement by the Consulting Actuary can be found in Appendix 1.



Note 2: Contributions Receivable

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Employees' Normal Contributions	134	127
Employer's Normal Contributions	725	668
Employer's Deficit Recovery Contributions	1,494	1,508
Employer's Augmentation Contributions	0	0
Total Employer's Contributions	2,219	2,176
Total	2,353	2,303
	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Scheduled Body	2,353	2,303
Total	2,353	2,303

Note 3: Benefits Payable

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Pensions	2,921	2,998
Commutation and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	325	743
Lump Sum Death Benefits	85	3
Total	3,331	3,744
	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Scheduled Body	3,331	3,744
Total	3,331	3,744

Note 4: Payment to and on Account of Leavers

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Contributions Refunded	1	0
Individual Transfers	0	0
Total	1	0

Note 5: Management Expenses

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Pension Fund Staffing Costs – Administration	26	29
Support Services including IT*	15	16
Printing and Publications	1	1
Administration Expenses Total	42	46
Pension Fund Staffing Costs – Investment	3	3
Pension Fund Committee	1	1
External Audit Fee	1	1
Internal Audit Fee	1	0
Actuarial Fees	31	9
General Expenses*	1	2
Oversight and Governance Expenses Total	38	16
Investment Management	(13)	157
Custody Fees	11	9
Transaction Costs †	16	0
Investment Management Expenses *	14	166
Management Expenses Grand Total	94	228

* Restated 2014–15 between the headings 'Support Services inc IT' £1K to 'General Expenses' £1K in accordance with CIPFA Guidance on Management Costs.

† A breakdown of Transaction Costs is shown below:

	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Fee/Tax	6	0
Commission	10	0
Total Transaction Costs	16	0

Note 6: Investment Income

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Fixed Interest Securities	705	192
Equity Dividends	887	(66)
Pooled Investments	1	(1)
Interest on Cash Deposit	21	6
Other (including P/L from Currency and Derivatives)	160	373
Total	1,774	504
Tax -		
Withholding Tax – Fixed Interest Securities	0	0
Withholding Tax – Equities	(75)	5
Withholding Tax – Pooled	(1)	1
Total Tax	(76)	6
Net Total	1,698	510

Note 7: Investment Assets

Reconciliation of Movements in Investments and Derivatives

	Market Value	Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Market Value
	31 March 2015 £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Fixed Interest	37,107	3,093	(3,211)	146	37,135
UK Equities	24	49	(78)	5	0
Overseas Equities	0	0	0	0	0
Pooled Investments	52,129	12,343	(13,457)	(2,711)	48,304
	89,260	15,485	(16,746)	(2,560)	85,439
Cash	(189)				385
Net Investment Assets	89,071				85,824

	Market Value	Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Market Value
	31 March 2014 £'000				31 March 2015 £'000
Fixed Interest	23,751	42,579	(32,999)	3,776	37,107
UK Equities	23,283	2,205	(26,210)	746	24
Overseas Equities	6,438	2,505	(9,386)	443	0
Pooled Investments	20,875	62,472	(35,119)	3,901	52,129
	74,347	109,761	(103,714)	8,866	89,260
Cash	4,758				(189)
Net Investment Assets	79,105				89,071

Note 8: Analysis of Investments

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Fixed Interest Securities		
UK		
Public Sector Quoted	37,107	37,135
Corporate Quoted	0	0
Corporate Unquoted	0	0
Overseas		
Public Sector Quoted	0	0
Corporate Quoted	0	0
Corporate Unquoted	0	0
Subtotal Fixed Interest Securities	37,107	37,135
Equities		
UK		
Quoted	24	0
Unquoted	0	0
Overseas		
Quoted	0	0
Unquoted	0	0
Subtotal Equities	24	0
Pooled Funds – Additional Analysis		
UK		
Fixed Income	0	0
Unit Trusts	8,309	8,229
Pooled Property Investments	0	0
Overseas		
Fixed Income	0	0
Unit Trusts	43,820	40,075
Subtotal Pooled Funds	52,129	48,304
Private Equity	0	0
Property	0	0
Cash Deposits	(189)	385
Investment Assets Total	89,071	85,824

