

# Genome Research Limited Pension Plan

Written Statement of Investment Principles

December 2023

## 1. Background

- 1.1. The purpose of this Statement of Investment Principles (“SIP”) is to set out the policy of the Directors of the Genome Research Pensions Trustee Limited (“the Trustee”) in capacity as Trustee for the Genome Research Pension Plan (the “Plan”) on various matters in connection with the investment of the assets of the Plan. This SIP is designed to meet the requirements of Section 35 of the Pensions Act 1995, and the 1999 Amending Regulations to the Pensions Act.
- 1.2. This SIP has been formulated after obtaining written professional advice from Mercer Limited (“Mercer”) as Investment Advisers to the Plan.
- 1.3. The employer, Genome Research Ltd (GRL), has been consulted on the SIP.
- 1.4. The appointed investment manager is required to exercise its powers of investment with a view to giving effect to the principles contained in this SIP, so far as reasonably practicable. The appointed investment manager will be provided with a copy of this SIP and kept informed of any changes.
- 1.5. The Trustee notes that in March 2017 the Pensions Regulator released ‘Investment Guidance for Pension Schemes’. The Trustee is satisfied that the investment approach adopted by the Plan is consistent with the guidance, so far as it is appropriate to the Plan’s circumstances. The Trustee meets with its investment adviser periodically and monitors developments both in relation to the Plan’s circumstances and evolving guidance, and will revise the Plan’s investment approach if considered appropriate.

## 2. Investment strategy

- 2.1. After consultation between the Trustee, the Investment Sub-Committee and GRL it was agreed that the Plan will de-risk the investment portfolio. The de-risking process will be completed in two phases. The current broad asset allocation in the Phase 1 de-risking investment strategy is as follows:
  - 22% in Global Developed Market equities;
  - 25% in Gilts – All Stocks;
  - 45% in Index-Linked Gilts – All Stocks; and
  - 8% in Cash

Initially, after further discussions at the Investment Sub-Committee and after consultation with GRL, the Trustee has developed and implemented a framework to switch the assets in the Global Developed Market equities between currency hedged unhedged share classes of the same fund.

In 2022, the Trustee took investment advice from Mercer and consulted with the employer before deciding to switch from LGIM’s Developed Markets (ex Tobacco) passive equity pooled fund to the LGIM Futures World (ex Tobacco) strategy for developed markets, see also section 11 and Appendix 3 below. The Sterling hedging

position for the Plan will be managed by requesting the manager to change between the Sterling hedged/unhedged share class within this Futures World “fund of two” strategy. The Trustee took careful cognisance of the estimated transition costs, modest increase in investment management costs and the stability of organisational and operational arrangements, before making the decision. This was implemented in February 2023.

In 2023, the Trustee decided to switch from LGIM’s Emerging Markets passive equity pooled fund to the LGIM Futures World Emerging Markets passive equity pooled fund.

- 2.2. Given this investment strategy, GRL has offered a firm commitment to the Trustee to support the Plan financially, which has been evidenced in writing by a Deed of Guarantee.
- 2.3. Importantly, the Deed of Guarantee, signed in 2008, states that GRL is to repay over a period of 3 years or less the Plan’s deficit (if any) as set out in any Recovery Plan prepared in respect of the Plan, in accordance with Section 226 Pensions Act 2004.
- 2.4. As mentioned above, the Trustee has implemented a currency hedging strategy, hedging the Plan’s developed market equity exposure back to Sterling when GBP fell significantly below purchasing power parity (“PPP”) on a trade weighted basis and will reverse that hedge if and when in the opinion of the Trustee GBP rises significantly above purchasing power parity (“PPP”).
- 2.5. In November 2023, in consultation with Mercer, the Trustee decided to de-risk the investment portfolio. The de-risking process will be completed in two phases.
- 2.6. During the first phase, the Trustee made several changes to its investment strategy. These changes included reducing exposure to LGIM’s Future World (ex Tobacco) strategy and completely divesting from LGIM’s Futures World Emerging Markets passive equity pooled fund. Additionally, the Trustee initiated investments in the LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund, LGIM UK Gilts All Stocks, and LGIM UK Index-Linked Gilts All Stocks.
- 2.7. The second phase of the de-risking process is expected to occur in 2024. This process will include a more prudent and detailed analysis of liabilities, thereby constructing a relevant liability benchmarking portfolio.

