

Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund

Investment Strategy Statement

DRAFT

Version History

Version Number	Revision Date	Author(s)	Change
V1.01	08/2026	Jo Thistlewood, Head of Pension Fund	Document creation (Pension Board 1/9/26)
V1.02	09/2026	Jo Thistlewood, Head of Pension Fund	Pension Fund Committee 21/09/2026
V1.03	10/2026	Jo Thistlewood, Head of Pension Fund	For consultation

Contents

Version History	2
Contents	3
1 Introduction and Purpose	5
1.1 Introduction	5
1.2 Purpose.....	5
1.3 Regulatory framework.....	5
1.4 Review process.....	6
1.5 Contact details	6
2 Governance, Roles and Responsibilities.....	6
2.1 Governing bodies.....	6
2.2 Stakeholders	7
2.3 Investment pooling.....	7
2.4 Regulatory guidance and oversight.....	7
3 Investment Objective and Long-Term Purpose	7
4 Investment Beliefs, Priorities and Preferences.....	8
5 Financial Objectives	9
5.1 Return objective	9
5.2 Risk objective.....	9
5.3 Cashflow objective	9
6 Risk Appetite and Risk Management Framework.....	9
6.1 Funding level metrics	10
6.2 Contribution metrics	10
6.3 Liquidity metrics	10
7 Strategic Asset Allocation	11
7.1 Strategic asset allocation table	11
7.2 Matters reserved for implementation.....	11
8 Responsible Investment.....	11
8.1 High-level objectives	11
8.2 Responsible investment approach	12
8.3 Responsible asset ownership	13
8.4 Thematic priorities and preferences.....	14

9	Local Investment.....	15
9.1	Beliefs	16
9.2	Objective	16
9.3	Target range.....	16
9.4	Geographic Scope	16
9.5	Returns and risk expectations.....	16
9.6	Impact priorities.....	16
9.7	Implementation	17
10	Pooling and Implementation	17
11	Monitoring, Reporting and Oversight	17
12	Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement	18
13	Publication and Review	18
14	Compliance and Related Strategies	19
14.1	Compliance	19
14.2	Related Strategies	19

1 Introduction and Purpose

1.1 Introduction

This is the Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) for the Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund (the Fund), part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It has been prepared by Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM), the Administering Authority in its capacity as Scheme Manager of the Fund.

1.2 Purpose

This ISS sets out the Fund's long-term investment objectives, beliefs, risk appetite and strategic requirements. It is intended to provide a clear framework for implementation through the pool company, LPPI, and for oversight by the Fund's governance bodies, and should be read alongside the Fund's wider funding, governance and other policies.

The ISS applies to all Fund assets in respect of all scheme employers, for the avoidance of doubt, the ISS does not enable bespoke investment strategies for individual or groups of scheme employers under any circumstances.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). The ISS and FSS are intended to operate together, with the investment strategy designed to support the funding objectives set out in the FSS.

1.3 Regulatory framework

This statement has been prepared in line with Part 4 of the *LGPS (Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2026*¹ (the Regulations), having regard to the statutory guidance issued by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) *Local Government Pension Scheme: preparing and maintaining an Investment Strategy Statement*.²

The Regulations and statutory guidance require the Administering Authority to set the Fund's high-level investment strategy, including its objectives, priorities, preferences and strategic asset allocation. They also make clear that implementation decisions, including portfolio construction, manager selection, investment style, mandate design, individual holdings and most geographic allocation decisions, sit with the pool (in the Fund's case this being Local Pensions Partnership Investments (LPPI)). This ISS is therefore intentionally strategic. It focuses on the decisions reserved to the Administering Authority and signposts, rather than duplicates, more detailed policies and implementation documents.

¹ [Timeline LGPS Investment Regulations 2026](#)

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-pension-scheme-preparing-and-maintaining-an-investment-strategy-statement>

1.4 Review process

The ISS will be monitored annually, and reviewed at least once every three years, within 18 months of each valuation date, in accordance with the Regulations.