Investment Liabilities		
Forward Ex	0	0
Derivatives	0	0
Investment Liabilities Total	0	0
Net Investment Assets	89,071	85,824

Note 9: Investments Analysed by Fund Manager

	31 March 2015 £'000	%	31 March 2016 £'000	%
Investment Assets				
Aberdeen Asset Managers	88,527	99.4	85,485	99.6
ACC Loan Fund Deposit	544	0.6	339	0.4
Net Investment Assets	89,071	100.0	85,824	100.0

The following investments represent more than 5% of the Net Investment Assets:

Security	Market Value 31 March 2015 £'000	% of Net Investment Assets	Market Value 31 March 2016 £'000	% of Net Investment Assets
UK Gilt Inflation Regs 0.125% 22/03/2024	5,160	5.8	4,953	5.8
UK Gilt Inflation Regs 0.125% 22/11/2019	6,410	7.2	6,317	7.4
UK Gilt Inflation Regs 0.250% 22/03/2052	3,921	4.4	4,406	5.1
UK Gilt Inflation Regs 1.125% 22/11/2037	7,875	8.8	7,303	8.5
Aberdeen Life UK Growth FD-A	8,310	9.3	7,289	8.5
Aberdeen GL-Euro Eq Ex UK-D2	0	0.0	5,203	6.1
Aberdeen Life Diversify GW-AA	22,206	24.9	23,170	27.0
Aberdeen Life World EQ-1G	19,817	22.2	9,245	10.8

Note 10: Stock Lending

	2014/15 £'000	Collateral Percentage	2015/16 £'000	Collateral Percentage
Stock on Loan				
Equities	4		0	
Fixed Interest	1		0	
Total Exposure	5		0	
Total Collateral	6	120.00	0	0.00

Stock Lending is the lending of stock from one investor to another that entitles the lender to continue to receive income generated by the stock plus an additional payment by the borrower.

Collateral is held at a minimum of 102% in respect of each borrower, consisting of UK and Overseas Gilts, UK Equities, Certificates of Deposit and Letters of Credit.



Note 11: Financial and Non-Financial Instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial and non-financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the fair value of financial assets and liabilities (excluding cash) by category and net assets statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period.

31 March 2015				31 March 2016		
Designated as Fair Value through Profit & Loss	Loans and Receivables	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost		Designated as Fair Value through Profit & Loss	Loans and Receivables	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000
			Financial Assets			
37,107			Fixed Interest	37,135		
24			Equities	0		
52,129			Pooled	48,304		
0			Pooled Property	0		
			Cash		385	
	829		Debtors		664	
89,260	829	0		85,439	1,049	0
			Financial Liabilities			
	(189)		Cash			
		(260)	Creditors			(245)
89,260	640	(260)		85,439	1,049	(245)
		89,640	Financial Instruments Total			86,243
			Non-Financial Instruments			
0			Property	0		
89,260	640	(260)		85,439	1,049	(245)
		89,640	Net Assets of the Fund			86,243



Note 12: Net Gains and Losses on Financial and Non-Financial Instruments

31 March 2015 £'000		31 March 2016 £'000
£'000	Financial Assets	£'000
8,866	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	(2,560)
0	Loans and Receivables	0
0	Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost	0
	Financial Liabilities	
0	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	0
0	Loans and Receivables	0
0	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	0
8,866	Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments	(2,560)
	Non-Financial Instruments	
0	Fair value through Profit and Loss	0
8,866	Non-Financial Instruments	(2,560)

Note 13: Valuation of Financial and Non-Financial Instruments carried at Fair Value

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair value.

Level 1

Financial instruments at level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts.

Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2

Financial instruments at 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 input that is based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3

Financial instruments at level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instruments valuation is not based on observable market data.

Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The values of the investment in private equity are based on valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity funds in which the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund has invested.

These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP. Valuations are usually undertaken annually at the end of December. Cash flow adjustments are used to roll forward the valuations to 31 March as appropriate.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund grouped into Levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair values is observable.

Non-Financial have been added to the table for reconciliation to the Net Assets of the Fund.



