

Kent County Council Superannuation Fund Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2021



**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



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If you have any comments on the annual report,

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- email investments.team@kent.gov.uk, or
- write to: Kent Pension Fund, Treasury and Investments,
Kent County Council, Room 3.08, Sessions House, County
Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

Chairman's foreword

As the Chairman of the Superannuation Fund Committee it is my pleasure to introduce the Kent Pension Fund annual report. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated all our lives over the last year or so. We have faced a crisis unlike any we have known previously, and my thoughts are with everyone who has been impacted in anyway.

Our Fund now supports some 144,960 scheme members and I am particularly grateful to all the administration staff for all their efforts over the last year ensuring these members and the 310 employers in the Fund continue to receive an excellent level of service. I am also very appreciative of the work of those officers responsible for providing the finance support to the Fund.

The Committee is aware of the significant and increasing demands being made on all the staff involved with the work of the Fund so as well as supporting the recruitment of additional resources to the administration team we commissioned a review of the KCC finance staff resources required to provide the support to the Committee and Board as well as the accounting, investment and governance service. The review has been completed and we are now working through the recommendations for strengthening the finance support.

During the year we also commissioned a review of the governance of the Pension Fund taking into account the recommendations of the Internal Audit review completed in 2019 and we now look forward to receiving the report and implementing the recommended changes for enhancing the Fund's governance arrangements.

Against a background of prolonged lockdowns and economic uncertainty I am very pleased to be able to report that the Fund's investments have performed well since the beginning of April 2020 recovering all the losses suffered earlier in the year. Over the last 16 months or so we have been in regular contact with the Fund's investment managers with regard to their response to the impact of the pandemic and it is very encouraging to see that not only have they taken steps to protect the interests of the Fund they are also exploiting the new opportunities arising. The Fund's investments in the technology sector have particularly outperformed others. Our UK retail and leisure property holdings however have yet to fully recover their value as a result of the prolonged lockdown, the closure of high street shops and the switch to homeworking for many office staff. These investments continue to face the challenge of an uncertain period of recovery.

At 31 March 2021 the Fund's value reached a record high of £7.5bn, a gain over the 12 months of £1.8bn. It is also pleasing to note that the Fund has continued to grow in value reaching a new high of £7.8bn at the end of June 2021.

During 2020-21 the Committee continued with the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic asset allocation review undertaken in 2018 and in December 2020 established an equity downside protect programme for the Fund's global equities exposure. At each meeting the committee reviews the Fund's asset allocation and in September members agreed a rebalancing framework to support its review with assistance from our investment consultant. As a result we have invested monies in global fixed income funds while reducing our global equity holdings and added further to our investments in private equity and infrastructure funds. We have also done some rebalancing of our investments in the two absolute return funds

At the beginning of the year we consulted on a significantly revised Responsible Investment policy and I am pleased to be able to report that we continue to be a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) while requiring our investment managers to sign up to both the PRI and the UK Stewardship Code. We also confirmed our membership of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC). We believe our continuing involvement with these organisations is key to our commitment to RI which is we believe important in seeking long term investment returns for our scheme members and their employers.

The RI working group met for the first time this year following the implementation of the new Responsible Investment policy. The group supports the Committee with the further development of the Fund's policy and makes recommendations to the Committee on its implementation. It also has the capacity to review important environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and during the year the group considered items on stewardship and engagement.

The Kent Fund has continued to be an active participant in the ACCESS investment pool and during the year I represented the Fund on the ACCESS Joint Committee. I am also grateful to the Kent officers for their work on the implementation of the pooling plans and establishment of new structures for both listed and non-listed assets.

The Kent Fund now has [£3.7bn] invested in equity and absolute return funds in the ACCESS ACS, some 50% of our total assets available for pooling. This total includes our investment in the Schroders GAV fund which transferred in November 2020. Further funds are expected to transfer to the pool this year. The ACCESS annual report is overleaf.

While continuing to provide a high level of service to scheme members I am pleased to report that we have continued to clear the backlog of member queries with support from external parties and rolled out further access to the i-connect web portal enabling employers to upload their data directly to the pensions database. Currently some 68 employers are using the system with more being added each month, thereby achieving significant savings of effort.

We recognise the importance of maintaining relevant skills and knowledge and during the year members have attended both in-house training events as well as externally arranged conferences and seminars. We have also developed a training plan based on an assessment of members' needs and proposed training includes further in-house training sessions, external training events, use of online learning tools and background reading as appropriate.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to Members of the Superannuation Committee and Pensions Board for their support for me as Chair of the Committee and for their hard work and commitment during the year which has involved attendance at virtual meetings. Particular thanks are also due to retiring Members for their years of service, notably Margaret Crabtree, retiring from her role of chair of the board.

As Chairman I am really looking forward to working with Members and Officers to meet the challenges of what is expected to be a busy next 12 months.

Charlie Simkins
Chairman



ACCESS Annual Report 2020-2021

Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee,

Chairman, ACCESS Joint Committee

As Chairman of the ACCESS Joint Committee, I am pleased to introduce the latest Annual Report for our pool.

The backdrop to 2020/21 remained the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to shape our world. The strength of the partnership between each of the eleven Authorities has been the foundation of how ACCESS has been able to adjust and respond to these challenging circumstances. The year saw further substantial progress in the pooling of active listed assets, with seven new sub-funds being launched by Link Fund Solutions, the Operator of the ACCESS Authorised Contractual Scheme (ACS). As at 31 March 2021 a total of £20.4bn on behalf of all eleven ACCESS Authorities was invested within 22 ACS sub-funds across global equity, UK equity, fixed income and diversified growth.

For passive assets, ACCESS Authorities jointly procured the services of UBS in 2017, and a total of £11.1bn was being managed at the end of year.

In January 2021, the Joint Committee agreed the approach ACCESS will take to implement pooled arrangements for alternative / non-listed assets. This will cover the four areas set out below:

- Private Equity
- Private Debt
- Infrastructure

- Property

Having undertaken framework procurements, the ACCESS Joint Committee also confirmed the appointment of two key advisers during the year. In November 2020 we welcomed Engine MHP as our Communications partner, and, in January 2021, Minerva were appointed to conduct a review of the pool's Responsible Investment guidelines and advise on future reporting requirements.

Finally, a review of the size and scope of the ACCESS Support Unit was undertaken resulting in the establishment of two additional FTE positions to further support both the development and ongoing work of the Pool.

Collectively as at 31 March 2021 the ACCESS Authorities have:

£56 billion

total assets (of which 57% has been pooled)

serving **3,400** employers

with **1.1 million** members

including **300,000** pensioners

At a glance

- **1** Inter Authority Agreement (updated 2020)
- **1** Joint Committee
- **11** Authorities

- **5** FTE ASU* staff
- **5** part time Technical Leads**
- **Link:** ACS Operator
- **Alternatives** under consideration



- **£20bn** assets in **22** ACS actively managed sub funds
- **£11bn** assets with **1** jointly procured passive manager: UBS

- **£12.9m** costs
- **£38.4m** gross savings
- **£25.5m** net savings

Cumulative: 2016 inception 31 March 2021

*FTE = Full Time Equivalent
ASU = ACCESS Support Unit

**Technical Leads drawn from
ACCESS Authorities

All figures as at 31 March 2021 unless stated

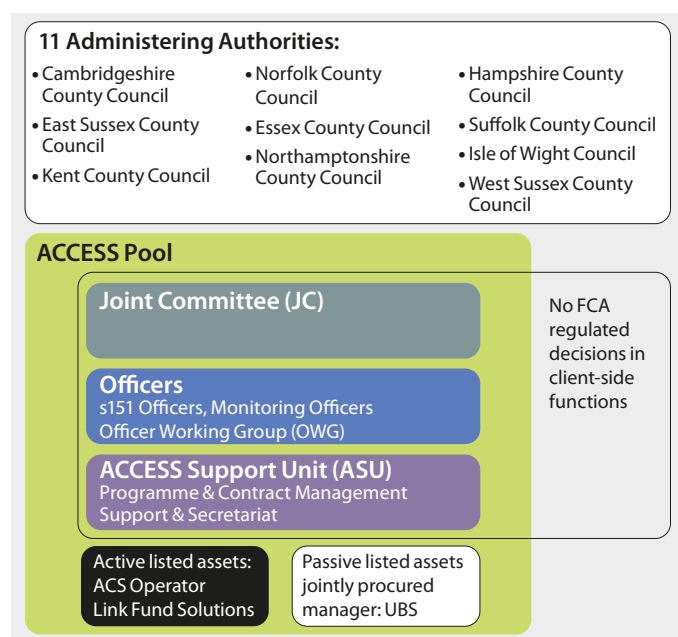
- **2nd** Investor Event: 17 December 2020 (virtual)
- **Operator** Link & **Depositary** Northern Trust gave presentations
- **60** delegates

Background

ACCESS (A Collaboration of Central, Eastern and Southern Shires) is made up of eleven Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) Administering Authorities: Cambridgeshire County Council; East Sussex County Council; Essex County Council; Hampshire County Council; Hertfordshire County Council; Isle of Wight Council; Kent County Council; Norfolk County Council; Northamptonshire County Council (West Northamptonshire from 1 April 2021); Suffolk County Council and West Sussex County Council in response to the Governments pooling agenda across the LGPS. The first ACCESS Inter Authority Agreement was signed in late June 2017.

The ACCESS Administering Authorities are committed to working together to optimise benefits and efficiencies on behalf of their individual and collective stakeholders, operating within a clear set of objectives and principles that drives the decision-making process.

Governance



Strategic oversight and scrutiny responsibilities remain with the Administering Authorities as does all decision making on their individual Funds asset allocation and the timing of transfers of assets from each Fund into the arrangements developed by the ACCESS Pool.

The Joint Committee (JC) has been appointed by the eleven Administering Authorities under s102 of the Local Government Act 1972, to exercise specific functions in relation to the pooling of LGPS assets. The JC's functions include the specification, procurement, recommendation of appointment of pool Operators (for active asset management) and pool-aligned asset providers (for passive asset management), to the Administering Authorities. The Joint Committee also reviews ongoing performance.

The Section 151 Officers of ACCESS Authorities provide advice to the Joint Committee in response to its decisions to ensure appropriate resourcing and support is available to implement the decisions and to run the ACCESS Pool.

The Joint Committee is further supported by the Officer Working Group (OWG) and the ACCESS Support Unit (ASU).

The Officer Working Group consists of officers with specialist LGPS investment skills, identified by each of the Administering Authorities whose role is to provide a central resource for advice, assistance, guidance and support for the Joint Committee.

The ACCESS Support Unit (ASU) provides the day-to-day support for running the ACCESS Pool and has responsibility for programme management, contract management and supplier relationship, administration and technical support services. 2020/21 saw the approval of two additional roles to increase support capacity of the ASU which is hosted by Essex County Council. Appointments were made to these positions in March 2021 and July 2021. These roles are also supplemented with additional technical support from Officers within the ACCESS Authorities.

The Operator: Link Fund Solutions

Appointed in 2018 Link Fund Solutions Ltd (Link) provide the pooled operator service, overseeing an Authorised Contractual scheme for the sole use of ACCESS Authorities. Link are responsible for establishing and operating an authorised contractual scheme along with the creation of a range of investment sub-funds for active listed assets and the appointment of the investment managers to those sub-funds. This is designed to enable Administering Authorities to execute their asset allocation strategies

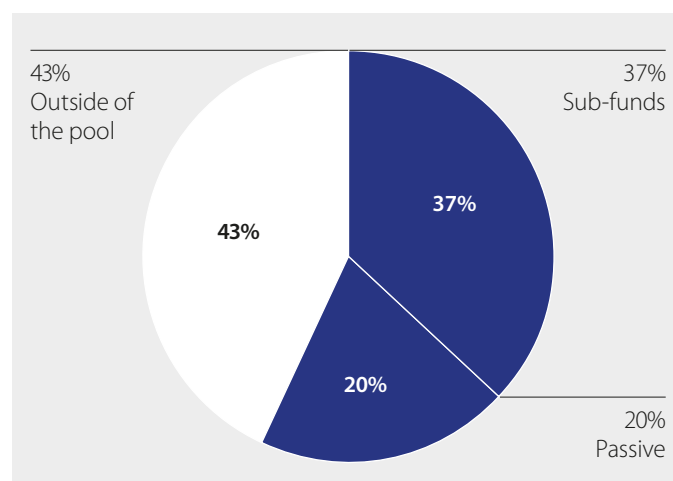
Pool Aligned Assets: UBS

Appointed following a joint procurement in 2017, UBS act as the ACCESS Authorities' investment manager for passive assets.

Progress on Pooling

ACCESS submitted its pooling proposal to Government in July 2016 with detailed plans for establishing and moving assets into the pool. Included in the proposal was an indicative timeline of when assets will be pooled, and ACCESS has continued to make excellent progress against the principal milestone of having £27.2 billion assets pooled and estimated savings of £13.6 million by March 2021 exceeding the assets pooled by £4 billion and the savings by £8 million.

As at 31 March 2021, 57% of assets have been pooled:



Pooled Assets

As at 31 March 2020 ACCESS has pooled the following assets:

Pooled Investments	£ billion
Passive investments	11.125
UK Equity Funds	2.159
Global Equity Funds	14.676
UK Fixed Income	2.085
Diversified Growth	1.465
Total Pooled Investments	31.510

The passive investment funds are held on a pool governance basis under one investment manager as these assets are held in life fund policies, which cannot be held within an authorised contractual scheme.

Key milestones achieved in 2020/21

- Approval and launch of a range of sub-funds reflecting the strategic asset allocation needs of the ACCESS Funds.
- Provision of updates of progress of pooling to Government.
- Appointment of Engine MHP to review and advise in the further development of the Communications Policy.
- Appointment of Minerva to provide advice and guidance to develop Environmental, Social and Governance and Responsible Investment guidelines for ACCESS.
- In conjunction with Link Fund Solutions, held the second investor day for Elected members and officers of the individual Authorities. There were presentations by Link Fund Solutions as the ACS operator and Northern Trust as the depositary.
- Determined an approach to pooling and managing the illiquid assets covering private equity, private debt, infrastructure and property.
- Additional resources appointed to the ASU to support the activities of the ACCESS Pool.