1.5 Contact details

Any queries relating to this ISS should be directed to the Head of Pension Fund, Jo Thistlewood at jo.thistlewood@rbwm.gov.uk.

2 Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Governing bodies

The Administering Authority is responsible for setting the ISS including the high-level investment objectives and the strategic asset allocation, ensuring that it complies with applicable regulations and statutory guidance. In doing so, it will take advice from the pool company, LPPI, and, where appropriate, others in determining the strategy and ensuring that it can be implemented effectively.

Under its Constitution, RBWM has delegated all its responsibilities as Administering Authority to the Pension Fund Committee. The Constitution contains the terms of reference for the Pension Fund Committee, the Pension Advisory Panel and the Local Pension Board.

The Pension Fund Committee (the Committee), supported by the Pension Advisory Panel (the Panel), oversees the management of the Fund's assets, acting in the best financial interests of the Fund as a whole, ensuring pensions can be paid when due while managing risk prudently and fairly between stakeholders. Although not trustees, the Members of the Committee owe a fiduciary duty similar to that of trustees to scheme members (active, deferred, pensioner and dependent), and to scheme employers.

The Senior LGPS Officer is responsible for ensuring that the ISS is prepared in accordance with applicable legislation and statutory guidance.

An Independent Person supports the Committee and the Senior LGPS Officer in interpreting investment advice and provides independent challenge in the development and implementation of the strategy by the pool company.

The Local Pension Board (the Board) is engaged in the development of the ISS prior to formal consultation to support effective governance and oversight. They are one of the primary mechanisms for incorporating the perspectives of scheme employer and scheme member representatives, ensuring that stakeholder interests are considered in shaping the strategic approach.

The Fund's actuary advises on the Fund's liabilities through the triennial actuarial valuation and supports the Committee in the production of the FSS. The actuary

assists the Committee in ensuring that the ISS is consistent with the FSS, including the implications of the investment strategy on funding levels, deficit recovery periods and scheme employer contribution rates. The actuary also advises on the minimum investment return requirements to achieve full funding in the agreed recovery period in the absence of secondary scheme employer contributions (the actuarial benchmark).

2.2 Stakeholders

The Fund's governance reflects the interests of scheme employers and scheme members. Its investment strategy must balance the need to maximise long-term returns with the need to manage risk, contribution affordability and the payment of benefits.

2.3 Investment pooling

The pool company, LPPI, is responsible for providing the principal advice to the Committee in setting the investment strategy. It is then solely responsible for the implementation of the agreed strategy, including the detailed investment decisions necessary to deliver the high-level objectives and strategic asset allocation set out in this ISS.

2.4 Regulatory guidance and oversight

MHCLG oversees the LGPS and provides guidance on drafting an ISS, with the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) supporting best practice.

3 Investment Objective and Long-Term Purpose

The primary objective of the Fund is to pay pension benefits as they fall due, with the right amount being paid to the right person at the right time.

The secondary objective is to ensure that the Fund has sufficient assets to match its current and future expected pension liabilities – striving for a funding level of at least 100% by March 2040.

For the scheme to remain affordable, strong and consistent levels of investment income and growth in investments are essential to supplement the contributions to the Fund from scheme employers and active scheme members (contributing employees). Hence, the primary focus of the Fund's investment activities is to achieve appropriate risk-adjusted returns.

The Fund's investment strategy is designed to support the objective of paying pensions as they fall due. The strategy is formulated having regard to the FSS, including actuarial valuation assumptions, the maturity profile of the Fund, expected

cashflow requirements and the affordability and stability of scheme employer contributions.

The Administering Authority sets high-level financial objectives for return, risk, local investment and cashflow that meet the requirements of the FSS.

4 Investment Beliefs, Priorities and Preferences

The ultimate aim of the Fund's investment activities is to pay pension liabilities when they become due. At the 2025 actuarial valuation, the Fund was cash-flow positive (contribution receipts exceed the value of pension benefits payable), meaning it can focus its investment strategy on capital growth, rather than income generation.