	Quoted Market Price	Using Observable Inputs	With Significant Unobservable Inputs	
Values at 31 March 2016	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	85,439	0	0	85,439
Loans and Receivables	1,049	0	0	1,049
Total Financial Assets	86,488	0	0	86,488
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss				
Loans and Receivables	0	0	0	0
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	(245)	0	0	(245)
Total Financial Liabilities	(245)	0	0	(245)
Total Financial Instruments	86,243	0	0	86,243
Non-Financial Instruments				
Non-Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss		0		0
Net Assets of the Fund	86,243	0	0	86,243

	Quoted Market Price	Using Observable Inputs	With Significant Unobservable Inputs	
Values at 31 March 2015	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	89,260	0	0	89,260
Loans and Receivables	829	0	0	849
Total Financial Assets	90,089	0	0	90,089
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss				
Loans and Receivables	(189)	0	0	(189)
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	(260)	0	0	(260)
Total Financial Liabilities	(449)	0	0	(449)
Total Financial Instruments	89,640	0	0	89,640
Non-Financial Instruments				
Non-Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss		0		0
Net Assets of the Fund	89,640	0	0	89,640



Note 14: Risk arising from Financial and Non-Financial Instruments

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, ensuring there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows.

The Fund manages these investment risks as part of its overall Pension Fund Risk Management Strategy.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pensions Committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Fund. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity 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.

Specific risk exposure is limited by applying risk weighted maximum exposures to individual investments.

Other Price Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year and in consultation with the Fund's Scheme Actuary, the Fund has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2015/16 reporting period.

Asset Type	Potential Market Movements (+/-)
Global Bonds	10.6%
UK Equities	20.0%
Overseas Equities	20.5%
Cash	1.2%

The potential price changes disclosed above are broadly consistent with a one standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. The sensitivities are consistent with the assumptions contained in the Scheme Actuary's most recent review. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

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 would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is shown below).

Non-Financial instruments have been added to the table for reconciliation to the Net Investment Assets.

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2016 £'000	Percentage Change %	Value on Increase £'000	Value on Decrease £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	385	1.2%	390	380
Investment Portfolio Assets				
Global Bonds	37,135	10.6%	41,071	33,199
UK Equities	8,229	20.0%	9,875	6,583
Overseas Equities	40,075	20.5%	48,290	31,860
Total Financial Instruments	85,824		99,626	72,022
Non-Financial Instruments				
Property	0	N/A	0	0
Total Assets Available to Pay Benefits	85,824		99,626	72,022

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Percentage Change %	Value on Increase £'000	Value on Decrease £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	(189)	1.8%	(192)	(186)
Investment Portfolio Assets				
Global Bonds	37,107	7.0%	39,704	34,510
UK Equities	8,333	17.1%	9,758	6,908
Overseas Equities	43,820	17.4%	51,445	36,195
Total Financial Instruments	89,071		100,715	77,427
Non-Financial Instruments				
Property	0	N/A	0	0
Total Assets available to Pay Benefits	89,071		100,715	77,427

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 represents 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 Fund in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, 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 2015 and 31 March 2016 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

Asset type	As at 31 March 2015 £'000	As at 31 March 2016 £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	(189)	385
Cash Balances	1	1
Fixed Interest Securities	37,107	37,135
Total	36,919	37,521

Interest Rate Risk Sensitivity Analysis

The Fund 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. A 100 basis point (BPS) movement in interest rates is consistent with the level of sensitivity applied as part of the Fund's risk management strategy. The Fund's Scheme Actuary has advised that long term average rates are expected to move less than 100 basis points from one year to the next and experience suggests that such movements are likely.

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 BPS change in interest rates:

Asset Type	Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2016 £'000	Change in Year in the Net Assets available to Pay Benefits	
		+ 100 BPS £'000	- 100 BPS £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	385	389	381
Cash Balances	1	1	1
Fixed Interest Securities	37,135	37,506	36,764
Total Change in Assets Available	37,521	37,896	37,146

Asset type	Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Change in Year in the Net Assets available to Pay Benefits	
		+ 100 BPS £'000	- 100 BPS £'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	(189)	(191)	(187)
Cash Balances	1	1	1
Fixed Interest Securities	37,107	37,478	36,736
Total Change in Assets Available	36,919	37,288	36,550

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 holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than £UK.

The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by the Fund in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to currency fluctuations.