### **3. Implementation**

- 3.1. The Trustee considered the use of both passive and active investment management when reviewing the Plan’s strategy. The resultant allocation to passive management only was formed following consideration of the efficiency, liquidity and level of transaction costs likely to prevail within each market as well as the impact of the investment manager fees on future expected returns.
- 3.2. The Trustee has appointed Legal & General Assurance (Pensions Management) Limited (“L&G”) as the investment manager of the Plan. The Plan invests in pooled funds with the following benchmarks for Phase 1 of the Investment Strategy:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Weights</b>
LGIM Futures World (ex Tobacco) for developed markets Fund <sup>1</sup>	Solactive L&G ESG Global Markets Index - GBP Hedged	22%
LGIM All Stocks Gilts Index Fund	FTSE Actuaries UK Conventional Gilts All Stocks Index	25%
LGIM All Stocks Index-Linked Gilts Index Fund	FTSE Actuaries UK Index-Linked Gilts All Stocks Index	45%
LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund	SONIA	8%

<sup>1</sup> This is the fund of two to be used in the implementation of the Plan's developed markets and currency hedging strategy, by altering the currency hedging ratio within the fund.

- 3.3. All new contributions / realisations are invested / disinvested so as to move the distribution of the portfolio back towards the prevailing benchmark asset allocation and split.
- 3.4. No other rebalancing is carried out by the investment manager without specific instructions from the Trustee. Rebalancing will be considered when the allocation moves more than 10% from the starting allocation.

## **4. Policy for choosing investments**

- 4.1. In choosing investments, the Trustee has taken into account the following factors:
- the covenant, the deed of guarantee and commitment of GRL to the Plan;
  - the desire to ensure that the Plan's assets and future contributions are invested in such a manner that the benefits due to members and their beneficiaries can be paid from the Plan as they arise;
  - the circumstances of the Plan (including the relative immaturity of the Plan, the positive cash flow position, and the benefits provided);
  - the degree to which the liabilities of the Plan are covered by the assets of the Plan;
  - the investment characteristics of the available asset classes (including the expected return, the variability of return, and the correlation of asset classes with each other and with the liabilities);
  - as the Scheme approaches fully funded status, it is prudent to derisk the portfolio and construct a low dependency investment strategy that provides greater certainty of outcome
  - the belief that, in the long term, equities will outperform other available asset classes and that this time horizon is consistent with that of the Plan and the employer; and
  - the levels of investment risk.

- 4.2. The Trustee is a long term investor and does not look to change the investment arrangements on a frequent basis.
- 4.3. The investment managers are appointed based on their capabilities and, therefore, their perceived likelihood of achieving the expected return and risk characteristics required for the asset classes being selected.
- 4.4. The Trustee look to their investment adviser for their forward looking assessment of an investment manager's ability to deliver upon its stated objectives over a full market cycle. This view will be based on the adviser assessment of the investment manager's idea generation, portfolio construction, implementation and business management, in relation to the particular investment that the Plan invests in. The investment adviser's manager research ratings assist with due diligence and questioning managers during presentations to the Trustee. These ratings are used in decisions around selection, retention and removal of manager appointments.

## **5. Kinds of investments to be held**

- 5.1. The Plan may invest in any class of asset in such proportions as the Trustee, guided by its investment advisors, consider appropriate from time to time. The Trustee has decided to invest the Plan's assets in equities through a diversified portfolio of marketable securities as well as government bonds to create a matching portfolio.
- 5.2. If the investment objective for a particular investment manager changes, the Trustee will review the Plan's appointment to ensure it remains appropriate and consistent with the Trustee's wider investment objectives. When the Plan invests in pooled investment vehicles, they accept that they have no ability to specify the risk profile and return targets of the manager but believe appropriate mandates can be selected to align with the overall investment strategy. When the Plan invests in "fund of two" structures, the Trustee ensures that the risk profile and return targets of those strategies are in line with those of the parallel pooled fund and believes that this results in an appropriate mandate to align with the overall investment strategy.
- 5.3. The investment manager in which the Plan's assets is invested does not have performance based fees which could encourage the manager to make short term investment decisions to hit their profit targets.
- 5.4. The Trustee therefore considers that the method of remunerating investment fund managers is consistent with incentivising them to make decisions governed by their respective indices for their existing passive funds. Should the Trustees invest in active funds at a future date; the investment manager's decisions should be based on assessments of medium to long-term financial and non-financial performance of an issuer of debt or equity. By encouraging a medium to long-term view, the Trustee believes it will in turn encourage the investment managers to engage with issuers of debt or equity in order to improve their performance in the medium to long-term.
- 5.5. The Trustee accepts that they cannot influence the charging structure of the pooled funds in which the Plan is invested, but is satisfied that the ad-valorem charges for the different underlying funds are clear and are consistent with each pooled fund's stated