The Fund is a long-term investor, allowing it to take a long-term approach to its investment strategy, enabling investment in less liquid asset classes, in private markets such as private equity, infrastructure and credit.

An important focus for the Fund is to ensure stability and affordability of scheme employer contributions over the long-term. Hence the Fund is more concerned about the risk of loss of capital value than the volatility of investment returns.

The Fund believes that diversification across asset classes and asset types that have low correlation with each other across the market cycle will tend to reduce the volatility of the overall Fund return.

The Fund expects active equity managers to deliver returns relative to an appropriate benchmark and does not favour unconstrained benchmark-agnostic approaches. It acknowledges that active management will typically incur higher investment management fees and therefore expects an appropriate level of value-add over time.

The Fund expects its equity allocation to be a significant driver of long-term capital growth and improved funding outcomes.

The Fund expects its equity allocation to remain the principal liquid growth component of the portfolio and a key contributor towards achieving its return objectives. This allocation is expected to keep pace with inflation and to generate returns in excess of the portfolio required return over a three to five-year period.

Within its equity portfolio, the Fund will support a blended approach of market exposure (passive) and deliberate ownership (active) management.

The Fund acknowledges that any passive investment portfolio may include assets in those sectors that it currently has no exposure to. The Fund is more prepared to accept 'ownership regret' than 'non-ownership regret'.

Consistent with its Responsible Investment Policy, the Fund does not have any strong preference for exclusions, however it is happy to support any baseline exclusions applied by its Pool.

The Fund believes that Local Investment can help support the local economy and create jobs. Local investments will only be pursued where they are consistent with the Fund's fiduciary duties and are expected to deliver an appropriate risk-adjusted return.

5 Financial Objectives

The Administering Authority has established the following high-level financial objectives:

5.1 Return objective

To achieve a long-term rate of return of 6.4% per annum, as calculated by the Fund's actuary as the minimum investment return required to achieve full funding in the agreed recovery period in the absence of secondary scheme employer contributions (the actuarial benchmark), consistent with the assumptions underpinning the FSS.

It is expected that the whole Fund investment returns will exceed inflation over the long-term.

The Fund will not look for concessionary returns on any of its investments in return for other 'real-world' social or environmental outcomes.

5.2 Risk objective

To manage risk such that the likelihood of materially adverse funding outcomes and increases in scheme employer contributions is minimised over the long-term. No explicit volatility target is set in this ISS.

5.3 Cashflow objective

To ensure that sufficient liquidity is available to meet benefit payments in the short-term as they fall due without requiring disinvestment under unfavourable conditions.

These objectives are considered collectively and are set in the context of the Fund's maturity, employer covenant, and contribution strategy.

6 Risk Appetite and Risk Management Framework

In accordance with its Risk Management Policy, the Fund has adopted the CIPFA (2018) framework for managing risks in the LGPS, to assist it in risk identification, assessment, and mitigation. In line with best practice, the Fund maintains a risk

register with all known material risks, each with several mitigation/control measures and several carefully calculated risk scores.

The FSS includes a number of significant risks to achieving the Fund's funding objectives, including the risk that the investment strategy fails to deliver the assumed rate of investment return (in real terms) that underlies the funding strategy.

The Administering Authority's risk appetite has been set having taken advice from LPPI and having considered the views of the Fund actuary, including the potential impact of investment risk on funding outcomes and scheme employer contribution stability and affordability. The Administering Authority recognises that day to day risk management and monitoring are implemented by LPPI, while the Administering Authority remains responsible for setting the overall risk appetite and strategic principles.

The Fund has agreed a number of risk appetite statement metrics in respect of funding level, scheme employer contributions and liquidity, which are monitored at each Committee meeting.

6.1 Funding level metrics

Given that both the 2022 and the 2025 triennial valuations showed the Fund at 86% funded, and the Fund has confirmed its priority to be fully funded by March 2040 at the latest, the Fund has set a lower (red) threshold for funding level monitoring at 80% in the short-term, with the likelihood that the funding level falls below that level in ten-years' time of less than 30%.