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure as at 31 March 2016 and as at the previous period end:

Currency Exposure – Asset Type	Asset Value as at 31 March 2015	Asset Value as at 31 March 2016
	£'000	£'000
Overseas Quoted Securities	0	0
Overseas Unit Trusts	43,820	40,075
Overseas Public Sector Bonds (Quoted)	0	0
Total Overseas Assets	43,820	40,075

Currency Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund investment advisors, the Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements to be 10%.

This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

A 10% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets to pay benefits as follows:

Currency Exposure – Asset Type	Asset Value as at 31 March 2016	Change to Net Assets	Change to Net Assets
	£'000	+10% £'000	-10% £'000
Overseas Quoted Securities	0	0	0
Overseas Unit Trust	40,075	44,083	36,067
Overseas Public Sector Bonds (Quoted)	0	0	0
Total Change in Assets Available	40,075	44,083	36,067

Currency Exposure – Asset Type	Asset Value as at 31 March 2015	Change to Net Assets	Change to Net Assets
	£'000	+10% £'000	-10% £'000
Overseas Quoted Securities	0	0	0
Overseas Unit Trust	43,820	48,202	39,438
Overseas Public Sector Bonds (Quoted)	0	0	0
Total Change in Assets Available	43,820	48,202	39,438

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.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Fund's credit criteria. The Local Government Pension Investment regulations have limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits placed with any one class of financial institution. Money market Fund deposits are made through the Funds' Global Custodian and are evaluated according to their internal criteria.

Deposits made to the Aberdeen City Council (ACC) loans fund are administered within the City Council treasury policy.

The Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and has had no experience of default or uncollectable deposits. The Fund's cash holding at 31 March 2016 was £386,000 and at 31 March 2015 £(188,000). This was held with the following institutions:

Summary	Rating	Balance as at 31 March 2015 £'000	Balance as at 31 March 2016 £'000
Money Market Funds			
Deutsche Managed GBP	AAAm	9,473	0
Deutsche Euro	AAAm	13	1
Bank Deposit Accounts			
ACC Loans Fund Deposit	N/A	544	339
BNY Mellon	AAAm	(10,219)	45
Subtotal		(189)	385
Bank Current Accounts			
Clydesdale Bank	BBB+	1	1
Total		(188)	386

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Fund ensures that it has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. The Fund has immediate access to its cash holdings at all times.

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 value of illiquid assets was £0 which represented 0% of the total fund assets (31 March 2015 £0 which represented 0% of the total fund assets).

Note 15: Breakdown Of Long Term And Current Assets And Liabilities

	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Long Term Assets	404	378
Employees' Contributions due	4	3
Employers' Contributions due	24	16
Sundry Debtors	396	266
	424	285
Bank	1	1
Total Current Assets	425	286
Total Long Term and Current Assets	829	664

Analysis of Total Assets	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Central Government Bodies	404	378
Other Entities and Individuals	0	0
Total Long Term Assets	404	378
Central Government Bodies	27	43
Other Local Authorities	0	0
Other Entities and Individuals	397	242
Total Current Assets	424	285
Total Long Term and Current Assets	828	663

Current Liabilities	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	107	108
Benefits Payable	153	137
Total Current Liabilities	260	245

Analysis of Liabilities	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000
Other Local Authorities	0	0
Other Entities and Individuals	260	245
Total Current Liabilities	260	245

Note 16: Related Party Transactions

Aberdeen City Council provides administration services for the Pension Funds, the costs of which are reimbursed by the Funds.

The cost of these services for the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund was £35,456 (2015 – £33,536).

Prior to the remittance of excess cash to the Investment Fund Managers, surplus cash is invested as a temporary loan with the Council. At the year end this amounted to £339,000 (2015 – £544,000) for the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund.

Interest was received from the Council of £1,698 (2015 – £2,213) for the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund.

Note 17: Key Management Personnel

Certain employees of Aberdeen City Council hold key positions in the financial management of the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund. However they are not members of the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund.

Note 18: Investment Principles

A summary of the Statement of Investment Principles is available on the Pension Fund's website www.nespf.org.uk. A full version of the Statement of Investment Principles is available on request from Head of Finance, Aberdeen City Council, Corporate Governance, Level 1 West, Business Hub 7, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB.

