



Draft Pension Fund Accounts

for the year ended

31 March 2024

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund Account

	Note	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the scheme			
Contributions	8	51,706	54,031
Transfers in from other pension funds	9	2,681	6,216
		54,387	60,247
Benefits	10	(43,926)	(49,762)
Payments to and on account of leavers	11	(7,633)	(5,998)
		(51,559)	(55,760)
Net additions from dealings with members		2,828	4,487
Management expenses	12	(6,578)	(5,828)
Net Additions/(Withdrawals) including Fund Management Expenses		(3,751)	(1,341)
Returns on Investments			
Investment Income	13	26,080	31,683
Profit (losses) on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	14	(46,683)	121,232
Net returns on investments		(20,603)	152,915
Net increase in the net assets available for benefits during the year		(24,354)	151,574

Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2024

The accounts summarise the transactions and net assets of the Fund. They do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

	Note	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Investment Assets	16	1,333,527	1,446,952
Investment Liabilities	16		
Current Assets	17	1,191	20,579
Current Liabilities	17	(20,065)	(1,304)
Net asset of the fund available to fund benefits at the end of the reporting period		1,314,653	1,466,228

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Introduction

The Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund (“the Fund”) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (“LGPS”) and is administered by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (“LBBD”). The Council is the reporting entity for this Fund. The Fund is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the following secondary legislation:

- i. The LGPS Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- ii. The LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended) and
- iii. The LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

The Fund is operated as a funded, defined benefit scheme which provides for the payment of benefits to former employees of LBBD and those bodies admitted to the Fund, referred to as “members”. The benefits include not only retirement pensions, but also widow’s pensions, death grants and lump sum payments in certain circumstances. The Fund is financed by contributions from members, employers and from interest and dividends on the Fund’s investments.

The objective of the financial statements is to provide information about the fund’s financial position and performance and show the results of the Council’s stewardship in managing the resources entrusted to it and for the assets at the period end.

The Fund is overseen by the Fund’s Pension Committee, which is a Committee of LBBD. 2023/24 had a positive return for the year due to improvements in the macroeconomy following the downturn. With inflation and interest rates on a downward trajectory, this has impacted the performance of the fund’s investments. The overall investment return for the fund over the year, net of fund manager fees and custodian costs was 11.4%, which was 2.0% lower than the benchmark of 13.4%. Over three years the Fund’s annualised return was 5.1%, which is 3.3% below the Fund’s benchmark return of 8.4%. Over one-year Blackrock provided a negative return of 8.2% and underperformed its benchmark by 7.5%. While, Baillie Gifford, Newton, Abrdn, UBS, Hermes and Insight provided positive returns.

Four employers including Caterlink and Aspens 2 exited the Fund in 2023/24. During the year, the total number of active employers within the Fund was 36.

2. Format of the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts

The day-to-day administration of the Fund and the operation of the management arrangements and investment portfolio are delegated to the Chief Operating Officer.

The following description of the Fund is a summary only. For more details, reference should be made to the Fund’s Annual Report for 2023/24, which can be obtained from the Council’s website: <http://www.lbbdpensionfund.org>.

The statutory powers that underpin the scheme are the Superannuation Act 1972 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) regulations, which can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk.

Membership

All local government employees (except casual employees and teachers) are automatically enrolled into the Scheme. However, membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to opt out, remain in the Scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the Scheme. Organisations participating in the Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund; and
- Admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

A list of the Fund's scheduled and admitted employers are provided below. Not Active employers do not have any current members but have either deferred or pensioners. The obligations and assets for these employers have been absorbed by the Council.

Scheduled Bodies	Admitted Bodies
LBBD Barking College Dorothy Barley Academy Eastbury Academy Elutec Goresbrook Free School Greatfields Free School James Campbell Primary Partnerships Learning Pathways Riverside Bridge Riverside Free School Riverside School St Margarets St Joseph's Dagenham St Joseph's Barking St Theresa's Dagenham St Vincents Sydney Russell Academy Thames View Infants Academy Thames View Junior Academy University of East London Warren Academy	Aspens BD Corporate Cleaning BD Schools Improvement Partnership BD Together Be First BD Trading Partnerships BD Management Services Lewis and Graves Schools Offices Services Ltd Sports Leisure Management The Broadway Theatre Town and Country Cleaners
Not Active Aspens 2 Caterlink Caterlink 2 Caterlink 3 Caterlink 4 Magistrates Court May Gurney Pantry Cleaning RM Education	Not Active Abbeyfield Barking Society Age UK B&D Citizen's Advice Bureau Cleantech Council for Voluntary Service Disablement Assoc. of B&D East London E-Learning London Riverside Laing O'Rourke