Objectives for 2021/22

ACCESS is well placed to continue to develop the pool and progress will continue unabated despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 lockdown. Virtual meetings are well established and productive. It is anticipated that 2021/22 will see key activities within the following themes:

- Actively managed listed assets: the completion of pooling active listed assets within the Authorised Contractual Scheme (ACS).
- Alternative / non listed assets: the initial implementation of pooled alternative assets.
- Passively managed assets: ongoing monitoring and engagement with UBS.
- Finalise and implement the Environmental, Social and Governance and Responsible Investment guidelines for ACCESS.
- ACCESS Support Unit (ASU): the size and scope of the ASU will be kept under review.

Expected v Actual Costs and Savings

The table opposite summarises the financial position for 2020/21 along with the cumulative position since the commencement of ACCESS activity in early 2016.

A budget for ongoing operational costs is set by the Joint Committee and is financed equally by each of the eleven Authorities. 2020/21 saw an underspend primarily due to lower than anticipated costs of external advice combined with an underspend in the technical lead recharge costs.

	2020-21 Actual In Year £'000	2020-21 Budget In Year £'000	2016-21 Actual Cumulative to date £'000	2016-21 Budget Cumulative to date £'000
Set Up Costs	–	–	1,824	1,400
Transition Costs	–	–	674	2,499
Ongoing Operational Costs	863	1,079	3,071	3,548
Operator & Depositary Costs	3,672	4,077	7,304	6,577
Total Costs	4,535	5,156	12,873	14,024
Pool Fee Savings	21,747	13,600	42,262	32,050
Net Savings Realised	17,212	8,444	29,389	18,026

Operator and depositary fees are payable by each Authority in relation to assets invested within the Authorised Contractual Scheme established by Link Fund Solutions as pool operator. The 2020/21 fee savings have been calculated using the CIPFA price variance methodology and based on the average asset values over the year. This approach highlights the combined level of investment fee savings, across all ACCESS Authorities stemming from reduced charges.

In summary, since inception ACCESS has demonstrated excellent value for money, maintaining expenditure broadly in line with the MHCLG submission whilst delivering an enhanced level of savings ahead of the timeline contained in the original proposal.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Responsible Investment (RI)

The ACCESS Authorities believe in making long term sustainable investments whilst integrating environmental and social risk considerations, promoting good governance and stewardship.

Whilst the participating authorities have an overriding fiduciary and public law duty to act in the best long-term interests of their LGPS stakeholders to achieve the best possible financial returns, with an appropriate level of risk they also recognise the importance of committing to responsible investment alongside financial factors in the investment decision making process.

ACCESS has reviewed its own ESG/RI guidelines to reflect both the requirements of the Authorities and the expectations associated with this fundamental aspect of institutional investment. Minerva have been appointed as part of this review to provide advice on guidelines and implementing these in a pooling environment.

Minerva will also provide advice on future appropriate reporting requirements to provide transparency to stakeholders, monitor adherence to the Guidelines and inform discussion on ESG/RI matters.

The ACCESS pool has a set of voting guidelines which seeks to protect and enhance the value of its shareholdings by promoting good practice in the corporate governance and management of those companies. The voting guidelines sets out the principles of good corporate governance and the means by which ACCESS will seek to exercise its influence on companies. During the year ACCESS voted at 868 meetings on 11,351 resolutions.

Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee

Chairman, ACCESS Joint Committee

Governance arrangements

The Superannuation Fund Committee

The Superannuation Fund Committee exercises all of the powers and duties of the Kent County Council (KCC) in relation to its functions as Administering Authority for the Fund. The Committee is responsible for setting investment strategy, appointing professional fund managers and carrying out regular reviews and monitoring of investments. It also monitors the administration of the Pension Scheme and determines Pension Fund policy in regard to employer admission arrangements.

The membership of the Committee during 2020-21 is detailed below. There were 6 full Committee meetings during the year, all were held virtually.

Committee members

Employer representatives

All elected members (employer representatives) have full voting rights at the committee.



Charlie Simkins
Chairman
Kent County Council



Nick Chard
Vice Chairman
Kent County Council



Dan Daley
Kent County Council



Paul Barrington-King
Kent County Council



Peter Homewood
Kent County Council



James McInroy
Kent County Council



John Burden
Gravesham Borough
Council



Nick Eden-Green
Canterbury City Council



Paul Clokie
Ashford Borough Council



Paul Bartlett
Kent County Council



Paul Cooper
Kent County Council



John Wright
Kent County Council



Stuart Tranter
Medway Council

Member Representatives

Member representatives do not have a vote but otherwise are treated equally in terms of access to papers, training and opportunity to contribute to the decision making process.

Kent Active Retirement Fellowship Representatives

Mary Wiggins
David Coupland

Union Representative

Joe Parsons

Kent County Council Staff Representative

Vacancy

Local Pensions Board

The Local Pensions Board for Kent was established in April 2015 in accordance with the relevant Government Legislation. The membership of the Board during 2020-21 is detailed below; there was one full Board meeting during the year. Another Board meeting held was not quorate due to insufficient members being able to attend.

Kent County Council Officers and Others

The day to day operations and management of the Fund and implementing the decisions of the Superannuation Fund Committee are delegated to the KCC Section 151 officer and their staff. This includes the power to seek professional advice and devolve day to day handling of the Fund's investments to professional fund managers and advisers within the scope of the regulations. KCC undertakes the monitoring and accounting for the investments of and income due to the Fund.

Board members

Employer Representatives	Representing
Margaret Crabtree, Chairperson	Kent County Council
Rosalind Binks	Kent County Council
David Monk	Shepway District Council
Alison Kilpatrick	Kent and Medway Fire
Member Representatives	
Joe Parsons, Vice Chairperson	Districts/Medway staff
Lauren Shah (until Nov. 2020)	Kent County Council staff
David Coupland	Kent Active Retirement Fellowship
Vacancy	Representing Trade Union

Governance 2020-21

During the year the Superannuation Fund Committee met six times and the Pensions Board met once. 5 out of 6 Committee meetings and all Board meetings were held virtually. Attendance at the Committee and Board meetings was as below:

Superannuation Fund Committee

Member	Meetings attended
Charlie Simkins	6/6
Nick Chard	5/6
Paul Barrington-King	6/6
Paul Bartlett	6/6
John Burden	5/6
Paul Clokie	4/6
Paul Cooper	6/6
David Coupland	4/6
Dan Daley	3/6
Nick Eden-Green	6/6
Peter Homewood	6/6
James McInroy	6/6
Joe Parsons	5/6
Stuart Tranter	3/6
Mary Wiggins	0/6
John Wright	6/6

Pensions Board

Member	Quorate meetings attended
Margaret Crabtree	1/1
Joe Parsons	1/1
Rosalind Binks	1/1
David Coupland	1/1
Alison Kilpatrick	1/1
David Monk	0
Lauren Shah	0
Unison Rep – VACANCY	

Committee activity

Items considered by the Committee at its meetings in 2020/21 were as follows:

- Updates on the implementation of the Fund's investment strategy
- Quarterly updates on the Fund's asset allocation and performance
- Review of the Fund's Property investment strategy
- ACCESS pooling updates
- Updates on Employer matters and governance matters
- Update from the Fund's Actuary
- Pension administration updates
- The 2019/20 Report and Accounts and External Audit Report
- Updates on the Fund's Risk Register
- Update of the Fund's Training Plan
- The Pension Fund Committee's work programme
- Quarterly updates on the Pension Fund's business plan
- Review of its Responsible Investment Policy
- Updates on Pension Fund cash flow

- Design and implementation of Equity Downside Protection programme
- Updates on implementation of Internal Audit Review recommendations
- Updates on Fund Managers
- Report from the Pension Board

Board activity

The Board met twice during the year; once in October 2020 and again in February 2021, however the February 2021 meeting was not quorate. At its meeting in October 2020 the Pension Board considered the following:

- Pension Fund Business Plan
- Fund Employer and Governance Matters
- Superannuation Fund Report and Accounts and External Audit
- Internal Audit Review update
- Board Member Training
- ACCESS update
- Superannuation Fund Committee update
- Pension Fund Risk Register

Training update for the report

As an administering authority of the Local Government Pension Scheme, Kent County Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all officers and members charged with financial management and decision making for the pension scheme are fully equipped with the knowledge and skills to discharge the duties and responsibilities allocated to them.

The Kent Fund Training Strategy agreed in 2019 reflects the current requirements of frameworks, codes and guidance issued by a range of bodies including CIPFA, the Pensions Regulator and the Scheme Advisory Board and will be updated as these are revised. The Fund has delegated responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy to the Corporate Director of Finance.

Members agreed the Fund Training Plan in February 2021 and it provides an ongoing training programme for Board and Committee members taking account of the results of the 2020 Hyman Robertson (HR) National Knowledge Assessment, and future training needs. It also builds on training provided and suggested to date, including in the 2019 Internal Audit Report of their review of Fund governance. The training plan includes in-house training sessions, external training events, use of online learning tools and background reading as appropriate.

The main training events attended by committee and board members during 2020-21 were as follows:

Date	Topic	Provider
June 2020	LGPS Committee & Local Pension Board Members update	CIPFA / Barnett Waddingham
June 2020	Trustee training	Schroders
August 2020	McCloud Implementation workshop	CIPFA
October 2020	LGPS Committee & Local Pension Board Members update	Barnett Waddingham
October 2020	LGPS Local Pension Board Members & Officers Autumn Seminar 2020	CIPFA
February 2021	Superannuation Fund and local Pension Fund training day covered the issues of fiduciary duty and actuarial methods as well as an update on the ACCESS pool	Barnett Waddingham / ACCESS
February 2021	Addressing the funding question for Pension Funds	Insight

Committee members have also had an opportunity to gain an understanding of new asset classes and existing investment mandates from investment managers at the following Committee meetings:

Date	Topic	Provider
June 2020	UK equities	Schroders
September 2020	Property	Fidelity
November 2020	Absolute Return	Pyrford
March 2021	Fixed income	GSAM

In addition 4 board members completed the tPR toolkit during the year.

Individual members and officers have also attended training events organised by the Fund's investment managers and other external organisations as follows:

- Keeping LGPS Connected
- Investment Management, individual accountability
- Managing TO Engagements
- Enterprise wide insider threat programme
- Strength in Diversity: Consciously managing bias

Fund managers


















Kent County Council
Treasury Management Team




Further details of the fund manager mandates can be found in the Investment Strategy Statement (ISS).

Other organisations providing services to the Kent Fund

Service	Organisation
Custodian	Northern Trust Company
Bankers	National Westminster Bank
Fund Actuary	Barnett Waddingham
Additional Voluntary Contributions	Utmost Life, (earlier Equitable Life Assurance)
(AVC) Providers	Prudential Assurance Company Standard Life Assurance
Investment Consultants	Mercers
Auditors	Grant Thornton
Legal Advisors	Invicta Law
Performance Measurers	Northern Trust Company CEM Benchmarking PIRC Limited
Scheme Administrators	Kent County Council
Administration software provider	Aquila Heywood

The Kent Pension Fund maintains the following statutory statements and policies; these are reviewed and updated regularly:

- Funding Strategy Statement.
- Investment Strategy Statement.
- Governance Compliance Statement.
- Communications Policy Statement.
- Responsible Investment Policy.

These documents can be found on the Pension Fund's website
<https://www.kentpensionfund.co.uk/local-government/about-us/investment-management-of-the-fund/policies>

Risk Management

Kent County Council as the Administering Authority for the Kent County Council Superannuation Fund has delegated responsibility for the management of risk to the Superannuation Fund Committee.

Risk register

The Committee regularly reviews the Fund's key risks. The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown up new challenges in the investments as well as the administration of the fund. Whilst actions to mitigate the risks have been put in place and are being monitored, the key risks currently identified remain:

- Investments achieve returns below rate assumed by the actuary.
- Risk to service delivery due to remote working arrangements.
- Increased risk of cyber attacks.

Arrangements have been agreed for the management of these risks in order to mitigate their impact on the Fund.

Financial, demographic, regulatory, and employer risks

Details of the counter measures in place for financial, demographic, regulatory, and employer risks are included in the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). The FSS is reviewed annually.

Operational risks

Kent County Council's Internal Audit Section conducts risk based audits on the management of risk in the Pension Fund.

Third party risk such as that relating to employers in the Fund is managed through monitoring the timeliness of receipts of contributions as well as the annual review of guarantees / bonds provided by Admitted bodies.

Investment risk management

Further details of the Fund's policy on investment risk management are disclosed in the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement (ISS). The Superannuation Fund Committee formally considers investment risk at four of its five planned meetings during the year.

Assurance over external service providers operations is provided by investment managers and custodian[s] who are required to provide annual AAF 01/06 reports and ISAE 3402 reports.

Financial Performance

Fund Trends

A summary of the Fund's key trends is shown below:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Net Assets at 31 March (£'000)	5,565,175	5,828,846	6,218,169	5,716,878	7,513,632
No. of Contributors	50,834	52,775	51,345	51,685	52,725
Contributions (£'000)	228,285	232,037	238,331	250,263	267,955
Number of Pensioners	38,648	39,813	41,739	43,441	44,838
Benefits Paid (£'000)	214,895	220,876	235,953	243,832	247,448

Financial Summary

A brief summary over the last 5 years is shown below:

	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Value of Fund at start of year	4,597,540	5,565,175	5,828,846	6,218,169	5,716,878
Revenue account for year					
– Contributions and transfers in	238,851	243,299	247,758	259,591	272,972
– Investment and other income net of expenditure	84,792	93,503	84,971	109,358	83,969
– Benefits and transfers out	(222,949)	(232,373)	(248,538)	(256,540)	(257,505)
Net Revenue	100,694	104,429	84,191	112,409	99,436
Increase (Decrease) in market value of investments in year	866,941	159,242	305,132	(613,700)	1,697,318
Increase (decrease) in Fund during year	967,635	263,671	389,323	(501,291)	1,796,754
Value of Fund at end of year	5,565,175	5,828,846	6,218,169	5,716,878	7,513,632

The fund had recovered very well this year after the pandemic hit asset values hard last year.

The number of contributors in the Fund has continued to rise again this year.

The amount of contributions has increased by 5% this year, whilst the number of contributors increased by just 2%, mainly due to a continued increase in salary levels of employees.