The Statement of Investment Principles is reviewed on an annual basis by the Pensions Committee and in the light of any change to the investment strategy of the Pension Funds.

Note 19: Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty.

The items in the net asset statement at 31 March 2016 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are shown below:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumption
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits.	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions 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.	The methodology used by the Scheme Actuary is in line with accepted guidelines. Further to the Fund's liability being calculated every three years, an update of the funding position is calculated by the Scheme Actuary every 3 months. Further information can be found in note 1

Note 20: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The draft Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Head of Finance on 24 June 2016. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the Annual Accounts or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2016, the figures in the Annual Accounts and Notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. No such adjustments have been required.

Following 31 March 2016 there have been a number of events:

The Fund terminated its fund manager mandate due to underperformance and is currently concluding transition arrangements with the new manager.

Also, during the first quarter of 2016 the NESPF went out to tender for Global Custody Services. The Fund is currently working with the preferred provider to transition toward the end of 2016.

Further to the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016, markets have experienced some volatility with the strength of the Pound being the most effective against the Euro and the US Dollar.

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Aberdeen City Council as administering body for North East Scotland Pension Funds and the Accounts Commission for Scotland.

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of North East Scotland Pension Funds for the year ended 31 March 2016 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the fund accounts, the net assets statements and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the 2015/16 Code).

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 125 of the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Respective responsibilities of the Head of Finance and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. Those standards require me to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Head of Finance; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on financial statements

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2015/16 Code of the financial transactions of the funds during the year ended 31 March 2016, and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2015/16 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Opinion on other prescribed matters

In my opinion the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Annual Governance Statement has not been prepared in accordance with Delivering Good Governance in Local Government; or
- the Governance Compliance Statement does not comply with guidance from the Scottish Ministers.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Stephen Boyle

Assistant Director
Audit Scotland
4th Floor South Suite
The Athenaeum Building
8 Nelson Mandela Place
GLASGOW
G2 1BT

21 September 2016



Appendix 1 – Statement by the Consulting Actuary

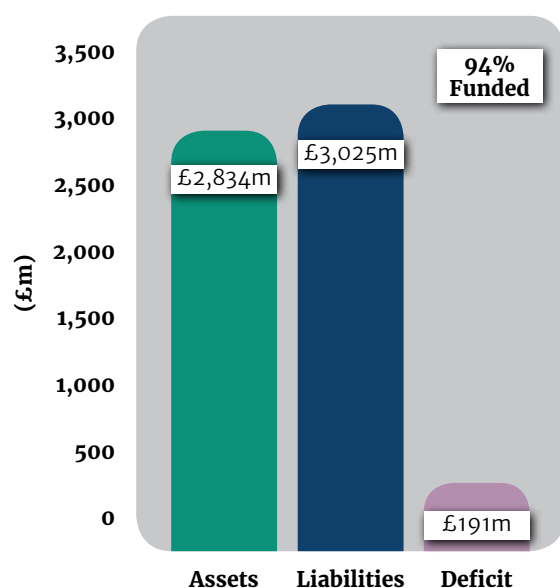
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 – Statement by the Consulting Actuary

This statement has been provided to meet the requirements under Regulation 55 (1)(d) of The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

North East Scotland Pension Fund

An actuarial valuation of the North East Scotland Pension Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2014 to determine the contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018.

On the basis of the assumptions adopted, the Fund's assets of £2,834 million represented 94% of the Fund's past service liabilities of £3,025 million (the "Funding Target") at the valuation date.



The valuation also showed that a common rate of contribution of 14.9% of pensionable pay per annum was required from employers. The common rate is calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet all liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date. It allows for the new LGPS benefit structure effective from 1 April 2015.

Further details regarding the results of the valuation are contained in our formal report on the actuarial valuation dated 31 March 2015.

In practice, each individual employer's (or employer group's) position is assessed separately and the contributions required are set out in our report. In addition to the certified contribution rates, payments to cover additional liabilities arising from early retirements will be made to the Fund by the employers.

The funding plan adopted in assessing the contributions for each individual employer (or employer group) is in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). Different approaches adopted in implementing contribution increases and deficit recovery periods are as determined through the FSS consultation process. Due to investment market changes after the valuation date, it was agreed as part of the consultation that the majority of employers would maintain their current rate of contribution of 19.3% of pensionable pay for the Council group which covers the majority of the Fund). This would be expected to remove the 31 March 2014 deficit over a period of 11 years if all the assumptions are borne out in practice.

