

AVON PENSION FUND RISK REGISTER – TOP 10 RISKS

APPENDIX 16

	Risk #	Risk	Management actions	Likelihood					Impact					Risk score	RAG	Scale of financial impact	Funded by	
				1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5					
				L		M	H		L		M	H						
1	R42	Increasing political pressure to reform scheme structure and governance frameworks and to direct investment decisions. Specifically government asked LGPS funds to pool their investment assets. If fund does not have robust plan for change, government may legislate to enforce change: This could result in the committee not making decisions in the best interest of the Fund or being unable to make decisions.	Have well defined investment policies in place setting out investment objectives and criteria. Engaging with the government through the consultation process, with consistent message. Exploring options for pooling assets with other likeminded funds.				4						4		16	R	Greater than £1m	Fund will have to meet costs of setting up any pooling structure
2	R25	Lack of continuity and knowledge within Avon Pension Fund Committee. (This risk arises mainly because some members face re-election simultaneously). Until the new members are fully trained, there may be a delay in decision-making.	Wide representation on Committee including two Independent Members not subject to electoral cycle. Training made available to new members Hold workshops for committee to explore aspects of the fund in more detail to facilitate decision making. Periodically assess training needs and have training plan in place that is reported to committee quarterly.				4						3		12	A	Greater than £1m	Annual budget
3	R26	The Fund fails to achieve investment returns sufficient to meet its liabilities. This could negatively affect the contributions paid by the employing bodies.	Periodic reviews of investment strategy against the funding position and strategy. Annual and quarterly monitoring of strategic allocation, investment returns and tactical opportunities. Strategic issues or tactical opportunities are considered at quarterly meetings of Panel and /or Committee. Ensure specialist advice is taken prior to any investment decisions are made to ensure decisions are in line with Statement of Investment Principles and contribute to				3						4		12	A	Greater than £1m	Increases in employer contribution

			investment objective.														
4	R45	Pension legislation allows people to withdraw their pension "pot" from age 55. This will apply to the LGPS. Although tax penalties may reduce the attractiveness of this option, there is a risk that it matures the fund more quickly than assumed in the 2013 valuation. Cash flow could become more negative due to transfers out.	Work with actuary to understand potential consequences on maturity profile of fund, funding of liabilities and understand the basis for valuing the transferring pension "pots". Incorporate into 2016 valuation. Initial report prepared by actuary in June 2015. Ongoing review as experience develops.			3					3			9	A	Greater than £1m	Potentially through employer contribution, investment income and divestment of assets
5	R51	Risk of Fund retaining incorrect pension liability - GMP Reconciliation Exercise. Following the abolishment of contracting out earnings effective from April 2016, requirement to undertake a reconciliation of GMP liability between Fund and HMRC. Completion date due end 2018	Manage resource requirements over timeframe. Develop project plan to manage data reconciliation process and outcomes including volume metrics. Monitor and report progress and actions taken. Communicate with HMRC and members regarding actions undertaken (ongoing).			3					3			9	A	£100,001 to £1m	Annual budget
6	R05	Non-compliance with Data Protection Act and The Pension Regulators codes of practices and standards. This could lead to fines being imposed, criminal/civil prosecutions, data processing suspended or adverse publicity.	The Pensions Manager is responsible officer for DPA. Confidentiality agreements are in place with the Fund's agents. Ongoing monitoring of the Fund's compliance with the Council's DP policies. All personal data is transmitted from the Fund through secure portals. Members including pensioner members are informed regularly (via payslips & newsletters) that data is provided to third parties for the detection / prevention of fraud viz. National Fraud Initiative. On-going training of employers in their TPR obligations			2					3			6	G	£100,001 to £1m	Annual budget

7	R10	Contributions from Employing bodies to the Fund are incorrect in value or late. This could adversely affect short term cash flow, could mean under/over funding of liabilities, and breach of obligations could lead to TPR fines.	Monthly contributions received are reconciled to employer return (and authorisation is verified). Annual reconciliation of contributions received to member records. Late payers followed up and included in quarterly monitoring report to Committee.		2					3			6	G	£100,001 to £1m	Fines and penalties recharged to employer
8	R19	Lack of adequate resources/knowledge at scheme employers leading to a failure to comply with obligations to pension fund and employee members, and TPR code	Ensure all information is provided to employers in an accessible and timely manner. Training tailored for employers' staff is provided for all new employers and refresher sessions for existing employers. Enforce penalties allowed under Administration Strategy for repetitive non-compliance with obligations / disproportionate work. Employer training obligations are set out in the Administration Strategy. TPR improvement plan highlights areas of employer failure.		2					3			6	G	£10,000 to £100,000	Annual budget
9	R23	Insolvency of Participating Employers in the Fund without sufficient monetary guarantees or bonds to make good their outstanding liability. Any liability will be absorbed by the Fund and spread across other employers, increasing overall liabilities and employer contribution rates.	Covenant assessment monitoring process in place for on-going assessment of financial standing of all employers in the Fund, including review of all employers to identify whether guarantee arrangements are adequate and explore options for obtaining guarantee, bond or contingent assets if appropriate Fund policy is to only admit Transferee and Community Admission bodies where the pension liabilities are guaranteed by a scheme employer. Exit and termination policies in place to ensure financial risk to the Fund is minimised when scheme employers cease to be active employers.			3			2				6	G	Greater than £1m	Increases in employer contribution

10	R27	The investment managers appointed by the Fund to manage the assets fail to achieve their benchmarks. This could cause the Fund to underperform its strategic benchmark and thus fail to achieve the investment returns required to fund the liabilities. This could negatively affect the contribution rates paid by the employing bodies.	Monitoring & managing the performance of the managers is delegated to the Panel. The RAG performance monitoring framework is in place to identify managers that are underperforming and issues that could impact future performance. Issues and changes in RAG ratings are reported to the Panel who agree an action plan to address the issue. The Panel reports quarterly to committee on the performance of the managers and changes in RAG ratings. The impact of underperformance by any individual manager is limited given diversification within investment management structure.			3				2				6	G	Greater than £1m	Increases in employer contribution
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