Number of pensioners has continued to grow and were 15% higher at 31 March 2021 compared to 31 March 2017. Pension payments have also increased by 15% during the same period.

Pension Fund Administration and Governance Costs

The following table compares actual Administration, Governance and Oversight costs against the budget for 2020-21.

	2020-21 Actual £'000	2020-21 Budget £'000
Pensions Administration	3,033.73	3,411.90
Pensions Payroll Services	221.54	225.97
Payment Services	16.65	17.34
Financial Services	64.70	68.34
Legal Fees	23.72	125.00
Miscellaneous	1.00	–
Administration Expenses	3,361.34	3,848.55
Actuarial Fee including cost of valuation	315.82	260.00
Direct recovery of actuary, legal fees and admin costs	(257.09)	(225.00)
Subscriptions	41.51	46.00
ACCESS pooling costs	82.16	100.00
Investment Accounting and Oversight costs	371.87	400.00
Performance Measurement and other advice fees	29.08	30.00
Investment Consultancy	318.35	210.00
Governance and Oversight Expenses	901.70	821.00
Audit fee	41.03	24.00
Total	4,304.07	4,693.55

The costs of administration of the scheme were lower than budget due to vacancies in the section and lower than expected legal fees due to lower employer related activity.

Whilst there were savings in oversight costs due to vacancies, there were increased costs of investment consultancy for the implementation of the equity protection programme. Audit fees have been increased to reflect increased scope of testing.

Employers

At 31 March 2021 there were 454 Employers in the Fund. During the year 6 organisations joined the Fund as either scheduled or admitted bodies following the transfer of staff from existing fund employers and as schools converted to academy trusts.

Academy trusts also consolidated and other employers exited the Fund as their last active members left or retired. During the year 12 employers either ceased to be members of the Fund or merged with other employers. The following table shows a summary of the number of employers in the Fund analysed by employer type which are active (i.e. with contributing members) and ceased (i.e. with no active members but with some outstanding liabilities).

Number of employers

	Active	Ceased	Total
Scheduled Body	238	68	306
Admitted Body	72	76	148
Total	310	144	454

Amounts due from Employers

During 20-21 we collected 99%, (99% in 2019-20) of total contribution income by value from Employers by the due date of the 19th of the following month and 95% of employers paid on time. The lower percentage reflects the difficulties some small employers had with new payment processes as a result of the pandemic and some back dated admissions to the Fund. The option to levy interest on overdue contributions was not exercised. At 31 March 2021, contributions in respect of the March salaries totalling £17.2m (31 March 2019 £17.9m) due by 19 April had not been received.

Member Age Profile

The following table shows that at 31 March 2020 the age profile of the contributing membership was:

Age	Members
Under 20	504
20 – 25	3,752
26 – 30	4,046
31 – 35	4,762
36 – 40	5,769
41 – 45	6,415
46 – 50	7,515
51 – 55	8,203
56 – 60	6,910
61 – 65	3,945
66 – 70	741
Over 70	163

Five-year analysis of pension overpayments, recoveries and write-offs

Overpayments

The overpayments identified over the last 5 years as a result of the Fund's participation in the National Fraud Initiative are:

Year	No.	Value (£)	Action
2017	1	4,946	No next of kin so written-off
	1	537	No response – written-off
2019	2	641	Written-off
	1	207	To be written off as no next of kin
	1	2,135	Being investigated
2021	1	11,500	(est) Assistance sought from KCC's counter fraud team regarding recovery
	2	417	Seeking recovery from next of kin
	1	244	To be written off as no next of kin
Total	10	20,627	

Note: the number of cases has decreased as a mortality screening service is now used on a monthly basis to identify registered deaths.

Pension overpayments write-offs

Details of the write-offs made in the last 5 years:

Year	No. of cases	Value (£)
2016-17	36	8,135
2017-18	39	53,946 *
2018-19	18	27,717 *
2019-20	3	1,318
2020-21	12	3,133

*£71,502 of these amounts refer to historic overpayments that occurred and all possibilities of recovery have been exhausted.

Investments

This report sets out details of the progress made against the Fund's investment strategy during the year.

At its regular meetings during 2020-21 the Committee reviewed the Fund's actual asset allocation compared to the benchmark, in the context of how it will achieve the required investment return of 5.8% per annum assumed by the Fund actuary and agreed any action required.

The Fund's strategic asset allocation as at 1 April 2020 was as follows:

Asset Class	Allocation %	Index
UK Equities	23.5	FTSE All Share
Overseas Equities	32	MSCI World Index NDR
Fixed Income	15	BAML GBP Broad Market
Property	13	IPD All Properties Index
Private Equity & Infrastructure	7.5	GBP 7 Day LIBID
Absolute Return	8	RPI +5%
Cash	1	GBP 7 Day LIBID
Total	100	

Asset Pooling

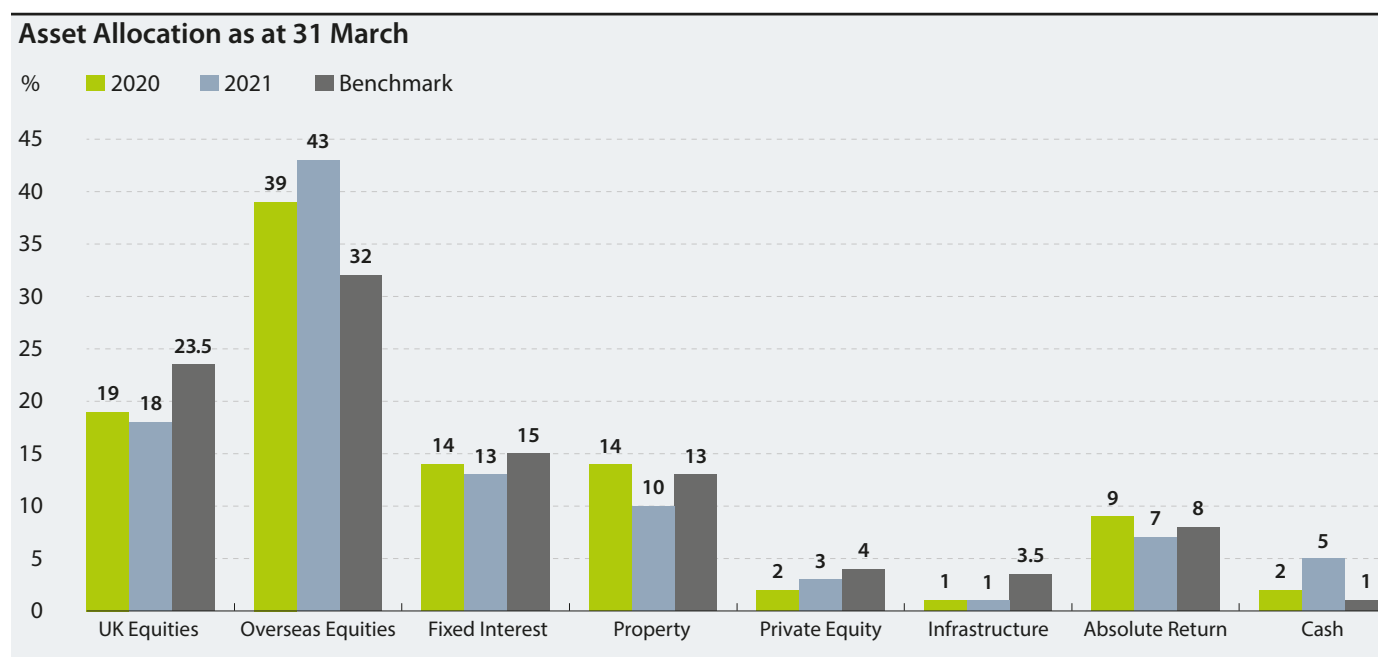
The Kent Pension Fund has made a commitment to pool its assets other than its direct property holdings into the ACCESS Pool. (Please see section on ACCESS for further information about the Pool).

As at 31 March 2021 it had investments of £3.7 billion in four ACCESS sub-funds.

The Kent Fund has achieved £6.9m of savings in pooling initiatives of which £2.7m are in relation to assets awaiting pooling

Portfolio Distribution

The graph shows the Fund's actual portfolio distribution between the main asset-classes as at 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 vs the benchmark.

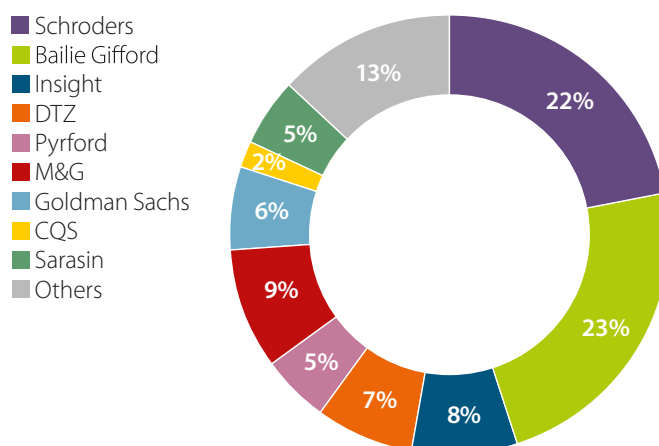


Value of funds under management by Fund Manager

The following graph shows the Assets Under Management (AUM) and the proportion of the Fund under management by fund manager as at 31 March 2021:

Fund Managers	AUM (£m)
Schroders	1,640
Baillie Gifford	1,710
Insight	611
DTZ	539
Pyrford	407
M&G	671
Goldman Sachs	417
CQS	158
Sarasin	353
Others	1,000
Total	7,506

AUM by Fund Manager as a proportion of the Fund



Investment performance 2020-21

The performance of the Fund's investment managers is reported on a quarterly basis to the Superannuation Fund Committee. The managers submit reports and valuations for this purpose and managers of the larger mandates meet at least annually with the Committee and / or its officers to make presentations and to answer questions.

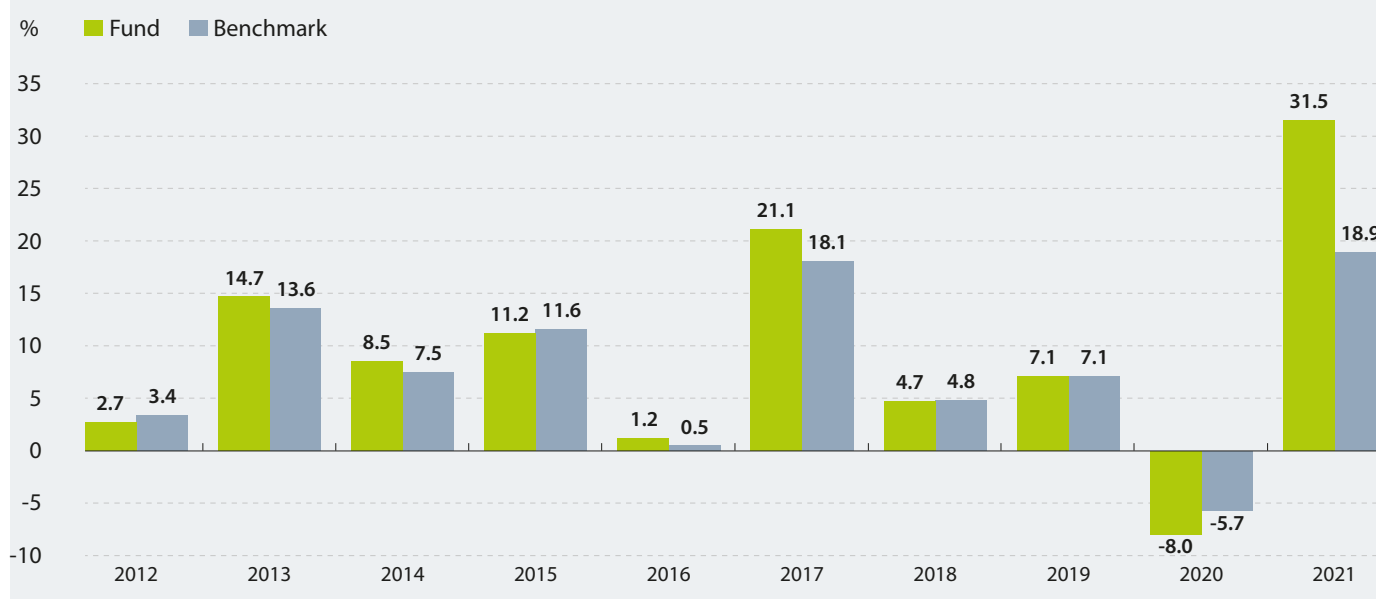
Managers are required to provide valuation information to Northern Trust which assesses the rate of return achieved and provides performance reports for consideration by the Committee.

Total Fund Performance

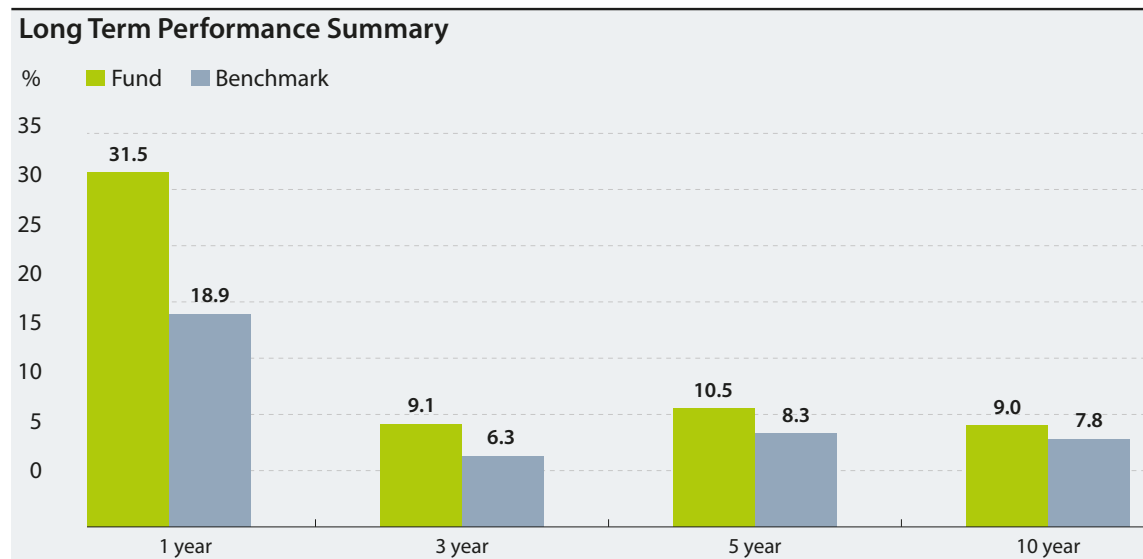
The graph below shows the relative performance of the investments over the last 10 years. The overall return on the investments for 2020-21 was 31.52% compared to the customised strategic benchmark of 18.93%.