A breakdown of the Fund's members by employer type and by member type is included in the table below:

	2022/23	2023/24
Number of Employers with active members	40	36
Number of Employees in scheme		
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham		
Active members	4,593	4,718
Pensioners	4,962	5,080
Deferred pensioners	5,188	5,186
Undecided and other members	153	100
	<u>14,896</u>	<u>15,084</u>
Admitted and Scheduled Bodies		
Active members	1,411	1,423
Pensioners	1,430	1,471
Deferred pensioners	1,835	1,854
Undecided and other members	60	30
	<u>4,736</u>	<u>4,778</u>

a) Benefits

Pension benefits under the LGPS are based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service as summarised below:

	Service pre-1 April 2008	Service post 31 March 2008
Pension:	Each year worked is worth 1/80 x final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth 1/60 x final pensionable salary.
Lump sum:	Automatic lump sum of 3 x salary. In addition part of annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

The benefits payable in respect of service from 1 April 2014 are based on career average devalued earnings and the number of years of eligible service. The accrual rate is 1/49 and the benefits are index-linked to keep pace with inflation. From 1 April 2011, the method of indexation changed from the Retail Prices Index (RPI) to the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

3. Basis of preparation

The accounts summarise the transactions and net assets for the Fund's transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position as at 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24. The financial statements do not reflect any liabilities to pay pension or other benefits occurring after 31 March 2024. Such items are reported separately in the Actuary's Report provided in Note 20 to the Fund's accounts.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis (that is income and expenditure are recognised as earned or incurred, not as received and paid) except in the case of transfer values which are included in the accounts on a cash basis. The Pension Fund Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

3.1 Contributions (see Note 8)

Primary contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Secondary contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are due under the schedule of contributions set by the actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employer's augmentation and pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid is classed as a current financial asset.

3.2 Transfers to and from other schemes (see Note 9)

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 LGPS Regulations. Transfer Values to/from other funds, for individuals, are included in the accounts based on the actual amounts received and paid in the year.

Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in Transfers In.

Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged. Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

3.3 Investment income (see Note 13)

- i) Interest income - Interest income is recognised in the Fund account as it accrues. Interest from financial assets that are not carried at fair value through profit and loss, i.e. loans and receivables, are calculated using the effective interest basis.
- ii) Dividend income - 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.
- iii) Movement in the net market value of investments - Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/loss during the year.

3.4 Net Assets Statement at market value is produced on the following basis (see note 14)

- i) Quoted investments are valued at bid price at the close of business on 31 March 2024;
- ii) Unquoted investments are based on market value by the fund managers at year end in accordance with accepted guidelines;
- iii) Pooled investment vehicles are valued at closing bid price if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the fund, net of applicable withholding tax;

- iv) Investments held in foreign currencies have been valued in sterling at the closing rate ruling on 31 March 2024. All foreign currency transactions are translated into sterling at exchange rates ruling at the closing rate of exchange; and
- v) Limited partnerships are valued at fair value on the net asset value ascertained from periodic valuations provided by those controlling the partnership.

3.5 Management expenses (see note 12)

Administration Expenses

All administration expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. Staff costs associated with the Fund are charged to the Fund, with management, accommodation and other overheads apportioned in accordance with LBBD's policy.

Investment management expenses

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

External manager fees, including custodian fees, are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments, which are broadly based on the market value of the Fund's investments under their management. Therefore, investment management fees increase / decrease as the value of these investments change.

The Fund does not include a performance related fees element in any of their contracts. Where it has not been possible to confirm the investment management fee owed by the balance sheet date, an estimate based on the market value has been used.

Most the Fund's holdings are invested in pooled funds which include investment management expenses, including actuarial, trading costs and fund manager fees, within the pricing mechanism.

3.6 Taxation

The Fund is a registered public-sector 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 proceed of investments sold.

Taxation agreements exist between Britain and other countries whereby all or a proportion of the tax deducted locally from investment income may be reclaimed. Non-recoverable deductions are classified as withholding tax.

Value Added Tax is recoverable on all Fund activities by the administering authority.