characteristics. The Trustee is therefore satisfied that this the most appropriate basis for remunerating the underlying investment managers and is consistent with the Trustee policies as set out in this SIP.

- 5.6. In addition, the Trustee may hold insurance policies or other assets that are earmarked for the benefit of certain members.

## **6. The balance between different kinds of investments**

- 6.1. The Trustee recognises the advantages of diversification across global equities, fixed income and cash in terms of reducing the risk that results from investment in any one particular market and asset class.

## **7. Expected return on investments**

- 7.1. The Trustee is aware of the long-term performance characteristics of the asset classes considered in terms of their expected returns and the variability of those returns. Short-term volatility of returns can be tolerated.

Broadly speaking, the Trustee expects global passive equities to deliver a long run real return (over price inflation) of circa 3.0%pa in the base case, with lower real returns expected from fixed interest, index-linked gilts and cash. This is reviewed annually.

## **8. Risk**

- 8.1. In assessing investment risk, the Trustee has been mindful of the Plan's:
- covenant from GRL;
  - Deed of Guarantee;
  - funding level on an On-going basis; and
  - solvency level on a Discontinuance Basis.
- 8.2. In arriving at their investment strategy, the Trustee is satisfied that they are not assuming unconsidered risk.
- 8.3. Other risks that the Trustee monitors and manages are set out in Annex A.

## **9. Monitoring of investment adviser and managers**

- 9.1. The Trustee continually assess and review the performance of its adviser in a qualitative way.
- 9.2. The investment managers are appointed by the Trustee based on their capabilities and, therefore, their perceived likelihood of achieving the expected return and desired risk characteristics, within the desired ESG/Climate change approach (see below). The Trustee utilises the investment advisers' forward-looking manager research ratings in decisions around the selection, retention and realisation of manager appointments. These ratings are based on the investment advisers' assessment of the investment manager's idea generation, portfolio construction, implementation and business management.
- 9.3. The Trustee receives quarterly monitoring reports on the performance of the underlying investment managers from their investment adviser, which presents performance information over 3 months, 1 year and 3 years. The reports show the absolute performance and performance against the manager stated benchmark (over the relevant time period) on a net of fees basis. It also provides returns of market indices so that these can also be used to help inform the assessment of the underlying manager' performance.
- 9.4. The reporting reviews the performance of the Plan's individual funds against their benchmarks and of the Plan's assets in aggregate against the Plan's strategic benchmark. The Trustee focus is primarily on long term performance but short term performance is also reviewed. The Trustee may review a manager's appointment if:

- There are sustained periods of underperformance or unexplained outperformance;
- There is a change in the portfolio manager;
- There is a change in the underlying objectives of the investment manager;
- There is a significant change to mercer’s rating of the manager.

9.5. Portfolio turnover costs refer to those incurred due to the buying, selling, lending or borrowing of investments. Given that the Plan invests in a range of pooled investment vehicles, the Trustee does not have an overall portfolio turnover target. The Trustee monitors the transaction costs incurred by the investment manager within the funds used. The Trustee receives MiFID II reporting from the investment managers annually, which provides the portfolio turnover costs..

## **10. Realisation of investments**

10.1. The Plan’s assets are invested in pooled vehicles, which in turn invest in securities traded on recognised exchanges. The Trustee concludes that the Plan’s investments can be realised if necessary.

## **11. Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) and Climate change/Carbon intensity considerations (see Appendix 3 for a statement of the Trustee’s core beliefs and further details)**

11.1. In endeavouring to invest in the best financial interests of the beneficiaries, the Trustee has elected to invest the equity holdings through pooled funds. As such, it cannot directly influence the social, environmental and ethical policies and practices of the companies in which the equity pooled funds invest. The Trustee will therefore rely on the policies and judgement of its investment manager. The Trustee will periodically review the policies of its investment manager. The Trustee ESG description applies to the equity holdings and does not consider the fixed income or cash holdings.