For comparison the PIRC Local Authority Universe average fund return for 2020-21 was 22.8%.

Annual Investment Returns

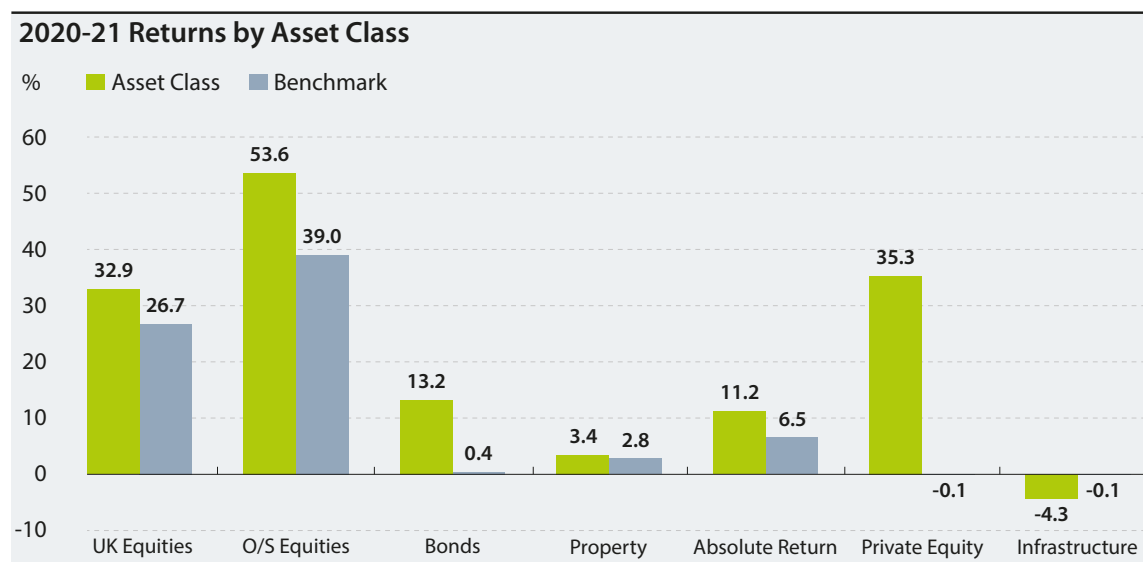


The graph below shows the long term performance of the Fund's investments compared against its Strategic benchmark.



Returns by Asset Class

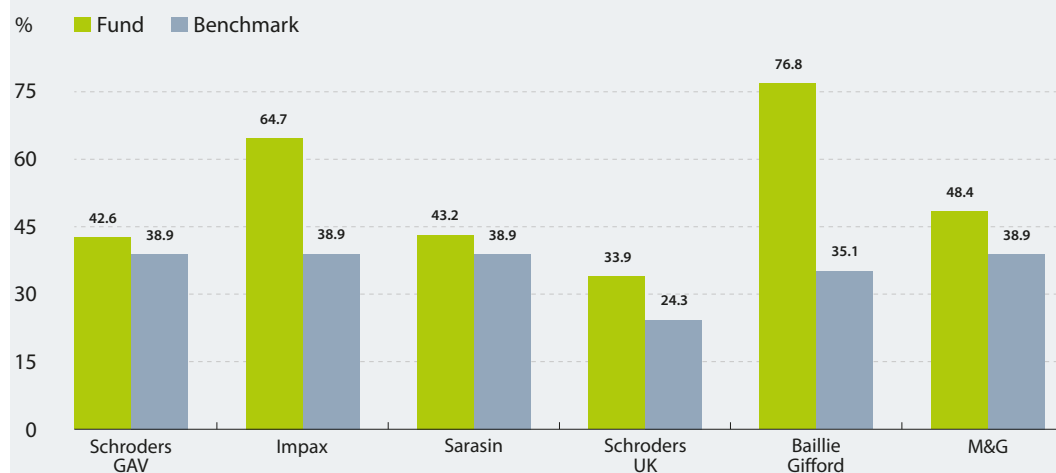
The analysis set out below shows the returns by asset class for 2020-21:



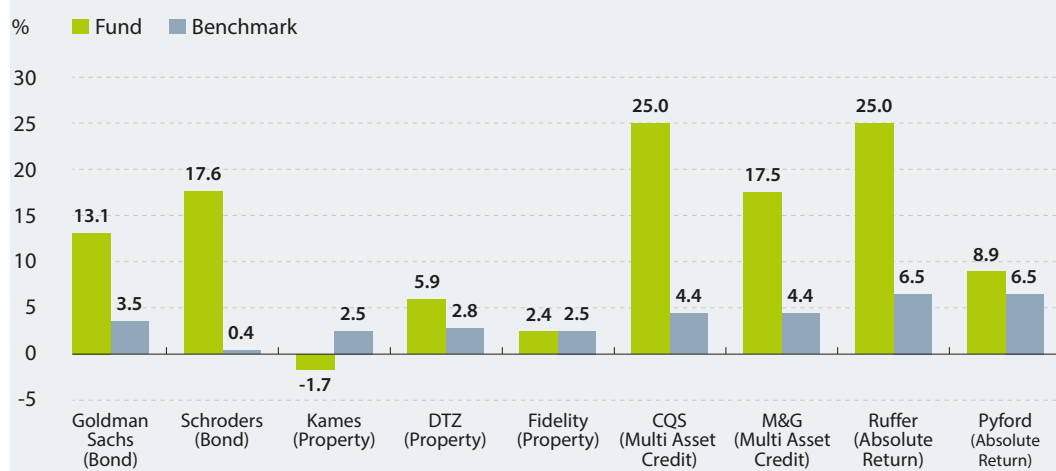
Performance by Fund Manager

The following graphs show the performance of the Equity and other Mandates compared to their benchmarks for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Performance Returns by Fund Manager – Equities



Performance Returns by Fund Manager – Other Mandates



Responsible Investment (RI) Policy

The Fund's RI policy can be viewed [here](#)

The Kent Pension Fund:

- Has a **Responsible investment policy, which is part of its investment strategy** which explains how Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors will be considered when making investment decisions and how the Pension Fund expects its investment managers to engage with companies about ESG issues and take part in shareholder voting.
- Has set up an **RI working group to focus on Responsible Investment**. The group is made up of members of the Pension Fund Committee and makes recommendations to the Committee.
- Is a **signatory to the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI)** which sets out six principles for responsible investors to follow.
- **Expects its investment managers to be signatories to the UK Stewardship Code 2020** which is about how investors should act when making and owning investments.
- Provides training for the Pension Fund Committee.

Addressing climate change concerns

The Kent Pension Fund:

- recognises it is consistent with its fiduciary duty to manage Environmental issues including climate change that may be financially material and expects those responsible for managing its investments to comply with the Fund's policy.
- does not believe it should divest from companies involved in fossil fuels as that action of itself will not reduce the impact on the climate. The Fund believes that its policy of engagement with companies to encourage responsible investment behaviour will be more effective in terms of achieving change.
- is actively monitoring and supporting the development of companies' management of environmental issues including those companies traditionally associated with fossil fuels. It is seeking out sustainable investment opportunities and for example holds units in a fund that invests in companies developing alternative sources of energy and cleaner uses of water and waste.
- is a member of the **The Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC)**. The Fund monitors developments on climate change and uses the research undertaken to monitor and challenge our investment managers.

Developing the Fund's approach to ESG issues

The RI working group will:

- consider and progress the further development of the Fund's RI policy and its implementation taking account of recent ESG initiatives
- work with investment managers to enhance their reporting on ESG issues including regular updates on their engagement with companies on governance matters, and their voting activity.

The Kent Pension Fund:

- is committed to improving its approach to and the processes associated with the implementation of its responsible investment policy and to ensure that these changes are consistent with the Fund's fiduciary duty to its members and local taxpayers.
- will seek to align itself with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures.

Voting by Managers 2020/21

	Number of Resolutions		
	For	Against	Abstain
Baillie Gifford	1,876	38	27
Schorders UK Equity	845	13	4
Schroders GAV	2,988	270	3
M&G Global Dividend	316	107	7
Ruffer	312	10	3
Sarasin	404	177	38
Impax	815	45	20
Pyrford	1,287	89	0

Administration

Responsibility for the administration of the Kent Pension Fund is undertaken by the Pensions Section, Kent County Council. The Pensions Section uses Altair, an Aquila Heywood system, to provide all aspects of pensions administration, including pensioner payroll.

There are 58 full time equivalent members of staff involved in the administration of the scheme, split into two main teams, supported by technical, systems and management staff:

- member services teams responsible for administering all casework and handling all member queries;
- an Employer and Communications team responsible for all employer work, including training and employer support, maintaining the Pension Fund website and for all bulk communications sent to current and former members of the scheme.

The Pension Section administration performance is measured against key performance indicators each month, and is used to improve processes. The key service standards for 4 of the key processes are shown below:

Key Service Standards for Scheme Members

The table below details the Fund's Key Service Standards and performance against these standards.

Type of Case	Target Time	Number Processed	Processed Within Target
Calculation and payment of retirement award	20 days from receipt of paperwork	2,300	93%
Calculation and payment of dependants' benefit	15 days from receipt of paperwork	500	100%
Provision of estimates	20 days from receipt of paperwork	3,830	58%
Correspondence	Full reply within 15 working days	4,540	99%

Other projects that were undertaken by the Pensions Section during the year included:

- further roll out of i-Connect, a process for receiving data from employers on a monthly basis
- preparation for roll out of member self service to scheme members
- work involved in dealing with the exit cap legislation which was then rescinded
- preparation for dealing with the impact of the McCloud judgement

The profile of the new retirees during the year was as below:

Type of retirement	From Active membership	From Deferred membership	Total Retirements
Redundancy	132	–	132
Ill Health	43	9	52
Early	510	1,044	1,554
Normal	8	263	271
Late	229	64	293
Flexible	56	–	56
Total	978	1,380	2,358

CIPFA Benchmark Survey

The Kent administration section seeks to demonstrate value for money through its participation annually in the CIPFA Benchmark survey which compares the cost of administration with 22 other local authority administering bodies across the UK. The table below is in respect of the year ending 31 March 2020 which is the most recent survey to be conducted.

	Kent £	All Scheme Average £
Total cost of administration per scheme member	19.68	20.16
LGPS members per FTE staff	3,253	2,781
Membership engagement	0.57	2.04

It is pleasing to note that survey results place Kent 8th of 23 authorities (1st being the lowest) in terms of the cost of administration per member of the scheme.

Communications

The Pension Section communicates with members and employers in a variety of ways: newsletters are sent to pensioners, pension forums are used to communicate with employers, virtual meetings being held this year, and current and former Scheme members have access to the KCC Pensions Section to make written, e-mail or telephone enquiries. Scheme members receive an annual benefit illustration and each pensioner and deferred pensioner is advised annually of the indexation increase to their pension.

The Kent Active Retirement Fellowship (KARF) has been established as a facility of which pensioners can become members and participate in a wide variety of activities. KARF has established groups throughout the County and welcomes new members.

Internal Dispute Procedure

The Kent Pension Fund has a formal Internal Dispute Procedure to consider a member dispute over a decision made either by a scheme employer or Kent County Council acting as the Administering Authority. An independent person is appointed by each employer to consider an appeal made by a scheme member.

2020/21 Disputes considered: 7

2020/21 Appeals upheld: 1

Actuary's Statement as at 31 March 2021

Introduction

The last full triennial valuation of the Kent County Council Pension Fund (the Fund) was carried out as at 31 March 2019 as required under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (the Regulations) and in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement of the Fund. The results were published in the triennial valuation report dated 31 March 2020.

Asset value and funding level

The results for the Fund at 31 March 2019 were as follows:

- The value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2019 for valuation purposes was £6,193m.
- The Fund had a funding level of 98% i.e. the assets were 98% of the value that they would have needed to be to pay for the benefits accrued to that date, based on the assumptions used. This corresponded to a deficit of £129m.

Contribution rates

The employer contribution rates, in addition to those paid by the members of the Fund, are set to be sufficient to meet:

- The annual accrual of benefits allowing for future pay increases and increases to pensions in payment when these fall due;
- plus an amount to reflect each participating employer's notional share of the Fund's assets compared with 100% of their liabilities in the Fund, in respect of service to the valuation date.

The primary rate of contribution on a whole Fund level was 18.4% of payroll p.a. The primary rate as defined by Regulation 62(5) is the employer's share of the cost of benefits accruing in each of the three years beginning 1 April 2020.

In addition, further "secondary" contributions were required in order to pay off the Fund's deficit by no more than 14 years with effect from the 2019 valuation. This secondary rate is based on their particular circumstances and so individual adjustments are made for each employer. The total secondary contributions payable by all employers, present in the Fund as at 31 March 2019, over the three years to 31 March 2023 was estimated to be as follows:

Secondary Contributions	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total as a % of payroll	2.8%	3.1%	3.5%
Equivalent to total monetary amounts of	£24.93m	£28.68m	£33.57m

In practice, each employer was assessed individually in setting the minimum contributions due from them over the inter-valuation period. Details of each employer's contribution rate are contained in the Rates and Adjustments Certificate in the triennial valuation report.

Assumptions

The assumptions used to value the liabilities at 31 March 2019 are summarised below:

Financial assumptions

Market date	31 March 2019
CPI inflation	2.6% p.a.
Long-term salary increases	3.6% p.a.
Discount rate	4.7% p.a.

Demographic assumptions

Post-retirement mortality	Male/Female
Member base tables	S3PA
Member mortality multiplier (Male/Female)	110%/115%
Dependant base tables (Male/Female)	S3DA
Dependant mortality multiplier (Male/Female)	95%
Projection model	CMI 2018
Long-term rate of improvement	1.25% p.a.
Smoothing parameter	7.5
Initial addition to improvements	0.5% p.a.

