# Reliance Precision Limited Retirement and Death Benefit Scheme

# Statement of Investment Principles - Implementation Statement

The purpose of this Statement is to provide information which is required to be disclosed in accordance with the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment) 2019 Regulations. In particular, it confirms how the investment principles, objectives and policies set out in the Trustees' Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) dated September 2020 have been implemented. The SIP provides further background details on investment arrangements and should be read in conjunction with the Trustees' Chair's Statement dated 31 March 2021.

This Statement covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

### Investment managers and funds in use

The Scheme is a Defined Contribution Scheme with a small Defined Benefit Section relating to benefits earned before 1985.

The investment funds used for both the DB Section and DC Section are set out in the tables below:

#### **DC Section**

Asset Class	Manager	Fund
Global equities	LGIM	LGIM Ethical Global Equity Index Fund
Diversified growth funds	LGIM	LGIM Multi-Asset (formerly Consensus) Fund
Multi-asset bonds	LGIM	LGIM Pre-Retirement Fund
Cash	LGIM	LGIM Cash Fund

#### **DC Section – Default Investment Strategy**

The default investment strategy, the Lifestyle Investment Program, is designed to target an annuity at retirement. At the time of retirement, it targets 75% of the assets being used to secure an annuity and 25% being taken as a lump sum cash payment. The strategy is set out below:

Period prior to member's normal retirement age	Investment Default Approach		
Up to 5 years prior to normal retirement age	The approach invests wholly in the LGIM Multi-Asset Fund		
From 5 years before normal retirement age	Phased switches are made between the funds to achieve an allocation of 75% in the LGIM Pre-Retirement Fund and 25% in the LGIM Cash Fund by normal retirement age. The process is completed in ten steps, with one step every six months.		

#### **DB Section**

There is a small DB section relating to benefits earned before April 1985. In all but one case, the DB benefit is covered by a DC fund which is expected to cover the DB benefit. In relation to the member for whom no DC fund exists, the assets are invested wholly in the LGIM Pre-Retirement Fund.

Asset Class	Manager	Fund
Multi-asset bonds	LGIM	LGIM Pre-Retirement Fund

#### **Strategy Review**

The Trustees periodically review the investment arrangements of the DC Section, with the last review completed in January 2021, taking into account the best interests of the average Scheme member including whether the arrangements provide value for money.

Following completion of the review, the Trustees have opted to introduce the "the Drawdown Lifestyle Strategy" for those members who wish to target drawdown at retirement. The current "Lifestyle Investment Program" will remain in place for those members who wish to target an annuity at retirement and will be renamed the "Annuity Lifestyle Strategy". The Drawdown Lifestyle Strategy will become the new default investment strategy and will invest in the LGIM Retirement Income Multi Asset (RIMA) Fund rather than the LGIM Pre-Retirement Fund. The RIMA fund's objective is to provide long-term investment growth up to and during retirement, and to facilitate in the drawdown of retirement income.

Members who wish to remain in the existing default strategy can continue to do so. Consultation with members is currently under way and the new default strategy, the Drawdown Lifestyle Strategy, is in the process of being implemented.

## **Scheme Governance**

Governance arrangements, in terms of the constitution of the trustee board, service level agreements with providers, processing of core financial transactions, costs and charges and investment arrangements, are detailed in the Trustees' Chair's Statement.

The Trustee board is responsible for making investment decisions, and seeks advice from Broadstone Corporate Benefits Limited, as the Trustees' investment consultant.

The Trustees do not actively obtain views of the membership of the Scheme to help form their policies set out in the SIP.

During the year under review there were no changes to the objectives put in place for Broadstone Corporate Benefits Limited, which were last reviewed in November 2020. The Trustees are due to formally review these objectives no later than November 2022.

There were also no changes to the investment management agreements with LGIM during the year.

#### **Trustee Knowledge and Understanding**

The Trustee board has the appropriate knowledge and understanding to ensure its policies on financially and non-financially material considerations, as well as engagement and voting activities, are and remain appropriate for the Scheme. The Trustees have developed their knowledge and understanding over the year, and further details are set out in the Chair's Statement.

#### **Statement of Investment Principles**

The Trustees last reviewed the Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) in September 2020, which was updated in line with new regulations relating to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations.