11.2. However, the Trustee must consider all factors that have the ability to impact the financial performance of the Plan’s investments over the appropriate time horizon. These include, but are not limited to, environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. The Trustee believes that companies with high ESG credentials maintain strong relationships with customers, suppliers, employees, governments, regulators, providers of capital and society as a whole. This is evidenced by a positive corporate culture, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, the health and safety of employees, considering their impact on communities and the environment and having an appropriate governance structure.

11.3. The Trustee recognises that ESG/Climate Change factors can influence the investment performance of the Plan’s investments and, therefore, it is in the members’ and Plan’s best long-term interests that such factors are taken into account in the investment process. Consequently, the Trustee will consider and assess the investment managers’



policy and approach to ESG/Climate Change when selecting and monitoring managers. This includes the investment managers' policy on voting and engagement.

## **12. Stewardship**

- 12.1. The Trustee believes that widespread adoption of good corporate governance practice will improve the quality of management and, as a consequence, is likely to increase the returns available to long term investors.
- 12.2. The Trustee has given the appointed investment manager full discretion when undertaking engagement activities in accordance with their own corporate governance policies and current best practice, including the UK Corporate Governance Code and UK Stewardship Code. The Trustee will review the investment manager' policies and engagement activities (where applicable) on an annual basis'.
- 12.3. The Trustee has undertaken to apply the seven principles of the UK Stewardship Code, given their responsibilities as asset owner. A copy of the Plan's Stewardship Code statement is appended to this document and is hosted on the FRC's website.
- 12.4. The Trustee has reviewed and accepted the investment manager's Stewardship Code statement.

## **13. Decision-making structure**

- 13.1. The Plan's assets are held in trust by the Trustee, whose powers of investment are set out in the trust documentation of the Plan.
- 13.2. The Trustee use sub-committees when appropriate so that issues can be considered and with due focus. Sub-committees may have delegated power from the Trustee to take decisions, which are confirmed in specific terms of reference.
- 13.3. The investment manager appointed by the Trustee is responsible for the day to-day investment management of the Plan's assets and is authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to carry out such activities.

## **14. Fees, charges and other costs**

- 14.1. The Trustee recognises that the provision of investment management, dealing and advisory services to the Plan results in a range of charges to be met, directly or indirectly, by deduction from the Plan's assets or by payment by the Employer.
- 14.2. The Trustee has agreed Terms of Business with Mercer, the Plan's investment adviser, actuaries and administrators, under which charges are calculated on a time-cost basis or fixed fee basis as agreed by the Trustee.
- 14.3. The investment manager receives fees calculated by reference to the market value of the Plan's assets under management in each pooled fund or each "fund of two".. The Trustee considers that this is the most appropriate fee structure for index tracking pooled fund or holdings in a "fund of two" investment.

14.4. Other services are or will be paid for on a time cost or fixed fee basis as agreed by the Trustee.

**15. Review of the SIP**

15.1. The Trustee will, from time to time, review the appropriateness of this SIP and will amend it as appropriate in response to any material changes to any aspects of the investment arrangements detailed above.

15.2. This SIP supersedes the SIP prepared and signed by the Trustee in June 2019 and in June 2023.

**Signed for and on behalf of**

Genome Research Pensions Trustee Limited in capacity as Trustee for the Genome Research Limited Pension Plan

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Date

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## **Annex A – Investment risk measurement methods and management processes**

The Trustee is aware of, and seeks to take account of a number of risks in relation to the Plan's investments, including the following:

Under the Pensions Act 2004, the Trustee is required to state their policy regarding the ways in which risks are to be measured and managed. These are set out below. However, given that the Plan is currently invested 100% in equities, it will not necessarily be exposed to all of these risks at present

### **Solvency Risk and Mismatching Risk**

- These are measured through a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the expected development of the assets relative to the liabilities.
- These are managed by setting a scheme-specific strategic asset allocation with an appropriate level of risk.