The mortality assumptions translate to life expectancies as follows:

Assumed life expectancies at age 65:

Average life expectancy for current pensioners – men currently age 65	21.7 years
Average life expectancy for current pensioners – women currently age 65	23.7 years
Average life expectancy for future pensioners – men currently age 45	23.1 years
Average life expectancy for future pensioners – women currently age 45	25.1 years

Full details of the demographic and other assumptions adopted as well as details of the derivation of the financial assumptions used can be found in the 2019 valuation report.

Updated position since the 2019 valuation

Assets

Returns over the year to 31 March 2021 have been strong, helping to offset the significant fall in asset values at the end of the previous year. As at 31 March 2021, in market value terms, the Fund assets were slightly more than where they were projected to be based on the previous valuation.

Liabilities

The key assumption which has the greatest impact on the valuation of liabilities is the real discount rate (the discount rate relative to CPI inflation) – the higher the real discount rate the lower the value of liabilities. As at 31 March 2021, the real discount rate is estimated to be lower than at the 2019 valuation due to lower future expected returns on assets in excess of CPI inflation.

Please note that we have updated the derivation of the CPI inflation assumption to be 0.8% p.a. below the 20 year point on the Bank of England (BoE) implied inflation curve. The assumption adopted at the 2019 valuation was that CPI would be 1.0% p.a. below the 20 year point on the BoE implied inflation curve. This update was made following the Government's response (on 25 November 2020) to the consultation on the reform of RPI, and the expectation that the UK Statistics Authority will implement the proposed changes to bring RPI in line with CPIH from 2030. This updated approach leads to a small increase in the value of liabilities.

The value of liabilities will also have increased due to the accrual of new benefits net of benefits paid.

It is currently unclear what the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is on the Fund's funding position. It is expected that COVID-related deaths will not have a material impact on the Fund's current funding level, however, impact on future mortality rates may be more significant and we will be reviewing the Fund's mortality assumption as part of the next valuation.

Overall position

On balance, we estimate that the funding position has weakened slightly when compared on a consistent basis to 31 March 2019 (but allowing for the update to the CPI inflation assumption).

The change in the real discount rate since 31 March 2019 is likely to place a higher value on the cost of future accrual which results in a higher primary contribution rate. Deficit contributions would also be slightly higher as a result of the worsening in the funding position.

Future investment returns that will be achieved by the Fund in the short term are more uncertain than usual, in particular the return from equities due to actual and potential reductions and suspensions of dividends.

There is also continued uncertainty around future benefits due to the McCloud/Sargeant cases and the cost cap process.

Graeme D Muir, FFA
Partner, Barnett Waddingham

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

Kent County Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Corporate Director of Finance;
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and to safeguard its assets; and
- to approve the Statement of Accounts.

I confirm that these Accounts were approved by the Governance and Audit Committee at its meeting on 30 November 2021 on behalf of Kent County Council.

Councillor Rosalind Binks

Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee

30 November 2021

The Corporate Director of Finance's Responsibilities

The Corporate Director of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code), and is required to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts the Corporate Director of Finance has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- complied with the Code.

The Corporate Director of Finance has also:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date; and
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I confirm that these accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the reporting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Certificate of the Corporate Director of Finance

Zena Cooke

Corporate Director of Finance

30 November 2021

Pension Fund Accounts

The following financial statements are included in the Kent County Council Superannuation Fund's Annual Report and Accounts 2021 available from the Fund's website at www.kentpensionfund.co.uk.

Fund Account for the year ended 31 March

	Notes	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the Fund			
Contributions	7	267,955	250,263
Transfers in from other pension funds	8	5,017	9,328
		272,972	259,591
Benefits	9	(247,448)	(243,832)
Payments to and on account of leavers	10	(10,057)	(12,708)
		(257,505)	(256,540)
Net additions from dealings with Members		15,467	3,051
Management Expenses	11	(27,277)	(25,606)
Net additions/withdrawals including fund management expenses		(11,810)	(22,555)
Returns on Investments			
Investment Income	13	111,339	135,344
Taxes on Income		(93)	(380)
Profits and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	15a	1,697,318	(613,700)
Net Return on Investments		1,808,564	(478,736)
Net increase/(decrease) in the Net Assets available for benefits during the year		1,796,754	(501,291)

Net Assets Statement as at 31 March

	Notes	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Investment Assets		7,511,024	5,720,555
Investment Liabilities		(6,848)	(17,405)
Net Investment Assets	15	7,504,176	5,703,150
Current Assets	21	34,422	34,625
Current Liabilities	22	(24,966)	(20,897)
Net Assets available to fund benefits at the period end		7,513,632	5,716,878

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts

1. Description of the Fund

General

The Kent County Council Superannuation Fund (Kent Pension Fund) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by Kent County Council (KCC) for the purpose of providing pensions and other benefits for the pensionable employees of KCC, Medway Council, the district and borough councils in Kent and a number of other employers within the county area. The Pension Fund is a reporting entity and KCC as the Administering Authority is required to include the Fund's accounts as a note in its Report and Accounts. Teachers, police officers and firefighters are not included as they come within other national pension schemes. The LGPS is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme.

The Scheme is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The Fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended);
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendments) Regulations 2014 (as amended);
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

The Fund is overseen by the Kent County Council Superannuation Fund Committee (the Scheme Manager). The Local Pension Board assists the Scheme Manager to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.

Membership

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join or remain in the Scheme or to make personal arrangements outside the Scheme. Employers in the Fund include Scheduled Bodies which are local authorities and similar entities whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Scheme; and Admission Bodies which participate in the Fund by virtue of an admission agreement made between the Authority and the relevant body. Admission bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar entities or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following a specific business transfer to the private sector.

There are 310 employers actively participating in the Fund and the profile of members is as detailed below:

	Kent County Council	Kent County Council	Other Employers	Other Employers	Total	Total
	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020
Contributors	21,510	20,986	31,215	30,699	52,725	51,685
Pensioners	22,959	22,372	21,879	21,069	44,838	43,441
Deferred Pensioners	24,077	24,316	23,320	23,090	47,397	47,406
Total	68,546	67,674	76,414	74,858	144,960	142,532

Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. The 2019 triennial valuation certified a common contribution rate of 18.4% of pensionable pay to be paid by each employer participating in the Kent Pension Fund for 2020-21. In addition to this, each employer has to pay an individual adjustment to reflect its own particular circumstances and funding position within the Fund. Details of each employer's contribution rate are contained in the Statement to the Rates and Adjustment Certificate in the triennial valuation report.

Benefits

Pension benefits under the LGPS are based on the following:

	Service pre April 2008	Membership from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2014	Membership from 1 April 2014
Pension	1/80 x final pensionable salary	1/60 x final pensionable salary	1/49 (or 1/98 if opted for 50/50 section) x career average revalued salary
Lump sum	Automatic lump sum of 3/80 x final pensionable salary.	No automatic lump sum	No automatic lump sum.
	In addition, 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.	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.	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.

There is a range of other benefits provided under the Scheme including early retirement, ill health pensions and death benefits. For more details, please refer to the Kent Pension Fund website: www.kentpensionfund.co.uk

2. Basis of preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2020-21 financial year and its position at 31 March 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards, as amended for the UK public sector. The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, valued on an International Accounting Standard (IAS)19 basis is disclosed at note 20 of these accounts.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Fund Account – revenue recognition

a) Contribution income

Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employers, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate. Employers Deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the scheme actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pensions strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset.

b) Transfers to and from other schemes

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 Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations. Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged. 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'. Bulk transfers are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

c) Investment income

Dividends, distributions, interest, and stock lending income on securities have been accounted for on an accruals basis and where appropriate from the date quoted as ex-dividend (XD). Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year. Where the Fund's investments are held in income accumulating funds that do not distribute income the accumulated income on such investments is reflected in the unit market price at the end of the year and is included in the realised and unrealised gains and losses during the year. Direct property related income mainly comprises of rental income which is recognised when it becomes due. Rental income is adjusted for provision for rent invoiced but collection of which is assessed as doubtful.

Fund Account – expense items

d) Benefits payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the year end. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as current liabilities providing the payment has been approved.

e) Taxation

The Fund has been accepted by the HM Revenue and Customs as a registered pension scheme in accordance with paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 36 to the Finance Act 2004 and, as such, qualifies for exemption from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on proceeds of investments sold. Tax is therefore only applicable to dividend income from equity investments. Income arising from overseas investments is subject to deduction of withholding tax unless exemption is permitted by and obtained from the country of origin. Investment income is shown net of tax, and any recoverable tax at the end of the year is included in accrued investment income.

By virtue of Kent County Council being the administering authority, VAT input tax is recoverable on all Fund activities including investment and property expenses.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

f) Management expenses

All expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Costs relating to Kent County Council staff involved in the administration, governance and oversight of the Fund, and overheads incurred by the County Council and recharged to the Fund at the end of the year. Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change. Fees incurred include fees directly paid to fund managers as well as fees deducted from the funds by pooled fund managers which is grossed up to increase the income from these investments.

Net Assets Statement

g) Financial assets

Financial assets are included in the Net Assets Statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. Any purchase or sale of securities is recognised upon trade and any unsettled transactions at the year-end are recorded as amounts receivable for sales and amounts payable for purchases. From the trade date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised by the Fund. The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 13 and IFRS 9. For the purposes of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the fund has adopted the classification guidelines recommended in Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures (PRAG/Investment Association, 2016).

The values of investments as shown in the Net Assets Statement have been determined as follows:

- Quoted investments are stated at market value based on the closing bid price quoted on the relevant stock exchange on the final day of the accounting period.
- Fixed interest securities are recorded at net market value based on their current yields.
- Investments in unquoted property and infrastructure pooled funds are valued at the net asset value or a single price advised by the fund manager.
- Investments in private equity funds and unquoted listed partnerships are valued based on the Fund's share of the net assets in the private equity fund or limited partnership using the latest financial statements published by the respective fund managers. The valuation standards followed by the managers are in accordance with the industry guidelines and the constituent management agreements. Such investments may not always be valued based on year end valuation as information may not be available, and therefore will be valued based on the latest valuation provided by the managers adjusted for cash movements to the year end.
- 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, the change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the fund.
- Debtors/receivables being short duration receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at original invoice amount. Debtors are adjusted for provision made for doubtful debts relating to rent income.

h) Freehold and Leasehold Properties

The Freehold and Leasehold properties were valued at open market prices in accordance with the valuation standards laid down by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The last valuation was undertaken by Colliers International, as at 31 December 2020. The valuer's opinion of market value and existing use value was primarily derived using comparable recent market transactions on arm's length terms. The results of the valuation have then been indexed in line with the Investment Property Databank Monthly Index movement to 31 March 2021. The indexation is carried out by DTZ, who are managers of the Fund's direct property portfolio.

i) Derivatives

The Fund uses derivative instruments to manage its exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities. The Fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes. At the reporting date the Fund only held forward currency contracts. The future value of the forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end date and determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract were matched at the year-end with an equal and opposite contract. Under the European Market Infrastructure Regulations the Fund's forward currency contracts are required to be covered by margin cash. These amounts are included in cash or cash equivalents held by the Fund and reflected in a corresponding margin cash liability under investment liabilities.

j) Foreign currency transactions

Assets and liabilities in foreign currency are translated into sterling at spot market exchange rates ruling at the year-end. All foreign currency transactions including income are translated into sterling at spot market exchange rates ruling at the transaction date. All realised currency exchange gains or losses are included in change in market value of assets.

k) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash at bank and 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. Cash and cash equivalents managed by fund managers and cash equivalents managed by Kent County Council are included in investments. All other cash is included in Current Assets.

l) Financial Liabilities

The Fund recognises financial liabilities relating to investments at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the Fund. Other financial liabilities classed as amortised cost are carried at amortised cost ie the amount carried in the net asset statement is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest. Any interest charged is accounted for on an accruals basis and included in administration costs.

m) Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary and the methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. To assess the value of the Fund's liabilities as at 31 March 2021 the actuary has rolled forward the value of the Fund's liabilities calculated for the funding valuation as at 31 March 2020. 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 (Note 20).

n) Contingent Assets and Liabilities

A contingent asset/liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Fund a possible right/obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Fund. Contingent assets/liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an inflow/outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the right/obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent assets/liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

o) Pooling Expenses

The Fund is member of the ACCESS pool, a group of 11 LGPS Administering Authorities who, as part of a Government initiative, have agreed to pool their investments to achieve cost and scale benefits. Pooling costs included in the Fund's accounts reflect the Fund's proportion of the cost of the governance arrangements of the Pool.

p) Additional Voluntary Contributions

The Fund provides an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme for its members, assets of which are invested separately from those of the Fund. AVCs are not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed for information in note 23.

4. Critical judgements in applying accounting policy**Pension fund liability**

The net pension fund liability is recalculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines.

This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions which are agreed with the actuary and have been summarised in Note 20.

These actuarial revaluations are used to set future contribution rates and underpin the fund's most significant investment management policies, for example in terms of the balance struck between longer term investment growth and short-term yield/return.

Market movements since the outbreak of Covid-19 have seen significant volatility in gilt yields and equity values. As per the actuary, the Fund's funding model is designed to withstand short-term volatility in markets as we use smoothed assumptions over a six-month period with the ultimate aim of setting stable contributions for employers. Therefore, the model helps to mitigate some of the impact of the extreme events.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

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

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumption
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (Note 20)	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on Pension Fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £236m. A 0.1% increase in assumed earning inflation would increase the value of liabilities by approx. £22m, and a one year increase to the life expectancy assumptions would increase the liability by approx. £519m.
Private Equity and Infrastructure and other level 3 investments (Note 17)	Valuation of unquoted private equity including infrastructure investments is highly subjective and inherently based on forward looking estimates and judgements involving many factors. They are valued by the investment managers using guidelines set out in the British Venture Capital Association.	The total private equity including infrastructure and other level 3 investments on the financial statements are £282m. There is a risk that this investment may be under-or-over stated in the accounts. Potential change in valuation due to change in these factors is estimated in Note 17.
Freehold and Leasehold Property and Pooled Property Funds (Note 17)	Valuation techniques are used to determine the fair values of directly held property and pooled property funds. Where possible these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible management uses the best available data. Changes in the valuation assumptions used, together with significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect the fair value of property.	The affect of 10% variations in the factors supporting the valuation would be an increase or decrease in the value of directly held property and property pooled funds of £78m on a fair value of £775m.