In order to focus on the priority for full funding, the Fund has agreed another metric that the likelihood of the projected funding level being less than 100% in ten-years' time is less than 50%.

6.2 Contribution metrics

The Fund has a stated priority within its FSS to ensure total scheme employer contribution rates remain affordable and as stable as possible, while aiming for 100% funding by March 2040.

Accordingly, the Fund has set a maximum (red) threshold for total scheme employer contributions of 35% in the short-term, with the likelihood that the project rates exceed that value of less than 33%.

6.3 Liquidity metrics

In order to meet its stated cash flow objective to have sufficient liquidity available to meet benefit payments in the short-term as they fall due, the Fund has agreed a reporting metric that it should maintain at least one net cashflow (contributions received vs benefit payments) available at immediate notice within its investment portfolio.

7 Strategic Asset Allocation

The Administering Authority sets a high-level Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) using the broad asset categories defined in statutory guidance.

The SAA reflects the Administering Authority's return, risk and liquidity objectives and is expressed as target allocations with permissible ranges.

7.1 Strategic asset allocation table

This table purposely left blank, pending discussions at a future Committee meeting to agree the SAA.

	Strategic Asset Allocation (%)	Tolerance Range (±%)
Listed Equity		
Private Equity		
Private Credit		
Property / Real Estate		
Infrastructure		
Credit (i)		
UK Government Bonds		
Other alternatives (ii)		
Investment Cash		

(i) Including credit instruments of investment grade quality, including (but not limited to) corporate bonds and non-UK government bonds.

(ii) Other alternatives are investments which do not fit into the other asset classes.

7.2 Matters reserved for implementation

In line with statutory guidance, this ISS does not set out preferences on individual investment managers, individual holdings, the combination of managers within asset classes, investment style, or geographic exposure targets except where relevant to the Fund's local investment objective. These matters are implementation decisions for LPPI, acting within the strategic framework set by the Administering Authority.

8 Responsible Investment

8.1 High-level objectives

Responsible investment is a strategy and practice which seeks to ensure that environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are considered in investment decisions and followed through by exercising investor rights and leverage

appropriately. In doing so, it incorporates ESG considerations that may be financially material to risk and return, as well as wider extra financial impacts and outcomes.

The Committee approved a revised Responsible Investment (RI) Policy in December 2025. The Fund's RI policy sets out in detail how ESG considerations are factored into decisions on the selection, non-selection, retention and realisation of investments.

For the scheme to remain affordable, strong and consistent levels of investment income and growth in investments are essential to supplement the contributions to the Fund from scheme employers and active scheme members (contributing employees). Hence, the primary focus of the Fund's investment activities is to achieve appropriate risk-adjusted returns.

There is an underlying fiduciary duty to protect the financial interests of the Fund's beneficiaries which is exercised through the approach to investment and the evaluation of investment risks and opportunities as part of investment stewardship.

The Fund is a long-term investor, committed to safeguarding the pensions of its scheme members and beneficiaries. Our overriding objective is to secure sustainable investment returns in line with our fiduciary responsibilities, while acting as a responsible and informed investor.

The Fund recognises that ESG considerations, including non-financial factors, can impact financial performance. Accordingly, it aims to ensure these considerations are integrated into investment analysis, engagement, and stewardship in a proportionate and pragmatic way.

We prioritise having influence on the stewardship standards operated by our pool and receiving appropriate information to monitor activities and share insights on responsible investment with our stakeholders who are scheme beneficiaries, employer organisations, and the broader communities and groups they serve.

8.2 Responsible investment approach

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, as Administering Authority, delegates responsibility for the administration and management of the Fund to the Committee. The Committee has overall responsibility for investment strategy, including setting and approving the RI Policy.

LPPI is responsible for the implementation of investment strategy, including day to day decision-making around the appointment of asset managers, the selection of investment products, and the exercise of ownership responsibilities. As part of that role, LPPI integrates RI into the investment process.