### **Manager Risk**

- This is assessed as the expected deviation of the prospective risk and return, as set out in the managers' objectives, relative to the investment policy.
- It is measured by monitoring the actual deviation of returns relative to the objective and factors supporting the managers' investment process.

### **Liquidity Risk**

- This is monitored according to the level of cashflows required by the Scheme over a specified period.
- It is managed by holding an appropriate amount of readily realisable investments. The Plan's assets are invested in pooled funds which are readily realisable.

### **Political Risk**

- This is measured by the level of concentration in any one market leading to the risk of adverse influence on investment values arising from political intervention.
- It is managed by regular reviews of the investments and through investing in funds which give a wide degree of diversification.

### **Environmental, Social and Governance Risk**

- This is the risk that Environmental, Social or Corporate Governance concerns, including climate change, have a financially material impact on the return of the Plan's assets.
- The Trustee manages this risk by investing with well-respected investment managers where ESG principles are appropriately included in the investment decision-making process, see section 11 above and Appendix 3 below.
- The Trustee is aware that Responsible Investing is one of the core beliefs of the investment managers and the investment adviser. As a result, part of the rating process of the investment adviser and decision-making process of the investment managers in relation to the underlying securities held is based on its financial stewardship and how well the investment managers integrate governance and sustainability into its investment process.

- The Trustee delegates the exercise of voting rights to the managers, who exercise this right in accordance with their published corporate governance policies. Summaries of these policies are provided to the Trustee from time to time and take into account the financial and broader interests of the shareholders, which should ultimately be to the Plan's advantage.

### **Sponsor Risk**

- This is assessed as the level of ability and degree of willingness of the sponsor to support the continuation of the Scheme and to make good any current or future deficit.
- It is managed by assessing the interaction between the Scheme and the sponsor's business, as measured by a number of factors, including the creditworthiness of the sponsor and the size of the pension liability relative to the sponsor. Regular updates on employer covenant are provided to the Trustee by senior staff of the Sponsoring Employer.

### **Legislative Risk**

- This is the risk that legislative changes will require action from the Trustee so as to comply with any such changes in legislation.
- The Trustee acknowledges that this risk is unavoidable but will seek to address any required changes so as to comply with changes in legislation.

### **Credit Risk**

- This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.
- The Trustee acknowledges that the assessment of credit risk on individual debt instruments is delegated to the investment manager. The Trustee will however ensure that they are comfortable with the amount of risk that the Plan's investment manager takes.

### **Market Risk**

- This is the risk the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises of the following three types of risk

#### **Currency Risk**

- This is the risk that occurs when the price of one currency moves relative to another (reference) currency. In the context of a UK pension scheme, the scheme may be invested in overseas stocks or assets, which are either directly or indirectly linked to a currency other than Sterling. There is a risk that the price of that overseas currency will move in such a way that devalues that currency relative to Sterling, thus negatively impacting the overall investment return.
- In order to address this issue, the Trustee has implemented a currency hedging strategy, as outlined in section 3 of this report.

#### **Interest rate and Inflation risk**

- This is the risk that an investment’s value will change due to a change in the level of interest rates or market implied inflation. This affects debt instruments more directly than growth instruments.
- The Trustee acknowledges that the interest rate and inflation risks exist within the portfolio by its inherent linkage to the Plan’s liabilities. The Plan’s sponsoring employer through the Deed of Guarantee currently underwrites this risk.

#### **Other Price risk**

- This is the risk that principally arises in relation to the return seeking portfolio, which could invest in assets such as equities, equities in pooled funds, equity futures, hedge funds, private equity and property.
- The Trustee acknowledges that a scheme can manage its exposure to price risk by investing in a diverse portfolio across various markets.

## **Appendix 1 – Stewardship Code statement Genome Research Ltd Pension Plan**

### **UK Stewardship Code Policy Statement**

This document describes how the Trustee of the Genome Research Ltd Pension Plan have undertaken to apply the seven principles of the UK Stewardship Code, given their responsibilities as an asset owner.

The Trustee is satisfied that the investment Manager of the Plan's assets is also a signatory to the Stewardship Code. The Manager endorses the principles and is fully committed to them as they enhance long term value for shareholders and protect the integrity of their clients' assets.