The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method and the main actuarial assumptions used for assessing the Funding Target and the common contribution rate were as follows:

	For past service liabilities (Funding Target)	For future service liabilities (Common Contribution Rate)
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	4.9% per annum	5.6% per annum
Rate of pay increases	4.1% per annum*	4.1% per annum
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of Guranteed Minimum Pension)	2.6% per annum	2.6% per annum

* allowance was also made for short-term pay restraint over a 3 year period for some employers within the Fund.

The assets were assessed at market value.

The next triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund is due as at 31 March 2017. Based on the results of this valuation, the contribution rates payable by the individual employers will be revised with effect from 1 April 2018.

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits for the Purposes of IAS 26

IAS 26 requires the present value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits to be disclosed, and for this purpose the actuarial assumptions and methodology used should be based on IAS 19 rather than the assumptions and methodology used for funding purposes.

To assess the value of the benefits on this basis, we have used the following financial assumptions as at 31 March 2016 (the 31 March 2015 assumptions are included for comparison):

	31 March 2015	31 March 2016
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	3.3% per annum	3.6% per annum
Rate of pay increases	3.5% per annum	3.5% per annum*
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of Guranteed Minimum Pension)	2.0% per annum	2.0% per annum

* includes a corresponding allowance to that made in the actuarial valuation for short-term pay restraint.

The demographic assumptions are the same as those used for funding purposes. Full details of these assumptions are set out in the formal report on the actuarial valuation dated March 2015.

During the year corporate bond yields increased, resulting in a higher discount rate being used for IAS 26 purposes at the year-end than at the beginning of the year (3.6% p.a. versus 3.3% p.a.). There was no change in the extended long-term rate of CPI inflation during the year, resulting in the same assumption for pension increases at the year-end as at the beginning of the year (2.0% p.a.).

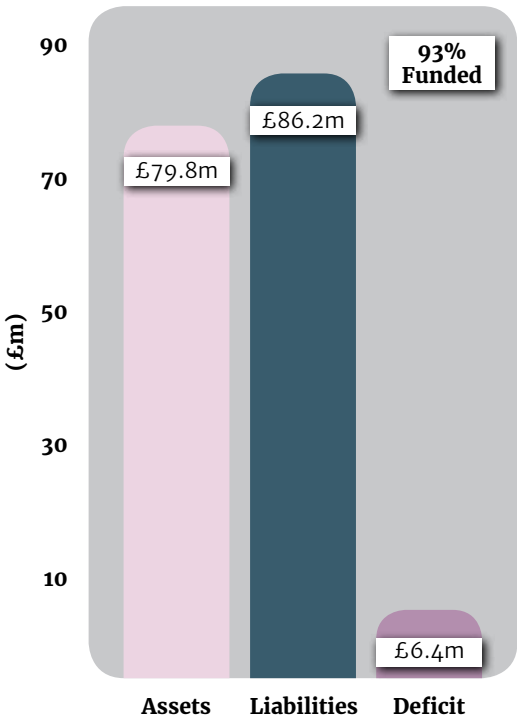
The value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits for the purposes of IAS 26 as at 31 March 2015 was estimated as £3,874 million. The effect of the changes in actuarial assumptions between 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2016 as described above is to decrease the liabilities by c£226 million. Adding interest over the year increases the liabilities by c£128 million, and allowing for net benefits accrued/paid over the period increases the liabilities by a further c£27 million including any increase in liabilities arising as a result of early retirements / augmentations).

The net effect of all the above is that the estimated total value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits as at 31 March 2016 is therefore £3,803 million.

Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund

An actuarial valuation of the Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2014 to determine the contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018.

On the basis of the assumptions adopted, the Fund's assets of £79.8 million represented 93% of the Fund's past service liabilities of £86.2 million (the "Funding Target") at the valuation date.



The valuation also showed that a common rate of contribution of 44.9% of pensionable pay per annum was required. The common rate is calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet all liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date.