The Fund considers its position on "The Bridges Spectrum of Capital" as that of a "Responsible Investor", although in practice we may undertake activities that fall into

other categories. Our commitment to the integration of material ESG considerations means the Fund is never a “Financial-only” investor.

Non-financial factors are considered through a framework that assesses:

- Materiality of financial impact.
- Alignment with UK regulations and international norms.
- Expectations of stakeholder views, including scheme members, scheme employers and partner funds.
- Feasibility of meaningful engagement to change behaviour.

Our policy seeks to balance social responsibility with financial stewardship in a way that is measured, proportionate, and legally robust.

In practice the Fund’s RI policy and those of our LGPS partner funds collectively inform LPPI’s stewardship standards and implementation activities. Wherever possible we seek consensus positions on responsible investment issues which support LPPI to be efficient in meeting our collective needs.

The Committee monitors the stewardship of the Fund’s assets and RI activities undertaken by LPPI via quarterly reporting including an RI Dashboard, which provides key data on the portfolio’s RI attributes and stewardship activities.

8.3 Responsible asset ownership

Our expectations of responsible stewardship encompass industry best practice standards which provide assurance and support us in communicating responsible investment insights to stakeholders.

We support LPPI’s alignment with the UK Stewardship Code and their definition of stewardship from the UK Stewardship Code (2026), which identifies stewardship as “the responsible allocation, management and oversight of capital to create long term sustainable value for clients and beneficiaries” .

The Fund does not seek to create bespoke exclusions or investment “red lines” beyond the normative standards reflected in LPPI’s own responsible investment policies.

Currently, in accordance with those policies, the Fund avoids investments in:

- Companies involved in the manufacture of controversial weapons, in accordance with international treaties and conventions signed by the UK Government.
- Extractive fossil fuel companies, specifically excluded from LPPI’s Global Equities portfolio following prior agreement between partner funds (including Berkshire).

The Fund reserves the right to review these exclusions periodically in collaboration with our investment manager and partner funds, in light of market conditions and member priorities.

We are supportive of the use of systematic ESG integration coupled with norms-based policy standards as a foundation for responsible investment practice. Where appropriate, LPPI will adopt globally accepted standards as policy guidelines which support investment decision-making. For example, the United Nations Global Principles on Business and Human Rights provide the 'core' standards to be applied by LPPI in meeting investor responsibilities for understanding and mitigating human rights contraventions.

The Fund works in partnership with like-minded organisations. The Fund recognises that to gain the attention of investee companies in addressing governance concerns, it needs to join other investors with similar concerns, and it does this through the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) and by joining appropriate lobbying activities.

As part of its commitment to Active Ownership, LPPI seeks to use the ownership rights conveyed by the assets under its management to exert a positive influence in favour of transparent and sustainable management behaviour which recognises and addresses the broader trends which bring both risks and opportunities to their business.

All aspects of shareholder voting are carried out in line with the LPPI Shareholder Voting Policy. The policy covers areas including voting arrangements, reporting and disclosures, and voting philosophy.

Where ESG concerns arise and are addressable, the Fund favours constructive engagement over divestment, using its shareholder rights to influence corporate behaviour. This is achieved through:

- LPPI's stewardship activities, including proxy voting and company-level engagement.
- Participation in collective engagement platforms such as the LAPFF.
- Transparent reporting on engagement outcomes via public committee reports and external partner disclosures.

8.4 Thematic priorities and preferences

Identifying core priorities and preferences for RI is an important part of focussing the attention of LPPI on the issues of greatest importance to the Fund. It also helps the Fund to monitor the stewardship activities undertaken by LPPI on its behalf.

ESG issues are important to the Fund for a number of reasons. ESG factors can be financially material and, as such, should be part of the selection, assessment and monitoring of investments in all asset classes, with an overarching goal of achieving resilience to ESG risks at a Whole Portfolio level. Achieving sustainable, long-term financial returns underpins the ability to pay pensions. A focus on ESG issues helps reduce risks to the Fund and its beneficiaries.

The Fund has not identified any specific “RI priorities”, being those matters involving specific arrangements/treatment/restrictions which are likely to introduce trade-offs requiring accommodation.