#### **1. Institutional investors should publicly disclose their policy on how they will discharge their stewardship responsibilities**

The Trustee believes that widespread adoption of good corporate governance practice will improve the quality of management and, as a consequence, is likely to increase the returns available to long term investors.

The Trustee records their policy on responsible investment in the Plan's Statement of Investment Principles. The Plan's Stewardship Code statement – ie this document – will be appended to the Statement of Investment Principles and hosted on the FRC's website.

#### **2. Institutional investors should have a robust policy on managing conflicts of interest in relation to stewardship and this policy should be publicly disclosed**

The Trustee has clear policies which address the identification, management and disclosure of conflicts of interests with the Plan, though these do not currently relate to stewardship issues, given the nature of the investment arrangements.

#### **3. Institutional investors should monitor their investee companies**

The Plan uses pooled funds and "funds of two", and as a result stewardship and voting responsibilities are delegated to the investment Manager. The Trustee regularly monitors the performance of its Manager and engages with them as part of the regular meeting cycle. The Trustee has reviewed and accepted the appointed Manager's corporate governance policy and Stewardship statement.

#### **4. Institutional investors should establish clear guidelines on when and how they will escalate their activities as a method of protecting and enhancing shareholder value**

As the Plan invests only in pooled funds and "funds of two", the investment Manager alone determines the activities they use to protect and enhance shareholder value in the underlying companies. The Trustee is satisfied that the investment Manager actively engages with investee companies, monitors this annually, and accepts that the way in which engagement is undertaken is dependent on the circumstances and the issues to be discussed.

## **5. Institutional investors should be willing to act collectively with other investors where appropriate**

As the Plan invests only in pooled funds, the investment Manager alone determines whether collective engagement is appropriate. The Trustee is satisfied that the Manager's membership of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and Corporate Governance Forum (CGF), and networks such as the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance (UKSIF) means that they are well positioned to collaborate with other investors on a number of issues.

## **6. Institutional investors should have a clear policy on voting and disclosure of voting activity**

The Trustee expects the investment Manager to exercise voting rights in the best interests of the fund, or should a conflict exist, in the best interests of shareholders generally.

The Trustee relies on voting disclosures made by the investment Manager in its quarterly reports and on its website.

## **7. Institutional investors should report periodically on their stewardship and voting activities**

The Trustee does not additionally disclose voting information to the Plan's membership.

This statement, along with underlying policies, will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated where necessary to reflect changes in actual practice.

**Reviewed December 2023**

## Appendix 2 – Summary of Updates

This section includes a summary of updates for each iteration of the Statement of Investment principles.

Date	Reason/Update
September 2020	Baseline
September 2021	Updated to include wording to cover that the trustees monitor LGIM’s transactions costs within the funds invested. This can be found in Section 9.
June 2023	Change in the underlying strategy (section 2 and section 3) Detail information on Plan’s ESG beliefs. This can be found in Appendix 3.
December 2023	Change in the underlying strategy (section 2 and section 3)



## Appendix 3; Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) and Climate change/Carbon intensity considerations

1. In endeavouring to invest in the best financial interests of the beneficiaries, the Trustee has elected to invest through pooled funds. As such, it cannot directly influence the social, environmental and ethical policies and practices of the companies in which the pooled funds invest. The Trustee will therefore rely on the policies and judgement of its investment manager. The Trustee will periodically review the policies of its investment manager.

However, the Trustee must consider all factors that have the ability to impact the financial performance of the Plan's investments over the appropriate time horizon. These include, but are not limited to, environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. The Trustee ESG description applies to the equity holdings and does not cover cash or government bonds. The Trustee believes that companies with high ESG credentials maintain strong relationships with customers, suppliers, employees, governments, regulators, providers of capital and society as a whole. This is evidenced by a positive corporate culture, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, the health and safety of employees, considering their impact on communities and the environment and having an appropriate governance structure.

The Trustee recognises that ESG/Climate Change factors can influence the investment performance of the Plan's investments and, therefore, it is in the members' and Plan's best long-term interests that such factors are taken into account in the investment process. Consequently, the Trustee will consider and assess the investment managers' policy and approach to ESG/Climate Change when selecting and monitoring managers. This includes the investment managers' policy on voting and engagement.