6. Events after the Balance Sheet date

There have been no events since 31 March 2021, up to the date when these accounts were authorised, that require or do not require any adjustment to these accounts.

7. Contributions Receivable

	2020–21 £'000	2019–20 £'000
By Category		
Employees' contributions	59,348	56,324
Employers' contributions		
– normal contributions	172,479	134,662
– deficit recovery contributions	32,533	53,952
– augmentation contributions	3,595	5,325
Total Employers' contributions	208,607	193,939
Total contributions receivable	267,955	250,263
By type of employer		
Kent County Council	98,024	94,300
Scheduled Bodies	151,255	141,689
Admitted Bodies	18,676	14,274
Total	267,955	250,263

8. Transfers in from other pension funds

	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Individual	5,017	9,328
Group	0	0
Total	5,017	9,328

9. Benefits Payable

	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
By Category		
Pensions	210,886	203,810
Retirement Commutation and lump sum benefits	30,202	34,195
Death benefits	6,360	5,827
Total	247,448	243,832
By type of employer		
Kent County Council	112,653	109,643
Scheduled Bodies	119,813	119,218
Admitted Bodies	14,982	14,971
Total	247,448	243,832

10. Payments to and on account of leavers

	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Group transfers	8,736	11,087
Individual transfers	0	0
Payments/refunds for members joining state scheme	0	-95
Refunds of contributions	1,321	1,716
Total	10,057	12,708

11. Management Expenses

	Notes	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Administration costs		3,361	3,545
Governance and oversight costs		820	764
Investment management expenses	12	22,973	21,163
Audit fees		41	60
Pooling expenses		82	74
Total		27,277	25,606

The Audit fee for 2019-20 included £23k for charges for assurance letters to scheduled bodies in relation to 2019 and 2020 audits. For 2020-21, the cost of assurance letters will be recovered from the scheduled bodies and is not shown as a cost for the Fund.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

12. Investment Management Expenses

	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Investment managers' fees	22,207	20,415
Transaction costs	710	709
Custody fees	56	39
Total	22,973	21,163

The management fees disclosed above include all investment management fees directly incurred by the fund including those charged on pooled fund investments.

In addition to the transaction costs disclosed above, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments within pooled investment vehicles. These indirect costs are not separately provided to the Pension Fund.

13. Summary of Income from Investments

	Notes	2020-21		2019-2020	
		£'000	%	£'000	%
Bonds		15,279	13.8	17,132	12.7
Equities		4,277	3.9	5,421	4.0
Pooled Investments		68,023	61.1	85,335	63.1
Private Equity / Infrastructure		9,879	8.9	4,644	3.4
Property	14	8,228	7.4	15,488	11.4
Pooled Property Investments		5,465	4.9	6,010	4.4
Cash and cash equivalents		155	0.0	1,273	0.9
Stock Lending		33	0.0	42	0.0
Total		111,339	100.0	135,344	100.0

During the year because of the pandemic the Fund experienced lower levels of income and distributions across most asset classes compared to the previous year.

14. Property Income and Expenditure

	2020-21 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Rental Income from Investment Properties	12,427	21,697
Direct Operating Expenses	(4,199)	(6,209)
Net operating income from Property	8,228	15,488

Rental income for 2020-21 is net of provision for doubtful debts of £6.3m.

15. Investments

	Market Value as at 31 March 2021 £'000	Market Value as at 31 March 2020 £'000
Investment Assets		
Bonds	401,001	339,055
Equities	348,033	236,536
Pooled Investments	5,343,724	4,028,527
Private Equity/Infrastructure	274,023	189,864
Property	493,314	478,104
Pooled Property Investments	281,718	287,008
Derivatives – Forward Currency contracts	962	0
Investment Cash and cash equivalents	201,228	131,959
Cash held with fund managers pending issue of units	150,000	0
Investment Income due	15,996	11,975
Amounts receivable for sales	0	724
Margin cash	1,025	16,803
Total Investment Assets	7,511,024	5,720,555
Investment Liabilities		
Amounts payable for purchases	(561)	(324)
Margin cash liability	0	0
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(6,287)	0
Derivatives – Forward Currency contracts	0	(17,081)
Total Investment Liabilities	(6,848)	(17,405)
Net Investment Assets	7,504,176	5,703,150

Investment income due (debtors) includes a sum of £9.4m for rents and service charges payable by tenants of properties owned by the Pension Fund. In the pandemic, rent collection has been significantly impacted and there is a high likelihood that a significant portion will not be fully recovered. A provision of £6.3m has therefore been made for doubtful rent debts. In the previous year, the doubtful debts were estimated at £1.82m but no provision was made.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

15a. Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

	Market Value as at 31 March 2020 £'000	Purchases at Cost £'000	Sales Proceeds £'000	Change in Market Value £'000	Market Value as at 31 March 2021 £'000
Bonds	339,054	134,314	(73,777)	1,410	401,001
Equities	236,536	155,000	(146,114)	102,611	348,033
Pooled Investments	4,028,528	1,147,986	(1,344,347)	1,511,557	5,343,724
Private Equity/Infrastructure	189,864	72,544	(29,734)	41,349	274,023
Property	478,105	0	0	15,209	493,314
Pooled Property Investments	287,008	2,007	(1,503)	-5,794	281,718
	5,559,095	1,511,851	(1,595,475)	1,666,342	7,141,813
Derivative contracts					
– Forward Currency contracts	(17,082)	3,512,898	(3,526,105)	31,251	962
	5,542,013	5,024,749	(5,121,580)	1,697,593	7,142,775
Other Investment balances					
– Investment Cash and cash equivalents	131,959	0	0	(275)	201,228
– Cash pending issue of units	0	0	0	0	150,000
– Amounts receivable for sales	724	0	0	0	0
– Amounts payable for purchases	(324)	0	0	0	(561)
– Margin cash liability	16,803	0	0	0	1,025
– Investment Income due	11,975	0	0	0	15,996
– Provision for doubtful debt	0	0	0	0	(6,287)
Net Investment Assets	5,703,150	0	0	1,697,318	7,504,176

	Market Value as at 31 March 18 £'000	Purchases at Cost £'000	Sales Proceeds £'000	Change in Market Value £'000	Market Value as at 31 March 2019 £'000
Bonds	363,728	73,391	(86,027)	(12,038)	339,054
Equities	249,994	82,835	(83,716)	(12,577)	236,536
Pooled Investments	4,601,708	408,148	(418,777)	(562,551)	4,028,528
Private Equity/Infrastructure	150,015	59,487	(27,272)	7,634	189,864
Property	487,193	1,844	(4,710)	(6,222)	478,105
Pooled Property Investments	257,690	39,191	(2,696)	(7,177)	287,008
	6,110,328	664,896	(623,198)	(592,931)	5,559,095
Derivative contracts					
– Forward Currency contracts	3,122	3,438,138	(3,436,691)	(21,651)	(17,082)
	6,113,450	4,103,034	(4,059,889)	(614,582)	5,542,013
Other Investment balances					
– Investment Cash and cash equivalents	80,526	0	0	882	131,959
– Cash pending issue of units	0	0	0	0	0
– Amounts receivable for sales	0	0	0	0	724
– Amounts payable for purchases	(1,373)	0	0	0	(324)
– Margin cash liability	(4,533)	0	0	0	16,803
– Investment Income due	17,028	0	0	0	11,975
– Provision for doubtful debt	0	0	0	0	0
Net Investment Assets	6,205,098	0	0	(613,700)	5,703,150

15b. Analysis of Derivative Contracts

Objectives and policy for holding derivatives

Most of the holding in derivatives is to hedge liabilities or hedge exposures to reduce risk in the Fund. Derivatives may be used to gain exposure to an asset more efficiently than holding the underlying asset. The use of derivatives is managed in line with the investment management agreement agreed between the Fund and the investment manager.

Open forward currency contracts

In order to maintain appropriate diversification and to take advantage of overseas investment returns, a significant portion of the Fund's fixed income portfolio managed by Goldman Sachs Asset Management is invested in overseas securities. To reduce the volatility associated with fluctuating currency rates, the investment manager hedges the overseas exposure of the portfolio.

Settlement	Currency bought	Local value 000's	Currency sold	Local value 000's	Asset value £'000	Liability value £'000
Up to one month	GBP	1,037	USD	(1,427)	2	
Up to one month	GBP	25	EUR	(29)	0	
Up to one month	GBP	55	EUR	(65)	0	
Up to one month	GBP	249	USD	(343)	1	
Up to one month	GBP	60,119	EUR	(67,427)	2,675	
Up to one month	GBP	2,974	EUR	(3,356)	115	
Up to one month	GBP	952	EUR	(1,084)	28	
Up to one month	GBP	1,790	EUR	(2,063)	33	
Up to one month	GBP	821	EUR	(948)	13	
Up to one month	GBP	798	EUR	(925)	10	
Up to one month	GBP	540	EUR	(625)	7	
Up to one month	GBP	387	EUR	(452)	2	
Up to two months	GBP	267,202	USD	(371,334)		(1,900)
Up to two months	USD	4,153	GBP	(2,975)	35	
Up to two months	GBP	3,184	USD	(4,407)		(10)
Up to two months	GBP	2,378	USD	(3,302)		(15)
Up to two months	GBP	3,820	USD	(5,312)		(29)
Up to two months	GBP	1,184	USD	(1,634)		0
Up to two months	USD	1,427	GBP	(1,037)		(2)
Up to two months	USD	343	GBP	(249)		(1)
					2,921	(1,957)
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2021						964
Prior year comparative						
Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2020					816	(17,896)
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2020						(17,080)

15c. Property Holdings

	Year ending 31 March 2021 £'000	Year ending 31 March 2020 £'000
Opening Balance	478,105	487,193
Additions	0	1,844
Disposals	0	(4,710)
Net increase/decrease in market value	15,209	(6,222)
Closing Balance	493,314	478,105

There are no restrictions on the realisability of the property or the remittance of income or proceeds on disposal and the Fund is not under any contractual obligation to purchase, construct or develop these properties.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

The future minimum lease payments receivable by the Fund are as follows:

	Year ending 31 March 2021 £'000	Year ending 31 March 2020 £'000
Within one year	16,161	18,228
Between one and five years	36,708	42,150
Later than five years	33,610	33,885
Total	86,479	94,263

The above disclosures have been reduced by a credit loss allowance of 0.35% per annum reflecting the Fund's expected loss from late or non-recovery of rents from tenants. This has been based on the Fund's own historic experience but also information on similar properties received from the Fund's property letting agents. The income has also been reduced to take into account the possibility of tenants taking advantage of break clauses in their contracts to terminate tenancies.

15d. Investments analysed by Fund Manager

	Market Value as at 31 March 2021 £'000	Market Value as at 31 March 2021 %	Market Value as at 31 March 2020 £'000	Market Value as at 31 March 2020 %
Investments managed by Link for the ACCESS Pool				
Baillie Gifford	1,709,000	22.8	1,122,058	19.7
M&G	443,546	5.9	298,971	5.2
Ruffer	134,026	1.8	71,377	1.3
Schroders	1,384,541	18.5	770,263	13.5
	3,671,113	49	2,262,669	40
Investments managed outside the ACCESS Pool				
CQS	157,732	2.1	108,422	1.9
DTZ	538,729	7.2	529,174	9.3
Fidelity	133,795	1.8	130,671	2.3
Goldman Sachs	416,621	5.6	368,288	6.5
HarbourVest	149,608	2.0	94,199	1.8
Impax	70,886	0.9	43,028	0.8
Insight	610,989	8.1	0	0.0
Kames	43,566	0.6	47,176	0.8
Kent County Council Investment Team	336,574	4.5	98,019	1.7
M&G	227,169	3.0	185,344	3.2
Partners Group	77,133	1.0	60,157	1.1
BMO (Pyrford)	407,083	5.4	415,074	7.3
Sarasin	352,812	4.7	246,207	4.3
Schroders	254,982	3.4	466,119	8.2
UBS	0	0.0	577,391	10.1
YFM	47,282	0.6	35,508	0.6
Link Fund Solutions (previously Woodford)	8,102	0.1	35,704	0.6
	3,833,063	51	3,440,481	60
Total	7,504,176	100	5,703,150	100

All the external fund managers above are registered in the United Kingdom. Movements during the year include:

- Assets in the GAV fund managed by Schroders were transitioned in to the ACCESS pool
- Appointed Insight as manager to implement an equity protection programme
- Complete sale of units in the UBS tracker funds to fund the equity protection programme
- Redemption of £200m of units in fund managed by Baillie Gifford
- Reallocation of £45m from Pyrford to Ruffer absolute return funds
- Investment of £20m each in M&G Alpha Opportunity and CQS Funds

15e. Single investments exceeding 5% of net assets available for benefits

		31 March 2021
Investments	£'000	% of net assets
LF ACCESS Global Equity Core Fund	1,709,000	22.8
LF ACCESS UK Equity Fund	1,031,581	13.8
LDI Solutions Plus ICAV Active (Insight)	610,989	8.2
LF ACCESS Global Dividend Fund	443,546	5.9
BMO Investments Ireland (Plc) Global Total Return Fund	407,083	5.4
		31 March 2020
Investments	£'000	% of net assets
LF ACCESS Global Equity Core Fund	1,122,058	19.7
LF ACCESS UK Equity Fund	770,263	13.5
BMO Investments Ireland (Plc) Global Total Return Fund	415,074	7.3
LF ACCESS Global Dividend Fund	298,971	5.2
UBS Life UK Equity Tracker Fund	289,255	5.1

15f. Stock Lending

The Custodians undertake a programme of stock lending to approved UK counterparties against non-cash collateral mainly comprising of Sovereigns and Treasury Bonds. The programme lends directly held global equities and bonds to approved borrowers against a collateral of Government and Supranational fixed interest securities of developed countries, which is marked to market on a daily basis. Securities on loan are included at market value in net assets on the basis that they will be returned to the Fund at the end of the loan term. Net income from securities lending received from the custodian is shown as income from investments in the Fund Account.