The RI policy identifies the following “RI preferences”, being desirable outcomes the pool is encouraged to address in meeting financial objectives, but with flexibility (no specifications) around the mode of implementation. These are:

Climate Change: The Fund recognises the imperative to manage climate change as it poses material risks across all asset classes (with the potential for loss of shareholder value, including via stranded assets), as well as opportunities.

Pollution: The Fund expects investee companies to plan for and manage the waste materials from their operations to prevent pollution and control the incidence of accidental contamination. The Fund also expects companies to design products and packaging which minimise, mitigate or avoid plastic pollution in use and/or disposal.

Biodiversity: The Fund places an emphasis on engaging to encourage sustainable business practices which support biodiversity and avoid the over-exploitation of natural resources and contribute to a more circular economy (through efforts to reduce waste creation and keep materials capable of re-use within economic circulation through recycling).

Affordable Housing: Through owning real estate (in the capacity of landlord) the Fund’s investments will help to provide employment, premises, and wider accommodation to supports the people and the economy of Berkshire. (see also Local Investment section below).

Corporate Governance: The Fund, through LPPI, supports the case for well managed companies which have fair and transparent tax strategies, promotes fair, just and transparent employment practices, places importance on a diverse and inclusive workforce and considers reasonable and equitable pay differentials for employees (including appropriate living wage, such as the Living Wage Foundation in the UK).

9 Local Investment

In setting its local investment objective, the Administering Authority has considered relevant local and regional economic priorities, including the role of Strategic Authorities and Local Growth Plans where applicable.

Local investment opportunities will only be pursued where they are expected to meet appropriate risk-adjusted return requirements. The Fund is not prepared to accept lower expected investment returns or higher levels of risk solely to achieve local impact objectives. However, it may, in future, explicitly determine and document acceptable concessions to risk or return in pursuit of its local investment objective.

9.1 Beliefs

The Fund believes that local investment can help support the local economy and create jobs.

The Fund will determine the local investment objective, target range and geographic definition. LPPI will be responsible for sourcing, assessing and implementing suitable investments within those parameters.

Local investments will only be pursued where they are consistent with the Fund's fiduciary duties and are expected to deliver an appropriate risk-adjusted return.

9.2 Objective

To support investment that delivers positive economic and/or social impact within the Thames Valley while achieving appropriate risk-adjusted financial returns.

9.3 Target range

The Administering Authority aims to allocate 0% to 5% of total Fund assets to local investment opportunities over the medium to long term.

9.4 Geographic Scope

Local investment is defined as investment within the Thames Valley, or in investments that demonstrably support this area.

For the purposes of local investment, the exact definition of the Thames Valley will be determined by the eventual composition of any future Thames Valley Strategic Authority. This is likely to cover the Counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and potentially Swindon.

9.5 Returns and risk expectations

Other than for its existing commercial real estate local portfolio, the Fund has not set a specific return objective for local investments. The Fund expects that all local investments should have an expected positive return profile at inception. The Fund expects LPPI to manage the whole portfolio balancing the different risk/return characteristics of each asset class across a diversified portfolio in such a way as to meet the overall Fund return objectives within the risk tolerances that have been set.

The Fund is not prepared to accept lower expected investment returns or higher levels of risk solely to achieve local impact objectives.

9.6 Impact priorities

Investments should, where possible, support local economic development priorities, including alignment with relevant strategic authorities and regional growth plans.

Linking to the Berkshire Economic Strategy³, the Fund's preferred themes are:

- Affordable Housing
- Commercial property
- Infrastructure

9.7 Implementation

The Administering Authority will work with the relevant strategic authority and LPPI to identify suitable local investment opportunities and to implement this objective within pooled investment structures where appropriate.

Until such time as the Thames Valley Strategic Authority is formed, the Fund will work with the Berkshire Prosperity Board to identify suitable opportunities.