Emissions of greenhouse gases, resulting from human activity, are causing our climate to change. [Net zero](#) means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

By reducing carbon emissions, governments, businesses and investors can protect assets from climate-related risks, ensure resilience within their business models and protect ecosystems. Businesses that do not take these environmental risks seriously put the long-term sustainability of their financial returns at stake.

As a responsible investor, the Trustee believes there is a real opportunity to encourage and support the businesses that the Plan invests in, to decarbonise. It is believed that this will be good for them, and for the Plan's long-term investment returns and risk management.

The plan to do this involves selecting an investment strategy in which the Plan's investment managers tilt the selection of companies towards those which are adopting a net zero strategy, whilst investing less in those which are not demonstrably moving in this direction – whilst also engaging with companies to move towards net zero.

This is part of [our overall approach to responsible investment and stewardship of our assets](#).

It is believed that this strategy will see the Plan's investments reach net zero by 2050 at the latest, which will be consonant with the values and approach of the corporate sponsor.

2. Statement of core beliefs; the Trustee believes the following
  - It is imperative that the selection of the investment manager and strategies for the Plan's assets reflect ESG factors in their approach to selection of investment securities and portfolio construction, to achieve the most robust risk-adjusted return outcomes at the Trustee's desired level of liquidity and transparency of oversight and ability to control.
  - Within the ESG range of considerations, the most important is Climate Change with Social and Governance considerations as joint second. This is consonant with the values and approach of Wellcome Trust.
  - The Plan aims to achieve "Net Zero by 2050" for the assets in its portfolio and has selected a strategy designed to achieve this.
  - The Plan is committed to Driving Down Carbon Emissions and will receive reporting from the manager to monitor that carbon emissions are being reduced by an average of 7%pa over the intervening period. This relies on underlying holding companies adopting science-based net zero targets.
  - Engagement versus Exclusion, except Tobacco. The Trustee supports engagement as the cornerstone of the investment management approach, rather than excluding whole sectors which is viewed as a one-dimensional tool in a complex world. Climate change is a systemic risk that will affect all sectors.
  - It is vital that investors or the selected investment manager engages for change with companies and policy makers – we have chosen an investment manager with excellent experience of this.
  - Diversification within an equity portfolio continues to be very important, hence the Trustee has chosen an ESG/Climate Change tilted strategy which is diversified across stocks, regions and sectors with a relatively low ex post and ex ante tracking error and the Trustee will continue to review this.
  
3. The Trustee has reviewed available LGIM products and approaches to ESG factors which are consonant with its beliefs and values and with the beliefs and values of Wellcome Trust. LGIM is currently the investment manager for the Plan's assets and is widely recognised as being in the forefront of investment managers with respect to ESG and Responsible Investment and is rated Level 1 in this regard by Mercers. The Trustee has selected the LGIM Futures World strategy, ex Tobacco. The Trustee recognises that this strategy for Developed Markets equities (Hedged and Unhedged) will deliver returns and risks that will differ from the FTSE Developed World (ex Tobacco) Index and will monitor the extent of those differences to ensure that the selected strategy continues to have an appropriate likelihood of delivering targeted risk adjusted returns, over the medium/longer term. The Trustee recognises a similar strategy for Emerging Markets has been implemented.
  - a. The Trustee has received a copy of the investment manager's published corporate governance policy that explains the manager's approach to socially responsible investment and investment rights. The Trustee is satisfied with the policies as described in these documents.

- b. The Trustee notes that tobacco companies currently make up 0.5-1% of each of the FTSE Developed Markets and Emerging Markets indices. By investing the Plan's developed market equities in a fund that excludes tobacco companies, the Trustee is pursuing a policy that is consistent with the Wellcome Trust's endowment portfolio, which does not invest directly in tobacco companies, as well as Wellcome's mission to improve human and animal health globally. Other than that, the Trustee expects the investment managers to apply their ESG/Climate Change framework to score and then invest in individual companies and the Trustee will not exclude any other economic sectors or companies outright. However, the Trustee expects that the investment managers will sell positions or reject investments in companies that do not meet the required standards of corporate responsibility and/or are not meeting their carbon intensity/climate change targets within the agreed time scale. The Trustee monitors LGIM's product in respect to the above policy.
  
- c. The Trustee will receive at least annual reports from the investment managers on the progress towards net zero and the progress on reducing the carbon intensity of the portfolio and will include a summary of progress in its reports to members.