The amount of securities on loan at year end, analysed by asset class and a description of the collateral is set out in the table below.

Loan Type	31 March 2021		31 March 2020		Collateral Type
	Market Value £'000	Collateral Value £'000	Market Value £'000	Collateral Value £'000	
Equities	8,099	8,458	12,842	13,377	Treasury Notes and other Government debt
Bonds	11,004	11,492	7,761	8,084	Treasury Notes and other Government debt
Total	19,103	19,950	20,603	21,461	

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

16. Financial Instruments

16a. Classification of Financial Instruments

The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and Net Assets Statement heading.

	31 March 2021			31 March 2020		
	Designated at fair value through profit and loss £'000	Assets at amortised cost £'000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £'000	Designated as fair value through profit and loss £'000	Assets at amortised cost £'000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £'000
Financial Assets						
Bonds	401,001			339,054		
Equities	348,033			236,536		
Pooled Investments	5,343,724			4,028,528		
Property Pooled Investments	281,718			287,008		
Private Equity/Infrastructure	274,023			189,864		
Derivative contracts	962			0		
Cash & Cash equivalents	191,737	164,087		123,138	11,889	
Other Investment Balances		17,021			29,502	
Debtors/ Receivables		29,826			31,557	
	6,841,198	210,934	0	5,204,128	72,948	0
Financial Liabilities						
Derivative contracts				(17,081)		
Other Investment balances			(6,848)			(324)
Creditors			(24,966)			(20,897)
	0	0	(31,814)	(17,081)	0	(21,221)
Total	6,841,198	210,934	(31,814)	5,187,047	72,948	(21,221)

16b. Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

	31 March 2021 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000
Fair value through profit and loss	1,682,384	(608,360)
Assets at amortised cost	(275)	882
Total	1,682,109	(607,478)

17. Valuation of assets and liabilities carried at Fair Value

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset is set out below. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques.

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuation provided
Quoted Equities	1	Bid Market price on last day of accounting period	Not required	Not required
Quoted Bonds	1	Market value on last day of accounting period	Not required	Not required
Quoted Pooled Investments	1	Net Asset Value/Bid prices on last day of accounting period	Net Asset Values	Not required
Unquoted Pooled Investments including pooled property	2	Net Asset Value/Bid prices on last day of accounting period	Net Asset Values	Not required
Private Equity and Infrastructure Funds	3	Fair values as per International Private equity and venture capital guidelines (2012)	valuation of underlying investment/assets/ companies/EBITDA multiples	Estimation techniques used in valuations, changes in market conditions, industry specific conditions
Property	2	Independent valuation by Colliers using RICS valuation standards	Market values of similar properties, existing lease terms estimated rental growth, estimated vacancies	Not required
Quoted Funds in administration	3	Net Asset Value/Bid prices on last day of accounting period	Net Asset Values/or if the fund holds illiquid assets, valuation of underlying investment/assets/ companies/EBITDA multiples	If the fund holds illiquid assets, estimation techniques used in valuations, changes in market conditions, industry specific conditions
Forward exchange contracts	2	Market forward exchange rates on the last day of accounting period	Wide range of deals executed in the currency markets, exchange rate risk	Not required
Bespoke fund for equity protection programme assets	2	Net Asset value of Fund based on valuation of underlying assets with quoted prices for bond holdings and market prices for derivatives	Wide range of deals executed in the bond holdings but limited comparable transactions for specialist equity derivatives	Valuation of derivatives is affected by the equity and foreign exchange market conditions

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 2021.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

	Assessed valuation range (+/-)	Value as at 31 March 2021 £'000	Value on increase £'000	Value on decrease £'000
Private Equity	23.3%	196,890	242,765	151,015
Infrastructure	19.0%	77,133	91,788	62,478
Other Level 3 investments	23.3%	8,101	9,989	6,213
Total		282,124	344,542	219,706

	Assessed valuation range (+/-)	Value as at 31 March 2020 £'000	Value on increase £'000	Value on decrease £'000
Private Equity	23.3%	129,707	163,690	95,724
Infrastructure	19.0%	60,157	77,362	42,952
Other Level 3 investments	23.3%	35,704	45,058	26,350
Total		225,568	286,111	165,025

17a. Fair Value Hierarchy

Level 1

Assets and Liabilities at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Investments include quoted equities, quoted fixed interest securities, quoted index linked securities and quoted unit trusts.

Level 2

Assets and Liabilities at Level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value. These techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data. Investments include Derivatives, Direct Property Investments, Property Unit Trusts and investments in Link pooled funds for ACCESS.

Level 3

Assets and Liabilities at Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data and are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions. They include private equity and infrastructure investments the values of which are based on valuations provided by the General Partners to the funds in which the Pension Fund has invested. Assurances over the valuation are gained from the independent audit of the accounts. These assets also include investments in quoted funds that were in administration as at 31 March 2021 and are invested in illiquid underlying assets.

These valuations are prepared by the fund managers in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the requirements of the law where these companies are incorporated. Valuations are usually undertaken periodically by the fund managers, who provide a detailed breakdown of the valuations of underlying assets as well as a reconciliation of movements in fair values. Cash flow adjustments are used to roll forward the valuations where the latest valuation information is not available at the time of reporting.

The following table provides an analysis of the assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund grouped into levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

	Quoted market price Level 1 £'000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £'000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Values at 31 March 2021				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Bonds	401,002			401,002
Equities	348,033			348,033
Pooled investments	732,934	4,602,688	8,101	5,343,723
Pooled property investments		281,717		281,717
Private equity and infrastructure			274,023	274,023
Derivatives		963		963
Cash Deposits	351,228			351,228
Other Investment balances	17,021			17,021
Non-Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Property		493,314		493,314
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss				
Derivatives	0			0
Other investment liabilities	(6,848)			(6,848)
Net Investment Assets	1,843,370	5,378,682	282,124	7,504,176

	Quoted market price Level 1 £'000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £'000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Values at 31 March 2020				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Bonds	339,054			339,054
Equities	236,536			236,536
Pooled investments	1,285,589	2,707,234	35,704	4,028,527
Pooled property investments		287,008		287,008
Private equity and infrastructure			189,864	189,864
Derivatives				0
Cash Deposits	151,830			151,830
Other Investment balances	9,631			9,631
Non-Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Property		478,104		478,104
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss				
Derivatives		(17,081)		(17,081)
Other investment liabilities		(324)		(324)
Net Investment Assets	2,022,640	3,454,941	225,568	5,703,149

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

17b. Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3

	£'000
Market Value 1 April 2020	225,568
Transfers into level 3	0
Transfers out of level 3	0
Purchases during the year	72,544
Sales during the year	(48,156)
Unrealised gains/ losses	32,168
Realised gains/losses	0
Market Value 31 March 2021	282,124

18. Nature and extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

Risk and risk management

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the value of its assets will fall short that 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 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 Superannuation Fund Committee. Risk management policies are 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.

18a. Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through 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 diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risks, the Council and its investment advisors undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

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 security and derivative price risks. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All security investments present a risk of loss of capital. Except for shares sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. The possible loss from shares sold short is unlimited. The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments and their activity is monitored by the Council to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund Investment Strategy.

Other price risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, the Council has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2020-21 reporting period.

Asset Type	Potential Market Movements (+/-)
UK Equities	16.2
Overseas Equities	15.7
Global Pooled Equities inc UK	15.4
Bonds	4.5
Property	9.2
Infrastructure	19
Private Equity	23.3

The potential price changes disclosed above are based on predicted volatilities calculated by our fund managers. The analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same. Had the market price of the Fund investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is shown below):

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2021 £'000	Percentage change %	Value on increase £'000	Value on decrease £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	351,228	0.00	351,228	351,228
Investment portfolio assets:				
UK Equities	29,621	16.20	34,420	24,822
Overseas Equities	318,412	15.70	368,403	268,421
Global Pooled Equities inc UK	4,768,171	15.40	5,502,469	4,033,873
Bonds incl Bond Funds	976,553	4.50	1,020,498	932,608
Property Pooled Funds	281,718	9.20	307,636	255,800
Private Equity	196,890	23.30	242,765	151,015
Infrastructure Funds	77,133	19.00	91,788	62,478
Derivative assets	962	0.00	962	962
Total	7,000,688		7,920,169	6,081,207

During the year the Fund has implemented an equities downside protection programme which will protect the fund from falls between 10-40% in global equity markets and will cap the returns to the actuary's expected return objective of 6.5% for equities over the full valuation cycle. The current programme will run until March 2023.

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2020 £'000	Percentage change %	Value on increase £'000	Value on decrease £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	135,027	0.00	135,027	135,027
Investment portfolio assets:				
UK Equities	29,239	16.20	33,976	24,502
Overseas Equities	207,298	15.70	239,844	174,752
Global Pooled Equities inc UK	3,583,961	15.40	4,135,891	3,032,031
Bonds incl Bond Funds	783,621	4.50	818,884	748,358
Property Pooled Funds	287,008	9.20	313,413	260,603
Private Equity	129,707	23.30	159,929	99,485
Infrastructure Funds	60,157	19.00	71,587	48,727
Derivative assets	(17,081)	0.00	(17,081)	(17,081)
Total	5,198,937		5,891,469	4,506,405

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

18a. Market risk continued

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 routinely 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 exposures to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020 are set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value.

Asset Type	31 March 2021 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	351,228	131,959
Cash Balances	4,596	3,068
Bonds		
– Directly held securities	401,001	339,055
– Pooled Funds	575,551	444,566
Total	1,332,376	918,648

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 one percent movement in interest rates is 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 one percent 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 +/- one percent change in interest rates:

Asset Type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2021 £'000	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+1% £'000	(1%) £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	351,228	0	0
Cash Balances	4,596	0	0
Bonds			
– Directly held securities	401,001	(4,010)	4,010
– Pooled Funds	575,551	(5,756)	5,756
Total change in assets available	1,332,376	(9,766)	9,766

Asset Type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2020 £'000	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+1% £'000	(1%) £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	131,959	0	0
Cash Balances	3,068	0	0
Bonds			
– Directly held securities	339,055	(3,391)	3,391
– Pooled Funds	444,566	(4,446)	4,446
Total change in assets available	918,648	(7,836)	7,836

Changes to both the fair value of assets and the income received from investments impact on the net assets available to pay benefits. The analysis demonstrates that a 100 bps increase in interest rates will not affect the interest received on fixed interest assets but will reduce their fair value and vice versa. Changes in interest rates do not impact on the value of cash/cash equivalent balances but they will affect interest income received on those balances.

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. Through their investment managers, the Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than GBP, the functional currency of the Fund. Most of these assets are not hedged for currency risk and the Fund is exposed to currency risk on these financial instruments. However, a significant proportion of the investments managed by Goldman Sachs Asset Management and all investments in the CQS Fund are hedged for currency risk through forward currency contracts. The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by the Council and its investment advisors in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to current fluctuations. The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure excluding the hedged investments as at 31 March 2021 and 2020:

Currency exposure – asset type	Asset value 31 March 2021 £'000	Asset value 31 March 2020 £'000
Overseas Equities	318,412	207,298
Overseas Pooled Funds	3,891,344	2,623,144
Overseas Bonds	0	0
Overseas Private Equity, Infrastructure and Property funds	226,885	154,618
Non GBP Cash	9,981	9,123
Total overseas assets	4,446,622	2,994,183

Currency risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected currency movement during the financial year, in consultation with the fund's investment advisors, the Council has determined that the following movements in the values of financial assets denominated in foreign currency are reasonably possible for the 2020-21 reporting period. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant. A relevant strengthening/weakening of the pound against various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Asset Type	Asset value as at 31 March 2021 £'000	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
		+6.8% £'000	(6.8%) £'000
Overseas Equities	318,412	340,064	296,760
Overseas Pooled Funds	3,891,344	4,155,955	3,626,732
Overseas Bonds	0	0	0
Overseas Private Equity, Infrastructure and Property funds	226,885	242,313	211,457
Non GBP Cash	9,981	10,660	9,302
Total change in assets available	4,446,622	4,748,992	4,144,251

Asset Type	Asset value as at 31 March 2020 £'000	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
		+6.8% £'000	(6.8%) £'000
Overseas Equities	207,298	221,394	193,202
Overseas Pooled Funds	2,623,144	2,801,518	2,444,770
Overseas Bonds	0	0	0
Overseas Private Equity, Infrastructure and Property funds	154,618	165,132	144,104
Non GBP Cash	9,123	9,743	8,503
Total change in assets available	2,994,183	3,197,787	2,790,579

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

18b. 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.

Contractual credit risk is represented by the net payment of a receipt that remains outstanding, and the cost of replacing the derivative position in the event of a counterparty default. The residual risk is minimal due to the various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties. Derivative contracts are also covered by margins which provide collateral against risk of default by the counterparties.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Council's credit criteria. The Council has also set limits as to the maximum amount that may be placed with any one financial institution. The Fund's cash was held with the following institutions:

	Rating	Balance as at 31 March 2021 £'000	Balance as at 31 March 2020 £'000
Money Market Funds			
Northern Trust Sterling Fund	AAAm	8,004	9,002
SSGA Liquidity Fund	AAAm	0	2
Blackrock ICS	AAAm	7	65
Blackrock USD Government Liquidity Fund	AAAm	3,417	17
Aberdeen Sterling Liquidity Fund	AAAm	74,998	18,619
Goldman Sachs Liquid Reserve Government Fund	AAAm	2,358	17,523
Aviva Investors Sterling Liquidity Fund	AAAm	49,994	42,348
Federated (PR) Short-term GBP Prime Fund	AAAm	9,998	10,001
Deutsche Managed Sterling Fund	AAAm	1,184	9,294
HSBC Global Liquidity Fund	AAAm	2	5,963
LGIM Liquidity Fund	AAAm	41,775	7,161
Insight Sterling Liquidity Fund	AAAm	0	3,143
		191,737	123,138
Bank Deposit Accounts			
NatWest SIBA	BBB+	4,627	0
		4,627	0
Bank Current Accounts			
NatWest Current Account	BBB+	50	30
NatWest Current Account – Euro	BBB+	814	39
NatWest Current Account – USD	BBB+	468	0
Northern Trust – Current Accounts	AA-	6,694	9,767
Barclays – DTZ client monies account	A*+	1,433	2,053
		9,459	11,889
			0
Cash with fund managers	n/a	150,000	0
Total cash and cash equivalents		355,823	135,027

Cash held with fund managers comprises of application money transferred to M&G and CQS for subscription of units in their credit funds. The units were subsequently acquired on 1 April 2021.

18c. 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. The Council has immediate access to the Fund's money market fund and current account holdings.

Management prepares periodic cash flow forecasts to understand and manage the timing of the Fund's cash flows. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held forms part of the Fund investment strategy. All financial liabilities at 31 March 2021 are due within one year.

Refinancing risk

The key risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its Pension Fund 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.

19. Funding Arrangements

In line with Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2013 (as amended), the Fund is required to obtain an actuary's funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such valuation took place as at 31 March 2019.

The key elements of the funding policy are:

- To ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund and ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all the benefits as they fall due for payment.
- To ensure employer contribution rates are as stable as possible.
- To minimise the long term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return.
- To reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where the administering authority considers it reasonable to do so.

At the 2019 valuation a maximum deficit recovery period of 14 years (2016-17 years) is used for all employers. Shorter recovery periods have been used where affordable. This will provide a buffer for future adverse experience and reduce the interest cost paid by employers. For Transferee Admission Bodies the deficit recovery period is set equal to the future working life of current employees or the remaining contract period, whichever is the shorter.

In the 2019 triennial valuation, the smoothed value of the Fund's assets at the valuation date was £6,193m and the liabilities were £6,322m. The assets therefore, represented 98% (2016 - 89%) of the Fund's accrued liabilities, allowing for future pay increases.

The contribution rate for the average employer, including payments to target full funding has increased from 20.9% to 21.1% of pensionable salaries in 2020-21 and to 21.2% in 2021-22 and 21.3% in 2022-23. The funding level as a percentage has increased (due to good investment returns and employer contributions) although this has been partly offset by the changes in the financial assumptions used to calculate the liabilities.

The actuarial valuation has been undertaken on the projected unit method. At individual employer level the projected unit funding method has been used where there is an expectation that new employees will be admitted to the Fund. The attained age method has been used for employers who do not allow new entrants. These methods assess the costs of benefits accruing to existing members during the remaining working lifetime, allowing for future salary increases. The resulting contribution rate is adjusted to allow for any differences in the value of accrued liabilities and the market value of assets.

The 2019 actuarial assumptions were as follows:

Valuation of Assets:		assets have been valued at a 6 month smoothed market rate
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)		4.7% p.a.
Rate of general pay increases:	Long term	3.6% p.a.
	Short term	N/A
Assumed pension increases		2.6% p.a.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts continued

20. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

In addition to the triennial funding valuation, every year the fund's actuary undertakes a valuation of the Fund's liabilities on an IAS 19 basis, using the same base data as the funding valuation rolled forward to the current financial year, taking account of changes in membership numbers and updating assumptions to the current year.

	31 March 2021 £m	31 March 2020 £m
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits		
Present value of promised retirement benefits	(11,789.8)	(9,099.7)
Fair value of scheme assets at bid value	7,513.6	5,716.9
Net liability	(4,276.2)	(3,382.8)

The Fund accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future. Based on the latest valuation, the fair value of net assets of the Fund represents 63.7% of the actuarial valuation of the promised retirement benefits. Future liabilities will be funded from future contributions from employers.

The liability above being calculated on an IAS 19 basis and differs from the results of the 2019 triennial funding valuation because IAS 19 stipulates a discount rate rather than a rate which reflects a market rate.

Assumptions used:	% p.a.
Salary increase rate	3.85%
Inflation/Pensions increase rate	2.85%
Discount rate	2.00%

In December 2018 the Court of Appeal passed the McCloud judgement, which relates to age discrimination in relation to judges and firefighters pensions. Although the case only relates directly to these two schemes it is anticipated that the principles of the outcome could be accepted as applying to all public service schemes. Whilst there is uncertainty of how this judgement may affect LGPS members' past or future service benefits CIPFA has suggested that local authorities should consider the materiality of the impact. Our actuaries have used GAD's analysis to calculate the likely additional costs and have based it on all members who were active at 31 March 2012 until their retirement. This exercise has estimated the additional costs to be 0.7% of the Fund's liabilities and these have been included in the total liabilities of the Fund.

21. Current Assets

	31 March 2021 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000
Debtors		
– Contributions due – Employees	4,067	4,160
– Contributions due – Employers	13,180	13,791
	17,247	17,951
Sundry Debtors	12,579	13,606
Total Debtors	29,826	31,557
Cash	4,596	3,068
Total Current Assets	34,422	34,625

22. Current Liabilities

	31 March 2021 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000
Creditors		
– Benefits Payable	14,178	12,039
– Sundry Creditors	10,788	8,858
Total Current Liabilities	24,966	20,897

23. Additional Voluntary Contributions

members have the option to make additional voluntary contributions to enhance their pension benefits. In accordance with regulation 4(2)(b) of the LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009, these AVC contributions are not included within the Pension Fund Accounts. These contributions are paid to the AVC provider directly by the employer and are invested separately from the Pension Fund, with either Equitable Life Assurance Company, Prudential Assurance Company or Standard Life Assurance Company. These amounts are included within the disclosure note figures below.

	Prudential	Prudential	Standard Life	Standard Life	Utmost Life	Equitable Life
	2020-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021	2019-2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Value at 1 April	8,636	8,636	1,736	2,017	423	424
Value at 31 March	8,416	8,416	2,032	1,736	404	423
Contributions paid	1,305	1,305	108	114	1	1

Investments with Equitable Life were transferred to Utmost Life and Pensions following a transfer of business by Equitable life in 2019-20. Prudential has been unable to provide us with updated figures for 2020-21 therefore figures for the year remain unchanged.

24. Related Party Transactions

The Kent Pension Fund is required to disclose material transactions with related parties, not disclosed elsewhere, in a note to the financial statements. During the year each member of the Kent County Council Superannuation Fund Committee is required to declare their interests at each meeting. None of the members of the Committee or senior officers undertook any material transactions with the Kent Pension Fund.

	2020-2021	2019-2020
	£'000	£'000
Kent County Council is the largest single employer of members of the Pension Fund and during the year contributed:	75,522	71,025
A list of all contributing employers and amount of contributions received is included in the Fund's annual report available on the pension fund website		
Charges from Kent County Council to the Kent Pension Fund in respect of pension administration, governance arrangements, investment monitoring, legal and other services.	3,797	3,892
Year end balance due to Kent County Council arising out of transactions between Kent County Council and the Pension Fund	(6,089)	(823)

The year end credit balance due to KCC mainly comprises of recharges and of VAT payable to KCC. The large variance from the previous year is due to timing difference of the payments made.

Key management personnel

The employees of Kent County Council who held key positions in the financial management of the Kent Pension Fund during 2020-21 was the Director of Finance. Total remuneration payable to key management personnel is set out below:

	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Salary	147	137
Allowances	7	4
Other	1	0
Employer's pension contributions	33	39
Total	188	180

25. Contingent Liabilities and Contractual Commitments

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) as at 31 March 2021 totalled £514.92m (31 March 2020: £564.4m)

These commitments relate to outstanding call payments due on unquoted limited partnership funds held in private equity and infrastructure parts of the portfolio. The amounts 'called' by these funds are irregular in both size and timing over the life of each fund.

26. Contingent Assets

44 admitted body employers in the Kent Pension Fund hold insurance bonds to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the Fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default.

Post Pool Reporting

The Pension Fund transitioned one mandate into the ACCESS pool during the year.
The Fund's assets pooled and non-pooled are as under:

Pooled (ACCESS)		
Fund Manager	Asset Class	£'000
Baillie Gifford	Global Equities	1,709,000
Schroders	UK Equities	1,031,581
Schroders	Global Equity	352,961
M&G	Global Equities	443,546
Ruffer	Absolute Return	134,025
Total Pooled		3,671,113
Non-Pooled		
Fund Manager	Asset Class	£'000
Baillie Gifford	Global Equities	571
Schroders	Fixed Income	254,983
DTZ	Property	538,728
Goldman Sachs	Fixed Interest	416,621
Woodford	UK Equities	8,102
BMO (Pryford)	Absolute Return	407,083
CQS	Fixed income	157,732
Sarasin	Global Equities	352,812
Fidelity	Pooled Property	133,795
Kames	Pooled Property	43,566
Impax	Global Equities	70,886
Insight	Equity Protection	610,988
Partners Group	Infrastructure	77,133
Harbourvest	Private Equity	149,608
M&G	Pooled Property	64,314
M&G AO	Fixed Income	162,854
YFM	Private Equity	47,282
Kent County Council Investment Team	Cash	336,003
Total Non-Pooled		3,833,061
Grand Total		7,504,174

For 2020-21 the ongoing costs of the investments broken down between pooled and non-pooled assets are detailed below:

Pool Set up Costs	2020-2021 £'000	Cumulative £'000	ACCESS
Strategic & Technical Advice	0	56	614
Legal	0	37	409
Project Management	0	53	588
ACCESS Support Unit	0	0	3
Other	0	19	210
Total	0	166	1,824
Transition costs		363	

The Pooled ACS was operational in 2017-18 and all set up costs were incurred prior to that, so no costs attributable to set up for 2020-21.

Pooling has enabled the funds to obtain fees and cost savings. In the past few years, pooling has enabled individual funds to negotiate lower fees as well as to do joint procurements such as for the UBS passive mandates. From 2018-19, bulk of the savings are anticipated to be achieved through pooling in ACCESS funds.

The fund's costs and net fee savings since inception of the pooling project are as follows:

	2056–2016 £'000	2016–2017 £'000	2017–2018 £'000	2018–2019 £'000	2019–2020 £'000	2020–2021 £'000	Cumulative £'000
Set up costs	6	6	80	80	–	–	166
Pooling ongoing costs				137	87	82	306
Transition costs	–	–		363	–	245	608
Fee savings	26	242	776	1,436	1,596	3,968	7,992
Net savings	32	162	696	936	1,509	3,641	6,913

Of the above total savings of £6.913m, £2.67m relates to investments awaiting pooling.

The investment managers are paid ad valorem fees on the assets under their management. As a result, the fees in absolute terms goes up as the investments appreciate in value. Compared to 2015, the Fund's investment management fees was higher by £1.3m. Of this the increase attributable to the growth in Fund value was £5.3m. However, with fees negotiations and pooling the Fund achieved a saving of £4.7m during this period.

For 2020-21, the ongoing costs of the investments broken down between pooled and non-pooled assets are detailed below. These costs have been compiled from information provided by the fund managers who have signed up to the LGA cost transparency code.

	Asset Pool	Asset Pool	Asset Pool	Non Asset Pool	Non Asset Pool	Non Asset Pool
	Direct £'000	Indirect £'000	Total £'000	Direct £'000	Indirect £'000	Total £'000
FM Fees	48.50	8,540.81	8,589.30	5,250.19	8,733.43	22,572.92
Pool shared (ASU)	82.16	–	82.16	0	0	82.16
Transaction costs	0	1,985.95	1,985.95	709.73	2,017.21	4,712.90
Custody			–	56.46		56.46
Other – pooled fund costs		327.68	327.68		1,455.85	1,783.54
Total	130.66	10,854.44	10,985.10	6,016.38	12,206.50	29,207.97

The fund's performance broken down into pooled and non-pooled assets is as below:

Asset Category	Opening Value £'000	Opening Value % of total fund	Closing Value £'000	Closing Value % of total fund	1 Yr Performance %	Benchmark %
ACCESS Pooled Investments						
UK Equity	770	13.5	1,032	13.7	33.93	24.32
Global Equity	1,421	24.9	2,506	33.4	73.29	38.94
Absolute Return	71	1.3	134	1.3	25.03	6.48
Total Pooled Assets	2,263	39.7	3,671	48.9	N/A	N/A
Under Pooled Governance						
UK Passive Equity	275	4.8	–	0.0		
Global Passive Equity	302	5.3	–	0.0		
Total Under Pooled Governance	577.4	10.1	–	–		
Assets Outside of the ACCESS Pool						
UK Equity	36	0.6	8	0.1	(43.7)	26.7
Global Equity	539	9.5	424	5.7	39.7	39.0
Equity Protection	–	–	611	8.1		
Property	772	13.5	780	10.4	3.4	2.8
Infrastructure	60	1.1	77	1.0	(4.3)	(0.1)
Private Equity	130	2.3	197	2.6	35.2	(0.1)
Cash	97	1.7	336	4.5	0.1	(0.1)
Absolute Return	415	7.3	407	5.4	8.9	6.5
Fixed Income	813	14.3	992	13.2	16.7	2.9
Total Non-Pooled Assets	2,862	50.2	3,833	51.1	N/A	N/A
Grand Total	5,702	100.0	7,504	100.0	31.52	18.93

Independent Auditor's report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Kent County Council on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements of the Kent Superannuation Fund included in the Pension Fund Annual Report

Opinion

The pension fund financial statements of the Kent Superannuation Fund (the 'pension fund') administered by Kent County Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the notes to the pension fund financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies are derived from the audited pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts (the 'Statement of Accounts').

In our opinion, the accompanying pension fund financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as defined in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 and applicable law.

Pension Fund Annual Report – Pension fund financial statements

The Pension Fund Annual Report and the pension fund financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the Statement of Accounts. Reading the pension fund financial statements and the auditor's report thereon is not a substitute for reading the audited Statement of Accounts and the auditor's report thereon.

The audited financial statements and our Report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the pension fund financial statements in the Statement of Accounts in our report dated 13 December 2021.

Corporate Director of Finance's responsibilities for the pension fund financial statements in the Pension Fund Annual Report

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 the Corporate Director of Finance of the Authority is responsible for the preparation of the pension fund financial statements, which must include the Fund Account, the Net Asset Statement and supporting notes and disclosures prepared in accordance with proper practices. Proper practices for the pension fund financial statements in both the Statement of Accounts and the Pension Fund Annual Report are set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the pension fund financial statements in the Pension Fund Annual Report are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited pension fund financial statements in the Statement of Accounts based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 paragraph 20(5) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul Dossett

Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
13 December 2021

Kent County Council Superannuation Fund Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2021