10 Pooling and Implementation

In accordance with the Regulations and having regard to the statutory guidance issued by MHCLG, *Local Government Pension Scheme: asset pooling*⁴, the Administering Authority is responsible for setting the investment strategy including the high-level investment objectives, and the strategic asset allocation after having taken advice from their pool.

LPPI is responsible for delivering the strategy in a manner that is efficient, practical and consistent with pooling objectives, including by implementing an investment portfolio which seeks to meet the Fund's objectives and complies with the strategic asset allocation set out within this ISS.

While LPPI must take all reasonable steps to implement the strategy, the Fund recognises that practical delivery may require prioritisation, phasing or standardisation across pooled arrangements.

11 Monitoring, Reporting and Oversight

The Administering Authority is responsible for overseeing the delivery of this ISS and for ensuring that the investment strategy remains aligned with the Fund's long-term funding objectives, risk appetite and statutory responsibilities.

The Committee receives regular reporting from LPPI and other advisers to support effective oversight of both strategic outcomes and implementation of the investment strategy. This reporting is intended to provide assurance that the Fund's assets continue to be managed in a manner consistent with the objectives, priorities and preferences set out within this ISS.

³ [democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/documents/b43017/Agenda Item 6 Supplement Monday 16-Dec-2024 12.00 Berkshire Prosperity Board.pdf?T=9](https://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/documents/b43017/Agenda%20Item%206%20Supplement%20Monday%2016-Dec-2024%2012.00%20Berkshire%20Prosperity%20Board.pdf?T=9)

⁴ [Local Government Pension Scheme: asset pooling - GOV.UK](https://gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-pension-scheme-asset-pooling)

In carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Committee will monitor, amongst other matters:

- Return objective – monitored through long-term returns and funding outcomes.
- Risk objective – monitored through projected funding risk and volatility.
- Cashflow objective – monitored through liquidity and benefit payment requirements.
- Local investment objective – monitored against target range and intended outcomes.

The Committee's oversight role is focused on strategic outcomes rather than day-to-day investment implementation. Responsibility for investment implementation, including portfolio construction, manager selection and operational risk management, rests with LPPI.

The Committee will review the information provided to it on an ongoing basis, supported by the Independent Person, and will consider amendments to the investment strategy, after considering advice from LPPI and the Independent Person, where there are material changes in the Fund's circumstances, funding position, legislation, regulatory guidance or pooling arrangements.

12 Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

In preparing this ISS, the Administering Authority has undertaken consultation in accordance with applicable statutory requirements and local governance arrangements.

As set out in the Engagement Plan, the Fund has consulted with scheme members, scheme employers and professional advisers.

The Pension Fund Committee, Pension Advisory Panel and Local Pension Board were also engaged in the process.

Feedback was collected on a draft ISS circulated during September and October 2026 and considered before producing this finalised version

13 Publication and Review

The Fund's ISS is fully reviewed after each triennial actuarial valuation, within 18 months of the valuation date. The ISS will be kept under regular review in the interim period and will be updated as required to reflect material changes in the Fund's strategic position, the regulatory framework or the arrangements for pooled implementation.

Where the Administering Authority reviews this ISS and determines that no amendment is required, it will publish a statement confirming that conclusion. Where

amendments are required, the Administering Authority will consult, approve and publish the updated ISS in accordance with applicable regulations and statutory guidance.

The ISS will be published on the Administering Authority's website [Pension Fund Policies | Berkshire Pension Fund](#)

This ISS was approved by the Pension Fund Committee on [date], replacing and updating the 2023 ISS.

14 Compliance and Related Strategies

14.1 Compliance

This ISS has been prepared having regard to the Local Government Pension Scheme (Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2026, the statutory guidance on preparing and maintaining an Investment Strategy Statement, the statutory guidance on asset pooling, and the statutory guidance on fund governance, together with other relevant legislation and public law duties.

14.2 Related Strategies

This ISS should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- [Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Constitution](#)
- [Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund Funding Strategy Statement](#)
- [Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund Responsible Investment Policy](#)
- [Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund Risk Management Policy](#)
- [Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund Governance Policy](#)