The Trustees have a policy on financially material considerations relating to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues, including the risk associated with the impact of climate change. In addition, the Trustees have a policy on the exercise of rights and engagement activities, and a policy on non-financial considerations. These policies are set out below and are detailed in the Trustees' SIP.

The Trustees' policies on financially and non-financially material considerations, as well as engagement and voting activities were not updated in the SIP in force during the year.

There were no departures from the policies set out in the SIP, including the Trustees' policies on financially and non-financially material considerations, during the year.

#### Policy for taking into account financially material ESG considerations

#### Trustees' Policy:

The Trustees believe that the consideration of financially material Environmental (including climate change), Social and Governance (ESG) factors in investment decision making can lead to better risk adjusted investment returns. Environmental concerns include climate change, energy efficiency, waste and pollution and scarcity of water and other resources. Social concerns include human rights, health & safety at work, welfare and other working conditions, and responsibility for the wider community in which a business operates. Corporate Governance concerns include audit quality, board structure, remuneration policy, shareholder and other stakeholder rights.

The Trustees expect its investment managers, when exercising discretion in investment decision making, to take financially material ESG factors into account. On an ongoing basis the Trustees (delegating to the Investment Consultant where appropriate) assess the ESG integration capability of its investment managers.

There have been no changes to the Trustees' policy, nor any departures from their policy, during the year.

The Trustees note that the manner by which financially material ESG factors will be taken into account in an investment strategy or pooled fund offering will depend on the underlying asset classes within the pooled fund offering and the management style (e.g. active or passive).

The Trustees are satisfied that the funds currently invested in by the Scheme are managed in accordance with their views on financially material considerations, as set out below, and in particular with regards to the selection, retention, and realisation of the underlying investments held.

This position is monitored periodically. As part of the monitoring process, the Trustees have access to updates on governance and engagement activities by the investment managers and input from their investment advisors on ESG matters. These views are also taken into account when appointing and reviewing investment managers.

The Trustees acknowledge that they are delegating the consideration of financially material factors in relation to determining the underlying holdings to their investment managers given they are investing in pooled funds.

A summary of the Trustees' views for each asset class in which the Scheme invests is outlined below.

Asset Class	Actively or Passively Managed?	Comments
Global equities	Passive	The Trustees acknowledge that the investment manager must invest in line with specified indices and, therefore, may not be able to disinvest from a particular security if they have concerns relating to ESG. The Trustees do expect the investment manager to engage with its investee companies that form the index on ESG issues in order to promote sustainable long term investment returns. This is done by exercising any voting rights attached to the equity investments and engaging directly with investee companies.
Diversified growth funds	Active	The Trustees expect the investment manager to take financially material ESG factors into account, given the active management style of the fund and the ability of the manager to use its discretion to generate higher risk adjusted returns. The Trustee also expects its investment manager to engage with the underlying investee companies, where possible, although it appreciates that fixed income assets within the portfolio do not typically attract voting rights.
Multi-asset bonds	Active	The Trustees expect the investment manager to take financially material ESG factors into account, given the active management style of the fund and the ability of the manager to use its discretion to generate higher risk adjusted returns. The Trustees also expect its investment manager, to engage with investee companies, where possible, although they appreciate that fixed income assets do not typically attract voting rights.
Cash	Active	The Trustees believe there is less scope for the consideration of ESG issues to improve risk-adjusted returns in this asset class because of the nature of the securities.

#### Policy for taking into account non-financial ESG considerations

Trustees' Policy:

Where ESG factors are non-financial (i.e. they do not pose a risk to the prospect of the financial success of the investment) the Trustee believes these should not drive investment decisions. The Trustees expect its Investment Managers, when exercising discretion in investment decision making, to consider non-financial factors only when all other financial factors have been considered and in such a circumstance the consideration of non-financial factors should not lead to a material reduction in the efficiency of the investment. Members' views are not sought on non-financial matters (including ESG, quality of life considerations and ethical views) in relation to the selection, retention and realisation of investments. However, members views are sought on the choice of funds available, and the Trustees currently make an ethical equity fund available to members.

There have been no changes to the Trustees' policy, nor any departures from their policy, during the year.