3.7 Foreign currency transactions

Dividends, interest, purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchange rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts.

3.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in-hand and on-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.

3.9 Present Value of Liabilities

These accounts do not include the Fund's liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits, in the future, to all the present contributors to the Fund. These liabilities are taken account of in the periodic actuarial valuations of the Fund and are reflected in the levels of employers' contributions determined at these valuations.

3.10 Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (see note 20)

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the Scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under IAS 26, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the Net Assets Statement

3.11 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Fund's Balance Sheet but are disclosed as a note to the accounts. They arise as a result of past events but are only confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events which are not entirely within the Fund's control.

Contingent liabilities arise from a present obligation arising from past events but only where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation or where the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

4. Critical Judgements in applying accounting policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 3, the Fund has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

A critical judgement made within the accounts is for the Pension Fund liability, which is calculated every three years by the appointed Actuary and is included in Note 20 but is not included in the net asset statement. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the Actuary and are summarised in Note 20. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

Unquoted investments

Determining the fair value of unquoted investments (unquoted equity investments and hedge fund or funds) can be subjective. They are inherently based on forward-looking estimates and judgements involving many factors including the impact of market volatility following the COVID-19 outbreak and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Unquoted investments are valued by the investment managers. The total financial instruments held by the Fund at **Level 3** were **£273.8m**.

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

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Fund about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into consideration historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, as balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. There were no items in the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial years.

All investments are measured at fair value and by necessity, unquoted investments involve a degree of estimation. Notes 14 and 21 provide information about valuation methodology and the assumptions made in deriving the estimates.

6. Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC)

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) administered by the Prudential were made by LBBDD employees during the year. In accordance with Regulation 4(2) (b) of the Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 the contributions paid and the assets of these investments are not included in the Pension Fund Accounts.

AVCs were valued by Prudential at a market value of **£3.2m** (2022/23 £3.3m).

7. Recharges from the General Fund

The LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 permit the Council to charge administration costs to the Fund. A proportion of the relevant Council costs have been charged to the Fund on the basis of actual time spent on Pension Fund business. Costs incurred in the administration and the oversight and governance of the Fund are included in Note 12.

8. Contributions

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007, ranging from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2024. Employee contributions are matched by employer contributions, which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations.

Currently employer contribution rates range from 18.2% to 34.4%.

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.

The Council uses a mechanism to stabilise the contribution rates. This was agreed following the actuary, Barnett Waddingham, completing a stochastic modelling of the long-term funding position. Eligibility for stabilisation is dependent on reasonable consistency in an employer's membership profile. The primary contribution rate for the financial year ending 31 March 2024 was 21.2%.

Contributions shown in the revenue statement may be categorised as follows:

Contributions	2022/23	2023/24
Members normal contributions	£000	£000
Council	9,173	9,727
Admitted bodies	475	409
Scheduled bodies	2,002	2,206
Total contributions from members	11,650	12,342
Employers contributions		
Council - Normal	24,335	30,307
Council - Deficit Recovery	6,084	1,144
Admitted bodies - Normal	1,863	1,706
Admitted bodies- Deficit Recovery	96	24
Scheduled bodies - Normal	5,993	6,890
Scheduled bodies- Deficit Recovery	1,646	1,441
Pension Strain	39	177
Total contributions from employers	40,055	41,689
Total Contributions	51,706	54,031

9. Transfers in from other pension funds

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Individual Transfers	2,681	6,216
	2,681	6,216

10. Benefits

Benefits payable and refunds of contributions have been brought into the accounts based on all valid claims approved during the year.

	2022/23				2023/24			
	Council	Admitted Bodies	Scheduled Bodies	Total	Council	Admitted Bodies	Scheduled Bodies	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pensions	30,508	259	7,091	37,858	33,640	370	7,686	41,697
Lump sums	4,007	188	1,005	5,200	5,381	364	1,425	7,170
Death grants	667	45	156	868	811	14	69	895
	35,182	491	8,253	43,926	39,833	749	9,180	49,762

11. Payments to and on account of leavers

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Individual Transfers	7,235	5,739
Refunds	398	259
	7,633	5,998

12. Management Expenses

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Administration and Processing	767	794
Management Fees	4,182	4,769
Custody Fees	56	33
Oversight and Governance Fees	214	190
Other Costs	1,359	42
	6,578	5,828

13. Investment Income

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Fixed Interest Securities	427	453
Equity Dividends	22,223	27,179
Pooled Property Income	2,104	2,337
Interest - Manager's Cash	1,309	1,313
Interest - LBBB balance	9	396
Other Income	8	5
	<u>26,080</u>	<u>31,683</u>

14. Investments: The movement in the opening and closing value of investments during the year, together with related direct transaction costs were as follows:

	Value 31/03/2023 £000	Purchases £000	Sales £000	Change in Fair Value £000	Cash Movement £000	Value 31/03/2024 £000
Pooled Unit Trusts	1,021,645	102,574	(90,000)	126,613		1,160,832
Property Unit Trusts	50,088	3,845		(6,082)		47,851
Pooled Alternatives	128,321	31,249	(21,838)	4,394		142,126
Infrastructure	96,926			(7,874)	(2,478)	86,574
Other Investments	150					150
Derivative Contracts	821	1,264	(5,932)	3,847		
Futures						
Cash Deposits						
Custodian	13,572	(6,916)	2,800	(61)	(1,970)	7,425
In-House	21,659				(19,667)	1,992
Short-Term Loan	(19,000)				35,900	16,900
Pending Trade Sales	344	1,794		10		2,148
Other Investments	9					9
Total	1,314,535	133,810	(114,970)	120,847	11,784	1,466,007

	Value 31/03/2022 £000	Purchases £000	Sales £000	Change in Fair Value £000	Cash Movement £000	Value 31/03/2023 £000
Pooled Unit Trusts	1,070,285	38,712	(57,849)	(29,503)		1,021,645
Property Unit Trusts	62,413	1,685	(3,049)	(10,962)		50,088
Pooled Alternatives	128,840	33,274	(39,704)	5,911		128,321
Infrastructure	104,150	(3,173)		(4,050)		96,926
Other Investments	150					150
Derivative Contracts						
Futures	(505)	20,194	(10,856)	(8,011)		821
Cash Deposits						
Custodian	13,699	(56)	4,859	3	(4,933)	13,572
In-House	113				21,545	21,659
Short Term Loan	(24,150)				5,150	(19,000)
Pending Trade Sales	3,527		(3,166)	(17)		344
Other Investments	9					9
Total	1,358,531	90,636	(109,765)	(46,629)	21,763	1,314,535

The change in fair value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investment and changes in the sterling value of assets caused by changes in exchange rates. In the case of pooled investment vehicles changes in market value also includes income, net of withholding tax, which is reinvested in the Fund.

The cost of purchases and the sales proceeds are inclusive of transaction costs, such as broker fees and taxes. In addition to transaction costs, indirect costs are incurred through the bid offer spread on investments within pooled investment vehicles. The amount of indirect cost is not separately provided to the Fund. The Fund employs specialist investment managers with mandates corresponding to the principal asset classes. A list of the Fund's Fund Manager, their mandate and the asset type are outlined in the table below:

Investment Manager	Mandate	Asset Type
Abrdn Asset Management	Active	Diversified Alternatives
Insight	Active	Global Credit
London CIV: Baillie Gifford	Active	Global Equity (Pooled)
London CIV: Pyrford	Active	Absolute Return
London CIV: Newton	Active	Absolute Return
London CIV: Pimco	Active	Global Credit
London CIV: Other	Passive	None
BlackRock	Active	Property Investments (UK)
Hermes	Active	Infrastructure (LLP)
Kempen	Active	Global Equity (Pooled)
Prudential/M&G	Active	Alternatives - UK Companies Financing
RREEF	Active	Property Investments (UK)
Schroders	Active	Property Investments (UK Fund of Funds)
UBS	Passive	Global Equity (Pooled)
UBS	Passive	All Share Fixed Income (Pooled)

The value of the Fund, by manager, as at 31 March 2024 was as follows:

Fund by Investment Manager	2022/23		2023/24	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Abrdn Asset Management	129,142	9.8%	142,127	9.7%
BlackRock	50,088	3.8%	47,850	3.3%
Hermes	96,926	7.4%	86,574	5.9%
Kempen	218,687	16.6%	224,133	15.3%
Other Cash Balances	35,231	2.7%	9,417	0.6%
Short Term Investment	(19,000)	-1.4%	16,900	1.2%
Insight	67,849	5.2%	75,771	5.2%
UBS Passive Bonds	30,818	2.3%	43,575	3.0%
UBS Passive Equity	261,854	19.9%	327,923	22.4%
London CIV Cash	150	0.0%	150	0.0%
London CIV	442,437	33.7%	415,161	28.3%
London CIV - Pimco	-	-	74,269	
Pending Trade Sales	344	0.0%	2,148	0.1%
Other Investments – Tax Recoverable	9	0.0%	9	0.0%
Total	1,314,536	100.0%	1,466,007	100.0%
Current Assets	1,191	0.1%	1,531	0.1%
Current Liabilities	(1,065)	-0.1%	(1,304)	-0.1%

15. Cash

The cash balance held at 31 March 2024 is made up as follows:

Cash balances held by Investment Managers	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Aberdeen Asset Management	13,572	7,425
BlackRock	-	1
In-house Cash	21,659	1,991
Total Cash	35,231	9,417

16. Securities

Investment Assets	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's
Pooled funds - UK		
UK fixed Income Unit Trust	30,818	43,575
UK Equity Unit Trust	262,004	328,073
UK Absolute Return	442,437	415,161
Pooled funds - Overseas		
Overseas Fixed Income Unit Trust	67,849	150,040
Overseas Equity Unit Trust	220,727	226,850
Overseas Property Unit Trust	50,088	47,850
Other Investment - Infrastructure	96,926	86,574
Other Investment - Private Equity	89,808	107,474
Other Investment - Hedge Funds	36,473	31,941
Other Investment – Tax Recoverable	9	9
Cash	35,231	9,417
Pending Trade Sales	344	2,148
Futures		
Total Investment Assets	1,332,715	1,449,112
Investment Liabilities		
Futures	821	-
Total Investment Liabilities	821	-
Current Assets: Debtors	1,191	18,431
Current Liabilities: Creditors	(20,065)	(1,304)
Total Net Assets	1,314,662	1,466,239

17. Debtors and Creditors

The following amounts were debtors or creditors for the Fund at 31 March 2024:

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Debtors		
Other Investment Balances		
Pending Trade Sales	353	2,148
Current Assets		
Other local authorities	633	898
Other entities and individuals	559	633
Total Current Assets	1,192	1,531
Short Term Loan	-	16,900
Total Debtors	1,545	20,579
Current Liabilities		
Other local authorities	203	51
Other entities and individuals	862	1,253
Short Term Loan from LBB	19,000	
Total Current Liabilities	20,065	1,304
Total Creditors	20,065	1,304

18. Holdings

All holdings within the Fund at 31 March 2024 were in pooled funds or Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP), with no direct holdings over 5% of the net assets of the scheme. At 31 March 2024 the following pooled funds and LLPs were over 5% of the scheme's net assets:

Security	Market Value as at 31 March 2024 £000	% of Total Fund %
Insight	75,771	5.2%
UBS Passive Equity	327,923	22.4%
Kempen	224,133	15.3%
London CIV – Pyrford/Newton	415,161	28.3%
Hermes	86,574	5.9%

19. Investment Strategy Statement

An Investment Strategy Statement was agreed by the Council's Investment Committee on 16 December 2020 and is updated periodically to reflect changes made in Investment Management arrangements. The nature and extent of risk arising from financial instruments and how the Fund manages those risks is included in the Investment Strategy Statement. Copies can be obtained from the Council's Pension website: <http://www.lbbdpensionfund.org>

20. Actuarial position

Actuarial assumptions

The 2022 triennial review of the Fund took place as at 31 March 2022 and the salient features of that review were as follows:

- The funding target is to achieve a funding level of at least 100% over a specific period;
- Deficit recovery period remained 14 years in 2022;
- The key financial assumptions adopted at this valuation are:
 - Future levels of price inflation are based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI);
 - The resulting discount rate of 4.3% (4.0% as at 31 March 2019).
- Market value of the scheme's assets at the date of the valuation were £1,317 million;
- The past service liabilities at the rate of the valuation were £1,306 Million;
- The resulting funding level was 101% (90% as at 31 March 2019); and
- The use of an appropriate asset outperformance assumption is based on available evidence and is a measure of the degree of prudence assumed in the funding strategy.

The valuation has made assumptions about member longevity and has used the following average future life expectancies for pensioners aged 65 at the valuation date:

Longevity Assumptions	2019	2019	2022	2022
at 31 March	Male	Female	Male	Female
Ave. future life expectancy (in years for a pensioner)	21.3	23.4	20.8	23.5
Ave. future life expectancy (in years) at age 65 for non-pensioner assumed to be aged 45 at valuation date	22.3	24.9	22.1	25.0

Some of the key financial assumptions adopted by the actuary for the valuation of members' benefits at the 2022 valuation are set out below:

Assumptions	2022 valuation	2019 valuation
Financial assumptions (p.a.)		
CPI inflation	2.9%	2.3%
Salary increases	3.9%	3.0%
Discount rate	4.3%	4.0%

Present value of funded obligation

The actuarial value of promised retirement benefits at the accounting date, calculated in line with International Accounting Standard 19 Employee Benefits (IAS 19) assumptions, is estimated to be **£1,345m** as at 31 March 2024. This figure is used for statutory accounting purposes by the Pension Fund and complies with the requirements of IAS 26 Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans. The assumptions underlying the figure are as per the IAS 19 assumptions above.

The figure is prepared for the purposes of IAS 26 and has no validity in other circumstances. It is not relevant for calculations undertaken for funding purposes and setting contributions payable to the Fund, which is carried out on a triennial basis.

The LGPS benefit structure is currently under review following the Government's loss of the right to appeal the McCloud and other similar court cases. Additional prudence has built into funding plans to allow for the McCloud ruling so the gross pension liability of £1,345m takes this into account.

As a result of the Government's introduction of a single-tier state pension (STP), there is currently uncertainty around who funds certain elements of increases on Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMP) for members reaching State Pension Age after 6 April 2016. As part of the introduction of STP, the Government confirmed that public service pension schemes, including the LGPS, will be responsible for funding all increases on GMP as an 'interim solution' so this has been factored into the liabilities.

Total contribution rate

The table below shows the minimum total contribution rates, expressed as a percentage of pensionable pay, which was applied to the 2023/24 accounting period:

Scheduled Bodies	Rate %	Admitted Bodies	Rate %
Barking College	21.4	Aspens	29.5
Dorothy Barely Academy	19.8	Aspens 2	27.6
Eastbury Academy	20.1	BD Corporate Cleaning	27.8
Elutec	20.8	BD Schools Improvement P'ship	27.7
Goresbrook Free School	18.2	BD Together	27.8
Greatfields Free School	19.0	BD Management Services	27.8
James Cambell Academy	22.2	BD Trading Partnership	27.8
LBBD	22.0	Be First	27.0
Partnership Learning	20.1	Cleantech	27.8
Pathways	20.7	Caterlink	32.0
Riverside Bridge	19.9	Caterlink 2	24.4
Riverside Free School	20.2	Caterlink 3	27.1
Riverside Primary School	20.4	Lewis and Graves	33.5
St Joseph's Dagenham	24.0	Schools Offices Services Ltd	24.9
St Joseph's Barking	22.6	Sports Leisure Management	21.0
St Margarets Academy	20.8	The Broadway Theatre	27.5
St Theresa's Dagenham	26.7	Town and Country Cleaners	25.7
Sydney Russell	20.1		
Thames View Infants Acad.	20.6		
Thames View Junior Acad.	20.7		
University of East London	34.4		
Warren Academy	20.1		

The financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end.

Funding level and position

The table below shows the detailed funding level for the 2022 valuation:

Employer contribution rates	As at 31 March	
	2019	2022
Primary Rate (net Employer Future Service Cost)	19.8%	21.2%
Secondary Rate (Past Service Adjustment – 14-year spread)	3.0%	0.8%
Total Contribution Rate	22.8%	22%

An allowance has been made for administration expenses which is included in the derivation of the discount rate. It is assumed that the admin expenses will be 0.1% of

assets. The employee average contribution rate is 6.8% of pay. The table below shows the funding position as at 31 March 2022.

Past Service Funding Position at 31 March	As at 31 March 2019	As at 31 March 2022
Past Service Liabilities	£m	£m
Employees	(323)	(420)
Deferred Pensioners	(287)	(315)
Pensioners	(531)	(571)
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	(1,141)	(1,306)
Market Value of Assets	1,022	1,317
Funding Deficit	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	(119)	11
Funding Level	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	90%	101%

21. Valuation of 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 values. There were no transfers between levels during 2023/24.

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 or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts.

Listed investments are shown as bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange. The total financial instruments held by the Fund at **Level 1 were £1,173.1m**

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 use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data. Pending trade sales from the funds pooled alternative manager has been classified as Level 2. The total financial instruments held by the fund at **Level 2 was £2.1m**.

Level 3

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

Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund or funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions. The Fund's infrastructure manager has been classified as level 3 as valuations are based on a variety of assumptions and the assets held do not have a readily identifiable market.

The values of the investment in infrastructure is based on the net asset value provided by the fund manager. Assurances over the valuation are gained from the independent audit of the value. The total financial instruments held by the Fund at **Level 3 were £273.8m**.

Asset Valuation Hierarchy and Basis of Valuation

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs
Fixed Income Unit Trusts	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not required
Equity Unit Trust	Level 1	Market value based on current yields	Not required
Absolute Return Funds	Level 1	Closing bid value on published exchanges	Not required
Property Unit Trust	Level 3	Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis
Other Investment - Infrastructure	Level 3	Enterprise value (EV) / Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation & Amortization (EBITDA) as their valuation methodology, using a basket of public and transaction comparables.	EV / EBITDA
Other Investment - Private Equity	Level 3	EV / EBITDA as their valuation methodology, using a basket of public and transaction comparables.	EV / EBITDA
Other Investment - Hedge Funds	Level 3	Underlying assets publicly traded securities (equities, bonds) where pricing is readily available from providers i.e. Bloomberg or Reuters.	Valuations affected by any changes to value of the financial instrument being hedged against.

Sensitivity of assets valued at Level 3

Having analysed historical data and current market trends, and consulted with independent investment advisors, the fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges, and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2024.

Description of asset	Assessed valuation range	Value at 31 March 2024	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
	%	£000s	£000s	£000s
Property Unit Trust	10	47,850	52,635	43,065
Other Investment - Infrastructure	15	86,574	99,560	73,588
Other Investment - Private Equity	15	107,474	123,595	91,353
Other Investment - Hedge Funds	15	31,941	36,732	27,150
		273,839	312,522	235,156

The potential movement of 10% for Property Unit Trusts represents a combination of the following factors, which could all move independently in different directions:

- Rental increases +/- 4%
- Vacancy levels +/- 2%
- Market prices +/- 3%
- Discount rates +/-1%

All movements in the assessed valuation range derive from changes in the underlying profitability of component companies, the range in the potential movement of 15% is caused by how this profitability is measured since different methods (listed in the first table of Note 21 above) produce different price results.

22. Events after the Reporting Period

None

23. Related parties

The Fund is a related party of the Council as the following transactions are controlled by the Council. Pension administration and investment management costs of **£539.6k** (2022/23: £651.5k) are charged by the Council.

24. Contingent Asset and liabilities

As at 31 March 2024 there were no contingent assets or liabilities.

25. Compensation of key management personnel

Compensation of key management personnel, including members of the Pension Committee, the Managing Director, the Director of Finance, the Investment Fund Manager, Pension Fund Accountant and Senior Treasury Accountant, charged to the Fund are provided below:

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Short Term employee benefits	135.6	125.1
Total	135.6	125.1

26. Financial Instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities (excluding cash) by category and net assets statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period. The authority has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

	Designated as fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables 2022/23 £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000	Designated as fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables 2023/24 £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000
Financial assets						
Pooled Fixed Income Unit Trusts	98,667			193,615		
Equities	482,731			554,923		
Property Unit Trusts	50,088			47,850		
Cash		35,231			9,417	
Other investments	666,475			641,158		
Pending Trade Sales		344			2,148	
Total Financial Assets	1,297,961	35,575		1,437,546	11,565	
Financial Assets - Debtors			1,203			18,431
Financial liabilities - Creditors			(20,065)			(1,304)
Total Net Assets	1,297,961	35,575	(18,862)	1,437,546	11,565	17,127

27. Nature and extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments.

The Fund activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, including:

- **Market risk** – the possibility that financial loss might arise from the Fund's as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates or stock market movements;
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that interest rates may rise/fall above expectations;
- **Credit risk** - the risk that other parties may fail to pay amounts due;
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that the Fund may not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payment; and
- **Refinancing risk** – the risk that the Fund might be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.

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 to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. The Council manages these investment risks as part of its overall pension Fund risk management programme.

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

Risk and risk management

Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity prices, from interest and foreign exchange rates and from credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk predominantly from 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. To mitigate market risk, the Council and its investment advisors undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis. The Fund manages these risks in two ways:

- Fund's exposure to market risk monitored by reviewing the Fund's asset allocation.
- Specific risk exposure limited by applying maximum exposure to individual investment.

Other price risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market. The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a

risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Council to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund investment strategy.

Other price risk - sensitivity analysis

Potential price changes are determined based on the observed historical volatility of asset class returns. Risk assets such as equities will display greater potential volatility than bonds as an example, so the overall outcome depends largely on Funds' asset allocations.

The potential volatilities are consistent with a one standard deviation movement in the change in value of the assets over the latest three years. This can then be applied to the period end asset mix. The Council has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2023/24 reporting period.

Asset Class	One Year Expected Volatility (%)	Asset Class	One Year Expected Volatility (%)
Global Pooled Inc UK	12.1	Alternatives	6.6
Total Bonds	6.6	Cash	1.0
Property	7.9		

The sum of the monetary impact for each asset class will equal the total Fund impact as no allowance has been made for diversification of the one-year standard deviation for a single currency. Had the market price of the Fund investments increased or 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):

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2024 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Pooled Fixed Interest Securities	193,615	6.6	206,394	180,836
Pooled Equity Investments	554,923	12.1	622,069	487,777
Pooled Property	47,850	7.9	51,630	44,070
Pooled Absolute Return Infrastructure	415,161	6.6	442,561	387,760
Other Investments	86,574	6.6	92,288	80,860
Cash	141,571	6.6	150,915	132,228
Total	9,417	1.0	9,511	9,323
	1,449,111		1,575,368	1,322,854

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2023 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Pooled Fixed Interest Securities	98,667	5.7	104,291	93,043
Pooled Equity Investments	482,731	13.9	549,831	415,632
Pooled Property	50,088	7.5	53,845	46,331
Pooled Absolute Return Infrastructure	442,437	6.8	472,523	412,352
Other Investments	96,926	6.8	103,517	90,335
Cash	127,455	6.8	136,122	118,788
	35,231	1.8	35,865	34,597
Total	1,333,535		1,455,994	1,211,078

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 represent 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 monitored by the Council and its investment advisors 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 movements as at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 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	As at 31 March
	2023	2024
	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalent	35,231	9,417
Fixed interest securities	98,667	193,615
Total	133,898	203,032

Interest rate risk sensitivity analysis

The Council 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 in consistent with the level of sensitivity applied as part of the Fund's risk management strategy.

The Fund's investment advisor has advised that long-term average rates are expected to move less than 100 BPS 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 2024	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100 BPS	-100 BPS
	£000	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalent	9,417	94	(94)
Fixed interest securities	193,615	1,936	(1,936)
Total	203,032	2,030	(2,030)

Asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2023	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100 BPS	-100 BPS
Cash and cash equivalent	35,231	352	(352)
Fixed interest securities	98,667	987	(987)
Total	133,898	1,339	(1,339)

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 (sterling). The Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than sterling.

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

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council therefore takes steps to ensure that the Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. This will particularly be the case for cash from the cash flow matching mandates from the main investment strategy to meet the pensioner payroll costs; and also cash to meet investment commitments.

The Pension Committee Members are aware of the cash flow pressures that are affecting the Fund. These include the potential for a reduction in Fund current members from the significant savings the LBBD needs to make in the coming years and from an increase in pension payments due to increased pensioner numbers and as a result of the pricing index exceeding salary increases. Members receive a quarterly report on the Fund's cash flow and have agreed to utilise distributions from property and infrastructure to fund future investments and to cover any cash flow shortfalls.

Where there is a long-term shortfall in net income into the Fund, investment income will be used to cover the shortfall. All financial liabilities at 31 March 2024 are due within one year.

Refinancing risk

The key risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of the Fund's financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Council does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategies.

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.

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, with the exception of the derivatives positions, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. However, the selection of high-quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

The Fund's internally managed cash is invested by the Council's treasury team. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the council's credit criteria. The council has also set limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits

placed with any one class of financial institution. In addition, the council invests an agreed percentage of its funds in the money markets to provide diversification. Money market funds chosen all have AAA rating from a leading ratings agency.

28. London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD)

The Fund is administered by LBBD. Consequently, there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Fund.

The Council incurred administration and investment management costs of **£539.6k** (2022/23 £651.5k) in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also the single largest employer of members of the Fund and contributed **£31.5m** to the Fund in 2023/24 (2022/23 £30.4m). All monies owing to and due from the Fund were paid in year.