The funding objective is to achieve and maintain a funding level of 100% of the Fund's past service liabilities. As part of the negotiations with the employer it has been agreed that contributions will be maintained at the 2014 level (33.0% of pensionable pay plus £1,500,000 per annum). If all assumptions are borne out in practice this would be expected to remove the 31 March 2014 deficit over a period of 6–7 years. Further details regarding the results of the valuation are contained in our formal report on the actuarial valuation dated 31 March 2015.

The valuation was carried out using the projected accrued defined benefit method and the main actuarial assumptions used for assessing the Funding Target and the common contribution rate were as follows:

	For past service liabilities (Funding Target)	For future service liabilities (Common Contribution Rate)
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	3.65% per annum	3.65% per annum
Rate of pay increases*	5.1% per annum	5.1% per annum
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of Guranteed Minimum Pension)	3.1% per annum	3.1% per annum

* allowance was also made for short-term pay restraint over the 4 years following the valuation at the rate of CPI inflation

The assets were assessed at market value.

The next triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund is due as at 31 March 2017. Based on the results of this valuation, the contribution rates payable will be revised with effect from 1 April 2018.

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits for the Purposes of IAS 26

IAS 26 requires the present value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits to be disclosed, and for this purpose the actuarial assumptions and methodology used should be based on IAS 19 rather than the assumptions and methodology used for funding purposes.

To assess the value of the benefits on this basis, we have used the following financial assumptions:

	31 March 2015	31 March 2016
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	3.2% per annum	3.5% per annum
Rate of pay increases	4.0% per annum	4.0% per annum*
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of Guranteed Minimum Pension)	2.0% per annum	2.0% per annum

* includes a corresponding allowance to that made in the actuarial valuation for short-term pay restraint at the rate of CPI inflation

The demographic assumptions are the same as those used for funding purposes. Full details of these assumptions are set out in the formal report on the actuarial valuation dated March 2015.

During the year corporate bond yields increased, resulting in a higher discount rate being used for IAS26 purposes at the year-end than at the beginning of the year (3.5% p.a. versus 3.2% p.a.). There was no change in the extended long-term rate of CPI inflation during the year, resulting in the same assumption for pension increases at the year-end as at the beginning of the year (2.0% p.a.).

The value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits for the purposes of IAS26 as at 31 March 2015 was estimated as £78.8 million.

The effect of the changes in actuarial assumptions between 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2016 as described above is to decrease the liabilities by c£3.4 million.

Adding interest over the year increases the liabilities by c£2.5 million, and allowing for net benefits accrued/paid over the period decreases the liabilities by c£2.6 million.

The net effect of all the above is that the estimated total value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits as at 31 March 2016 is therefore £75.3 million.