#### Policy on the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities

#### Trustees' Policy:

The Trustees expect their Investment Managers, to exercise ownership rights attached to investments as they see fit, including voting and engagement rights, in order to safeguard sustainable returns over this time frame. The Trustees do not impose any additional constraints on the managers. On an ongoing basis the Trustees will assess the stewardship and engagement activity of its Investment Managers (delegating to the Investment Consultant where appropriate). This will be done by reviewing the Investment Manager's voting and engagement policy, summary reports detailing the engagement and voting activity undertaken by the Investment Managers, and asking questions directly to the Investment Managers.

There have been no changes to the Trustees' policy, nor any departures from their policy, during the year. In particular, all voting activities have been delegated to the investment managers, as the Trustees do not have any legal right to vote on the underlying holdings, given the pooled nature of the Scheme's investments.

The Trustees currently invest in pooled investment funds with the investment managers, and they acknowledge that this limits their ability to directly influence each investment manager.

The Trustees have employed Broadstone to assist them in monitoring the voting and engagement activity of their investment managers. The Trustees, with the assistance of Broadstone, have concluded that the voting and engagement activity of their investment managers is in line with their policy on voting and engagement.

Within the current investment arrangements, the equity and multi-asset funds with LGIM contain equity holdings, and therefore have voting rights attached to these underlying equities.

LGIM employs the services of a third party proxy voter when exercising voting rights and will often engage with investee companies directly. The third proxy voter used are confirmed in the table below.

The Trustees have delegated engagement activities to their investment managers, and each investment manager reports to the Trustees on how they have voted on behalf of the Trustees for the underlying holdings.

A summary of the votes made by LGIM on behalf of the Trustees (where the investment owns equities) from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 is provided in the table below, based on the latest information available.

Managan	Pooled or	Third Party	Manager uses	Resolutions	Resolut	ions Voted	:
Manager	Segregated?	Proxy Voter	own voting policy?	Voted On	For	Against	Abstained
LGIM	Pooled	ISS	Yes	77,062	81%	18%	1%

The votes above are at the company level, rather than being scheme or fund specific. The Trustees will work with their investment managers to obtain this information in future years.

LGIM provided examples of significant votes cast:

- LGIM voted against a resolution to ratify the compensation for AmerisourceBergen Corporation's CEO. The company recorded a \$6.6 billion charge related to opioid lawsuits and made an operating loss of \$5.1 billion. By excluding the settlement costs relating to the lawsuits, the Compensation Committee ensured executive pay was not impacted by the operating loss and as a result its CEO's total proposed compensation was approximately 25% higher than the previous year. The resolution encountered a significant amount of opposing votes from shareholders, with 48.36% voting against the resolution and 51.63% supporting the proposal. LGIM continues to engage with US companies on their pay structures and has published specific pay principles for US companies.
- LGIM voted against a number of resolutions in relation to electing Directors at Samsung Electronics. In January 2021, Lee Jae-yong, the vice chairman of Samsung Electronics and only son of the former company chairman, was sentenced to two years and six months in prison for bribery, embezzlement and concealment of criminal proceeds. LGIM engaged with the company ahead of the vote and were not satisfied with the independence of the company board and whether the independent directors are really able to challenge management. LGIM voted against the resolutions as the directors, who should provide independent oversight, have collectively failed to remove criminally convicted directors from the board. LGIM stated the inaction is indicative of a material failure of governance and oversight at the company.

A notable engagement activity of LGIM is provided below:

• LGIM engaged with Amazon after they were made aware Amazon had been interfering with its workforce's efforts to unionise, ahead of a workforce vote on unionisation. LGIM, along with 70 other investors with a total AUM of \$6.4trillion, signed a letter to Amazon emphasising that they should meet the expectations set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights, and that workers should be free to exercise their freedom of association and right to collective bargaining. This action resulted in Amazon launching its first Global Human Rights Principles and also commissioning a human rights impact assessment by an external consultant. Despite the moves, LGIM still retain concerns on how they will meet these commitments and will continue to engage with the company on the matter.

The Trustees are comfortable with the investment managers' approach for exercising rights and conducting engagement activities, and specifically that they attempt to maximise shareholder value as a long-term investor.

The Trustees also consider the investment managers' policies on stewardship and engagement when selecting and reviewing investment managers.

## **Monitoring of Investment Arrangements**

In addition to any reviews of investment managers or approaches, and direct engagement with investment managers (as detailed above), the Trustees receive performance reports to ensure the investment objectives set out in their SIP are being met.

Signed:		
Date:	26 August 2021	

On behalf of the Trustees of the Reliance Precision Limited Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme