

# Gate Gourmet London Pension Scheme

Statement of Investment  
Principles

August 2024

# Preface

## Scheme background

This Statement of Investment Principles (the 'SIP') details the principles governing investment decisions for the Gate Gourmet London Pension Scheme (the 'Scheme').

The Scheme operates for the exclusive purpose of providing retirement and death benefits to eligible participants and beneficiaries, and provides benefits calculated on a defined benefit (DB) basis. The Scheme is closed to new entrants. The Scheme is closed to future accrual.

The Trustees have secured all of the Scheme's defined benefit liabilities via bulk annuity policies in the Trustees' name with Standard Life ("SL"). The Trustees have completed a full buy-in of the Scheme's liabilities with SL and intend to, ultimately, complete a full buyout of the Scheme's liabilities followed by a formal wind-up of the Scheme.

## Regulatory requirements and considerations

Under the Pensions Act 1995 (the 'Act') and subsequent legislation, principally the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 (as amended) (the 'Investment Regulations'), the Trustees must secure that a written statement of the principles governing investment decisions is prepared and maintained for the Scheme.

This SIP also reflects the requirements and recommendations within The Pensions Regulator's general code of practice, in respect of the DB assets.

The Trustees are responsible for all aspects of the operation of the Scheme including this SIP.

In agreeing their investment strategy, the Trustees have had regard to:

- The requirements of the Act concerning suitability and diversification of investments and the Trustees will consider those requirements on any review of this SIP or any change in the investment policy.
- The requirement of the Investment Regulations: in particular that assets held to cover the Scheme's technical provisions must also be invested in a manner appropriate to the nature and duration of the expected future retirement benefits payable under the Scheme.
- In respect of the additional voluntary contribution (AVC) arrangements provided on a money-purchase basis, the Trustees have taken into account the requirements and recommendations within the Pensions Regulator's code of practice 13: Governance and administration of occupational trust-based schemes providing money purchase benefits and regulatory guidance. Information on the Trustees' approach to investment matters within the AVC arrangements is included within this SIP.

## Responsibilities and appointments

Only persons or organisations with the necessary skills, information and resources are actively involved in taking investment decisions affecting the Scheme. The Trustees draw on the expertise of external persons and organisations including the investment consultant, investment managers and the Scheme Actuary. Full details are set out in this SIP.

## **Consultation**

In accordance with the Act, the Trustees have obtained and considered written advice from Gallagher (Administration & Investment) Limited (the investment consultant) prior to the preparation (or revision) of this SIP and have consulted Gate Gourmet Holdings UK Limited ('the Sponsoring Employer'). However, it should be noted that the Trustees shall not require the consent of the Sponsoring Employer to exercise any investment power.

## **History and review**

The Trustees will review this SIP at least every three years and without delay after each significant change in investment policy, taking note of any changes in the Scheme's liabilities. Once agreed, and after consultation with the Sponsoring Employer, a copy of this SIP will be given to the Scheme Actuary and will be made available to Scheme members on request. This SIP is also made publicly available free of charge on a website.

Previous versions of this SIP are dated:

December 2023

September 2020

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# Statement of Investment Principles

## Investment governance structure

All investment decisions are taken by the Trustee Board as a whole. The Trustees believe that collective responsibility is the appropriate structure, given the size of the board. The Trustees will undertake training where appropriate to ensure they have the necessary expertise to take the decisions required and to evaluate critically the advice received.

All investment decisions relating to the Scheme are under the control of the Trustee Board without constraint by the Sponsoring Employer. The Trustees will consult with the Sponsoring Employer when changing this SIP.

All day-to-day investment decisions are delegated to properly qualified and authorised investment managers of pension scheme portfolios. An investment management agreement has been exchanged with the investment manager, and is reviewed from time-to-time to ensure that the manner in which the manager makes investments on behalf of the Trustee Board is suitable for the Scheme, and appropriately diversified.

## Investment strategy and objectives

The Trustees have agreed to adopt an investment strategy that involves the pensioner and deferred member liabilities being covered by bulk annuity policies with SL.

In addition, the Trustees also hold a money market fund managed by Legal & General Investment Management (“LGIM”) which is being used to meet any further benefit payments to SL, payments to members of the Scheme or administrative expenses.

The Trustees’ primary objectives are:

- To provide a high level of security for all beneficiaries.
- To minimise funding risks relating to the differing movements in the values of the assets and the liabilities.

In accordance with the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000, the Trustees are responsible for setting the general investment policy, but the responsibility for all day-to-day investment management decisions has been delegated to SL as the bulk annuity policy provider and to an investment manager authorised under the Act. Details are included in the appendices of this SIP.

The Trustees are responsible for reviewing the Scheme’s investment strategy as part of each actuarial valuation in consultation with the Scheme’s investment consultant. The Trustees may also reconsider the investment strategy outside the triennial valuation period where necessary.

The Trustees have full regard to their investment powers as set out the Trust Deed and Rules.

The Scheme is invested in bulk annuity policies provided by a regulated insurer and a money market fund.

**The Trustees' policy in relation to the kinds of investments to be held**

The Trustees only anticipate holding buy-in policies and short term money market investments.

**The Trustees' policy in relation to the balance between different kinds of investments**

The appointed investment manager will hold a diversified mix of investments in line with their agreed benchmark and within their discretion to diverge from the benchmark. Full details are set out in Appendix 1 of this SIP.

The Trustees are comfortable that the buy-in policies with SL provides adequate security for members. The Trustees have no control or visibility of the underlying investments used by the provider to support these policies.

**The Trustees' policy in relation to the expected return on investments**

The investment strategy is believed to be capable of meeting the Trustees' objectives of covering the liabilities. The Trustees have no return expectations beyond this.

**The Trustees' policy in relation to the realisation of investments**

While bulk annuity policies are illiquid in nature, they provide the liquidity as and when required to meet the benefits of the agreed membership. The Scheme's remaining investments are secure, of high-quality and of sufficient liquidity.

**The Trustees' policy in relation to financially material considerations**

The Trustees expect the investment manager, where appropriate, to have taken account of financially material considerations, potentially including environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors as part of their investment analysis and decision-making process.

However, given the Scheme's investment strategy, the Trustees do not expect that ESG factors will be financially material in the investment manager's investment decisions. In addition, the Trustees' priority has been to secure suitable buy-in policies rather than taking account of wider financially material considerations

**The Trustees' policy in relation to the extent to which non-financial matters are taken into account**

The Trustees' objective is that the financial interests of the Scheme members is their first priority when choosing investments. The Trustees have decided not to take members' preferences into account.

## Risk capacity and risk appetite

The Trustees, after seeking appropriate investment advice, have purchased bulk annuity policies in respect of the Scheme's defined benefit liabilities and invested the remainder of the investment portfolio in a money market fund (see Appendix 1).

Subject to its benchmarks and guidelines (shown in Appendix 1) the investment manager is given full discretion over the choice of investments and is expected to maintain a diversified portfolio.

The Trustees are satisfied that the investments selected are consistent with their investment objectives.

**The Trustees' policy in relation to risks**

Investment policies are set to protect against volatility of the Scheme's funding level.

In determining the investment strategy, the Trustees received advice from the investment consultant. Taking this into account, the strategy outlined in Appendix 1 of this SIP has been adopted.

The Trustees acknowledge that the main risk to the Scheme is the failure of SL. The Trustees recognise other contributory risks, namely the risk:

- Of the Scheme having insufficient liquid assets to meet its immediate liabilities.

The Trustees manage and measure these risks on a regular basis via actuarial and investment reviews, and in the setting of investment objectives and strategy.

The Trustees undertake monitoring of the investment manager's performance against its target and objective as required.

The money market fund in which the Trustees invest has a stated benchmark against which investment performance will be compared. This is shown in Appendix 1. The investment manager is expected to maintain a portfolio of securities (or funds), which ensures that the risk being accepted is broadly diversified.

## Stewardship in relation to the Scheme's assets

The Trustees have a fiduciary duty to consider their approach to the stewardship of the investments, to maximise financial returns for the benefit of members and beneficiaries over the long term. Given the Scheme's investment strategy the Trustees do not have the opportunity to influence the investments' long term success through monitoring, engagement and/or voting.

## Investment management monitoring

The Trustees made their decision on buy-in provider based on their ability to meet the Trustees' objectives, at a competitive price.

There is no expectation for the buy-in provider to align their investment decisions with the Trustees' policies, nor to take into account financial or non-financial matters over the medium to long-term, beyond the requirements placed on the providers by regulation.

The Trustees do not monitor the buy in provider on an ongoing basis, nor do they provide any ongoing remuneration. Portfolio turnover costs for the provider is also not monitored.

The Trustees will assess the performance, processes and cost effectiveness of the investment manager from time to time by means of reviews of the results and other information, in consultation with the investment consultant.

All investment decisions, and the overall performance of the investment manager, are monitored by the Trustees with the assistance of the investment consultant.

The investment manager will provide the Trustees with quarterly statements of the assets held along with a quarterly report. The investment manager will inform the Trustees of any changes to the investment processes applied to their portfolios and will also report orally on request to the Trustees.

The investment manager will inform the Trustees of any changes in the internal performance objective and guidelines of the pooled fund used by the Scheme as and when they occur.

Appropriate written advice will be taken from the investment consultant before the review, appointment or removal of the investment manager.

### **The Trustees' policy in relation to their investment manager**

In detailing below the policies on the investment manager arrangements, the over-riding approach of the Trustees is to select investment managers that meet the primary objectives of the Trustees. As part of the selection process and the ongoing review of the investment manager, the Trustees consider how well each investment manager meets the Trustees' policies and provides value for money over a suitable timeframe.

- **How the arrangement incentivises the investment manager to engage and take into account financial and non-financial matters over the medium to long-term**

The Trustees have delegated the day to day management of the Scheme's remaining invested assets to an investment manager. The Scheme's assets are invested in a pooled fund which has its own policies and objectives and charges a fee, agreed with the investment manager, for their services. This fee incentivises the investment manager to adhere to their stated policies and objectives. The Scheme also holds bulk annuity policies.

- **How the method (and time horizon) of the evaluation of the investment manager's performance and the remuneration for asset management services are in line with the Trustees' investment policies**

The Trustees expect their investment manager to invest the assets within its portfolio in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines and constraints set out in its appointment documentation. The Trustees review the investment manager periodically. These reviews incorporate benchmarking of performance and fees. Reviews of performance focus on longer-term performance (to the extent that is relevant), e.g. looking at five years of performance.

If the Trustees determine that the investment manager is no longer managing the assets in line with the Trustees' policies it will make its concerns known to the investment manager and may ultimately disinvest.

The Trustees pay their investment manager a management fee which is a fixed percentage of assets under management.

Prior to agreeing a fee structure, the Trustees, in conjunction with their investment consultant, consider the appropriateness of this structure, both in terms of the fee level compared to that of other similar products and in terms of the degree to which it will incentivise the investment manager.

- **How the Trustees monitor portfolio turnover costs incurred by the investment manager, and how they define and monitor targeted portfolio turnover or turnover range**

The Trustees, in conjunction with their investment consultant, have processes in place to review investment turnover costs incurred by the Scheme on an annual basis. The Trustees receive a report which includes the turnover costs incurred by the investment manager used by the Scheme.



The Trustees expect turnover costs of the investment manager to be in line with its peers, taking into account the style adopted by the investment manager, the asset class invested in and prevailing market conditions.

The Trustees do not explicitly monitor turnover, set target turnover or turnover ranges. The Trustees believe that the investment manager should follow its stated approach with a focus on risk and net return, rather than on turnover. In addition, the individual mandates are unique and bespoke in nature and there is the potential for markets to change significantly over a short period of time.

- **The duration of arrangements with investment managers**

The Trustees do not in general enter into fixed long-term agreements with their investment manager and instead retains the ability to change investment manager should the performance and processes of the investment manager deviate from the Trustees' policies. Given the Trustees have completed a full buy-in of the Scheme's liabilities with SL, and intend to ultimately undertake a formal wind-up of the Scheme, the Trustees do not expect their manager appointments to have a long duration. The relationship with the regulated insurer is expected to be long term arrangement.

## Employer-related investments

The Trustees will not make direct investments in the Sponsoring Employer's own securities. The amount of the Sponsoring Employer's securities, owned by pooled investment vehicles invested in, are monitored. The Trustees have delegated the responsibility for the exercising of any voting rights attached to any Sponsoring Employer investment held to the investment managers.

## Additional voluntary contributions (AVCs)

The Trustees have full discretion as to the appropriate investment vehicles made available to members of the Scheme for their voluntary contributions. Only investment vehicles normally considered suitable for voluntary contributions will be considered by the Trustees, having taken appropriate written advice from their investment advisers.

In selecting this range of funds offered the Trustees have taken advice from their professional advisers on:

- The risks faced by members in investing on a money purchase basis.
- The Trustees' responsibilities in the selection and monitoring of the investment options offered.

The Trustees will continue to manage the AVC arrangements having taken professional advice on these matters.

The Trustees will monitor the performance of AVC providers periodically.

Members are directed to seek independent financial advice when considering their AVC arrangements.

## Appointments and responsibilities

This section sets out the key appointments and responsibilities with respect to the investment aspects of the Scheme.

A full list of the Scheme's advisers is provided at the front of the Scheme's Annual Report and Financial Statements. However, at the time of writing this SIP:

- The bulk annuity provider is Standard Life.
- The investment consultant is Gallagher (Administration & Investment) Limited.
- The investment manager is Legal & General Investment Management. Custodial duties are undertaken by LGIM and, therefore, are not detailed in this SIP.
- The Scheme Actuary is Mike Fenton of Gallagher.

### Trustees

The Trustees' primary responsibilities include:

- The preparation of this SIP, reviewing its contents and modifying it if deemed appropriate, in consultation with the Sponsoring Employer and the investment consultant, at least every three years. The SIP will also be reviewed following a significant change to investment strategy and/or the investment manager.
- Appointing investment consultants and investment managers as necessary for the good stewardship of the Scheme's assets.
- Reviewing the investment strategy as part of each triennial actuarial valuation, and/or asset liability modelling exercise, and/or significant changes to the Scheme's liabilities, taking advice from the investment consultant.
- Assessing the processes and the performance of the investment manager via reviews of the information obtained (including investment performance).
- Monitoring compliance of the investment arrangements with this SIP and with the relevant sections of the Act, the Investment Regulations and any regulatory guidance on a regular basis.
- Setting and reviewing the investment consultant objectives.

### Bulk Annuity Provider

The main responsibilities of the bulk annuity provider include:

- Updating Scheme data and benefits as agreed with the Trustees under the terms of the policy.
- Providing monthly payments to the Trustees of specified benefits in respect of insured beneficiaries and dependants covered under the terms of the policy.

### Investment consultant

The main responsibilities of the investment consultant include:

- Assisting the Trustees in the preparation and periodic review of this SIP in consultation with the Sponsoring Employer.
- Undertaking project work including reviews of investment strategy, investment performance and manager structure as required by the Trustees.
- Advising the Trustees on the selection and review of the investment manager.
- Providing training or education on any investment related matter as and when the Trustees see fit.

- Monitoring and advising upon where contributions should be invested or disinvested on a periodic basis.

### **Investment managers**

The investment managers' main responsibilities include:

- Investing the assets within their portfolio in a manner that is consistent with the objectives set out in this SIP.
- Ensuring that the investment of the assets within their portfolio is compliant with prevailing legislation and the constraints detailed in this SIP.
- Providing the Trustees with quarterly reports including a review of the investment performance of their portfolio.
- Meetings with the Trustees as and when required.
- Informing the Trustees of any changes in the fee structure, internal performance objectives and guidelines of any pooled fund within their portfolio as and when they occur.
- Considering financially material risks affecting investments within their portfolio.

### **Custodians**

The custodians' main responsibilities include:

- The safe-keeping of the Scheme's assets in respect of which they are responsible.
- Processing the settlement of transactions.
- Providing the Trustees with statements of the assets and associated cashflows.

### **Scheme Actuary**

The Scheme Actuary's main responsibilities in respect of investment policy include:

- Commenting on the suitability of the Scheme's investment strategy given the financial characteristics of the Scheme.
- Performing the triennial (or more frequently as required) actuarial valuation and advising on the Scheme's funding level and therefore the appropriate level of contributions in order to aid the Trustees in balancing short-term and long-term investment objectives.

## Compliance

The Scheme's SIP is available to members on request and is also made publicly available free of charge on a website.

A copy of the Scheme's current SIP is also supplied to the Sponsoring Employer, the Scheme's auditors and the Scheme Actuary.

This SIP, taken as a whole with the Appendices, supersedes all others and was approved by the Trustees.

**Full name**

Signature

Position

For and on behalf of Gate Gourmet London Pension Scheme

Date

**Full name**

Signature

Position

For and on behalf of Gate Gourmet London Pension Scheme

Date

## Appendix 1 – Strategic benchmark and objectives

### Scheme's target asset allocation

The Scheme's Main and BA Section remaining invested asset allocation is tabulated below:

Asset type	Investment style	Allocation (%)
Money Market	Passive	100%

### Benchmark and performance objectives

The benchmark index and relative performance objective for the fund in which the Scheme's assets are invested are outlined below. The performance target is gross of fees and relates to rolling three-year periods.

Manager	Fund	Benchmark index	Objective
LGIM	Sterling Liquidity Fund	SONIA	To provide diversified exposure and a competitive return in relation to the benchmark.

## Appendix 2 – Fees

### Investment manager fees

Manager	Fund	Investment style	Management fee % p.a.
LGIM	Sterling Liquidity Fund	Active	0.125% per annum of the first £5 million, plus 0.100% per annum of the next £5 million, plus 0.075% per annum of the next £20 million, plus 0.05% per annum of the balance above £30 million

### Investment consultancy fees

Following the completion of the buy-in transaction with SL, the investment consultant provides agreed services on a time cost basis.

The basis of remuneration is kept under review.