Paul Middleman

Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Mercer Limited

May 2016



Appendix 2 – Schedule of Employers

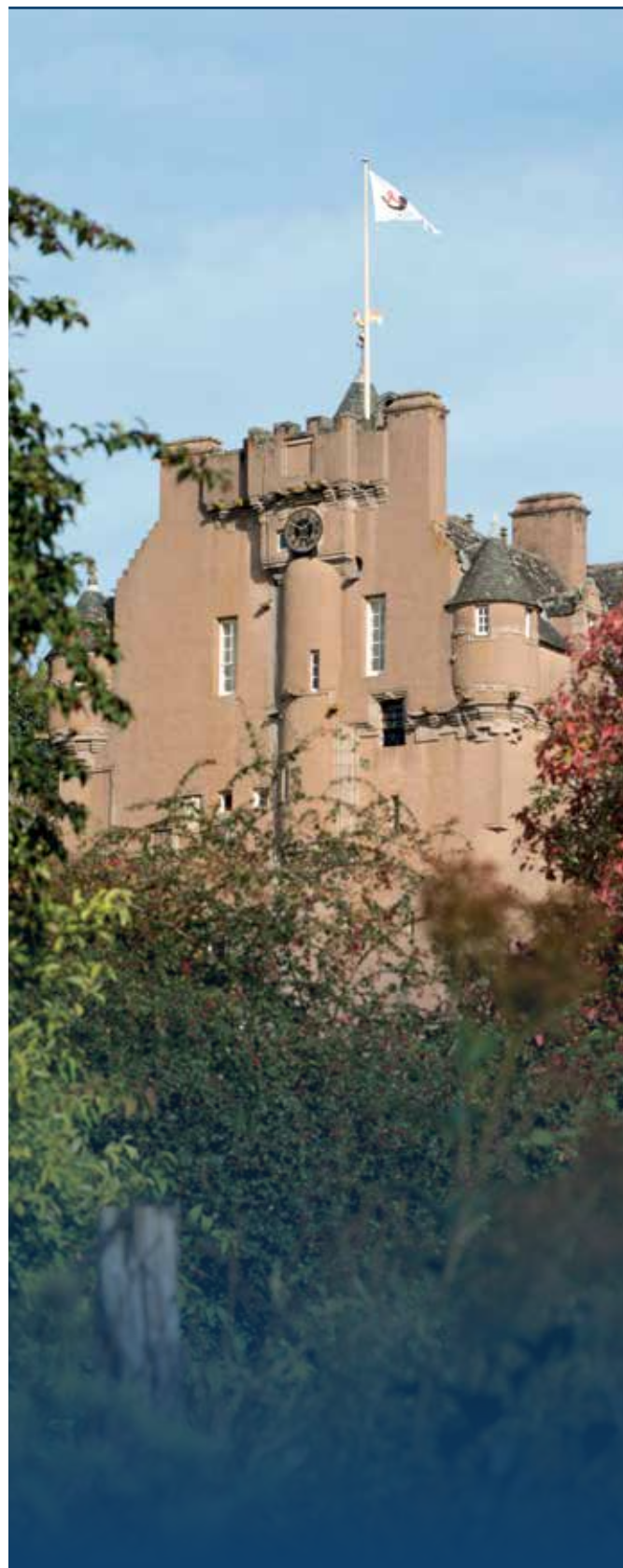
1	Aberdeen City Council (Administering Authority)	Scheduled
2	Aberdeenshire Council	Scheduled
3	The Moray Council	Scheduled
4	Scottish Water	Scheduled
5	Grampian Valuation Joint Board	Scheduled
6	Scottish Fire and Rescue Authority	Scheduled
7	Scottish Police Authority	Scheduled
8	North East Scotland College	Scheduled
9	Moray College	Scheduled
10	Visit Scotland	Scheduled
11	NESTRANS	Scheduled
12	Robertson Facilities Management (Shire)	Transferee
13	Bon Accord Care Ltd	Transferee
14	Bon Accord Support Services Ltd	Transferee
15	Aberdeen Heat & Power	Transferee
16	Station House Media Unit	Transferee
17	Aberdeen Sports Village	Transferee
18	Aberdeen Sports Trust	Transferee
19	Robertson Facilities Management (City)	Transferee
20	Forth & Oban	Transferee
21	Drugs Action	Transferee
22	The Landscaping Group	Transferee
23	Northern Community Justice Authority	Admitted
24	Aberdeen Endowments Trust	Admitted
25	North East Sensory Services	Admitted
26	Aberlour Child Care	Admitted
27	Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners	Admitted
28	Peterhead Port Authority	Admitted
29	Robert Gordons University	Admitted



30	Robert Gordon's College	Admitted
31	Aberdeen Cyrenians	Admitted
32	Mental Health Aberdeen	Admitted
33	Alcohol Support Ltd	Admitted
34	Fersands & Fountain Community Project	Admitted
35	SCARF	Admitted
36	Inspire	Admitted
37	Manor Project	Admitted
38	Archway	Admitted
39	Middlefield Community Project	Admitted
40	Gordon Rural Action	Admitted
41	Moray Anchor Project	Admitted
42	St Machar Parent Support Project	Admitted
43	Printfield Community Project	Admitted
44	HomeStart Aberdeen	Admitted
45	Aberdeen Foyer	Admitted
46	HomeStart (NEA) Fraserburgh	Admitted
47	Aberdeen Greenspace	Admitted
48	Pathways	Admitted
49	Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust	Admitted
50	Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership	Admitted
51	Aberdeen Performing Arts	Admitted
52	Aberdeen International Youth Festival	Admitted
53	Sanctuary Housing	Admitted
54	Tenants First Housing Co-op	Admitted
55	Scottish Lighthouse Museum	Admitted

Aberdeen City Council Transport Fund

1	First Aberdeen	Scheduled
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Annual Report & Accounts

15/16