

# **The Colorcon Limited Staff Benefits Plan**

## **Implementation Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023**

### **Introduction**

This implementation statement has been prepared by the Trustees of the Colorcon Limited Staff Benefits Plan. The Plan provides benefits calculated on a defined benefit (DB) basis for members in the DB Section and benefits calculated on a defined contribution (DC) basis for members in the DC Section.

The statement:

- sets out how, and the extent to which, the policies set out in the Statement of Investment Principles (the SIP) have been followed during the year;
- describes any review of the SIP, including an explanation of any changes made; and
- describes the voting behaviour by, or on behalf of, the Trustees including the most significant votes over the same period.

The Trustees' policies contained in the SIP are underpinned by their investor beliefs, which have been developed in consultation with their investment consultant.

### **Trustees' overall assessment**

In the opinion of the Trustees, the policies as set out in the SIP have been followed during the year ending 30 June 2023.

### **Review of the SIP**

The Trustees' policies have been developed by the Trustees in conjunction with their investment consultant and are reviewed and updated periodically and at least every three years.

The SIP was most recently reviewed for the Trustees' policies in relation to their arrangements with their investment managers being updated in January 2023.

### **Policy in relation to the kinds of investments to be held**

The Trustees have given full regard to their investment powers as set out in the Trust Deed and Rules and have considered the attributes of the various asset classes when deciding the kinds of investments to be held. The Plan invests in pooled funds, other collective investment vehicles and cash, to manage costs, diversify investments and improve liquidity. The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day management of the majority of the Plan's assets to investment managers. The Plan's assets are invested in pooled funds which have their own policies and objectives and charge a fee, agreed with the investment manager, for their services. Such fees incentivise the investment manager to adhere to their stated policies and objectives.

All investments made during the year have been in line with the Trustees' investment powers.

## **Investment strategy and objectives**

### **Investment strategy (DB Section)**

The investment strategy for the Plan has been agreed by the Trustees having taken advice from the Investment Consultant and taking due account of the liability profile of the Plan.

Given the closure of the Plan to new members and the current structure of the liabilities, the investment approach adopted aims to maximise long-term real returns, whilst paying proper attention to investment risks.

The Trustees have translated their objectives into a suitable investment strategy benchmark for the Plan.

In accordance with the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000, the Trustees are responsible for setting the general investment policy, but the responsibility for all day-to-day investment management decisions has been delegated to appointed investment managers authorised under the Act.

The Trustees are responsible for periodically reviewing the investment strategy of the Plan in consultation with the Plan's Investment Consultant.

### **Policy in relation to the balance between various kinds of investments and the realisation of investments (DB Section)**

The appointed investment manager holds a diversified mix of investments in line with their agreed benchmark and within their discretion to diverge from the benchmark. Within each major market the manager maintains a diversified portfolio of securities.

The Trustees require the investment manager to be able to realise the Plan's investment in a reasonable timescale by reference to the market conditions existing at the time the disposal is required. In the event of an unexpected need to realise all or part of the assets of the portfolio, the Trustees require the investment manager to be able to realise the Plan's investments in a reasonable timescale by reference to the market conditions existing at the time the disposal is required and subject to the best interests of the Plan. The majority of assets are not expected to take an undue time to liquidate.

### **Policy in relation to the expected return on investments (DB Section)**

The investment strategy is believed to be capable of exceeding, in the long run, the overall required rate of return assumed in the Scheme Actuary's published actuarial valuation report in order to reach / maintain a fully funded status under the agreed assumptions.

### **Investment strategy (DC Section)**

The Plan historically provided DC benefits. The facility ceased to be available from 1 July 1991 when it was replaced with the DB Section of the Plan. No DC investments have been received since July 1991.

A review of the DC investments was undertaken in December 2016. The Trustees' ultimate objective is to ensure suitable funds are available to DC members. The Trustees believe they have in place a range of funds that is sufficient to allow members to strike a balance between the long term need for capital growth and the risk of shorter term volatility of returns.

### **Policy in relation to the balance between various kinds of investments and the realisation of investments (DC Section)**

The investment managers maintain a diversified portfolio of stocks or bonds within each of the funds offered to members under the DC Section.

Each fund has a defined objective and the Trustees are satisfied that the funds offered are appropriate for membership.

Under normal market conditions the Trustees expect to be able to realise investments within a reasonable timescale although there remains the risk that certain assets may become less liquid in times of market stress. Dealing spreads and liquidity are monitored periodically by the investment consultant, particularly during periods of heightened volatility such as was experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Policy in relation to the expected return on investments (DC Section)**

The default option is expected to provide an appropriate return on members' investments, based on the Trustees' understanding of the membership of the DC Section.

## **Risk capacity and risk appetite**

### **Policy in relation to risks (DB Section)**

Although the Trustees acknowledge that the main risk is that the Plan will have insufficient assets to meet its liabilities, the Trustees recognise other contributory risks, including the following:

- Associated with the differences in the sensitivity of asset and liability values to changes in financial and demographic factors.
- Of the Plan having insufficient liquid assets to meet its immediate liabilities.
- Of the investment managers failing to achieve the required rate of return.
- Due to the lack of diversification of investments.
- Of failure of the Plan's Sponsoring Employer to meet its obligations.

The Trustees monitor manager risks through the quarterly performance monitoring reports and cost disclosure documents provided by and discussed with the investment consultant.

Four monitoring reports were received during the year. These did not highlight any significant concerns over the level of risk being run within the Plan.

### **Policy in relation to risks (DC Section)**

The Trustees have previously considered risk from a number of perspectives. These are the risk that:

- the investment return over members' working lives will not keep pace with inflation and does not, therefore, secure an adequate retirement income,
- investment market movements in the period prior to retirement lead to a substantial reduction in the anticipated level of pension or other retirement income,
- investment market movements in the period just prior to retirement lead to a substantial reduction in the anticipated cash lump sum benefit, and
- fees and transaction costs reduce the return achieved by members by an inappropriate extent.

## **Stewardship in relation to the Plan's assets**

### **Policies in relation to investment manager arrangements**

The Plan's assets are invested in pooled funds which have their own policies and objectives and charge a fee, set by the investment manager, for their services. The Trustees have very limited to no influence over the objectives of these funds or the fees they charge (although fee discounts can be negotiated in certain circumstances).

There have been no changes to the benchmark/objectives of the funds in which the Plan invests over the year.

In addition, the Trustees receive information on any trading costs incurred as part of asset transfer work within either the DB or the DC Section, as and when these occur. The exercise is only undertaken if the expected benefits outweigh the expected costs. The Trustees note that, in respect of the DC Section, trading costs are also incurred in respect of member switches (including within the lifestyle strategy).

The investment managers have invested the assets within their portfolio in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines and constraints set out in their appointment documentation. In return the Trustees have paid their investment managers a fee which is a fixed percentage of assets under management.

The investment consultant has reviewed and evaluated the investment managers on behalf of the Trustees, including performance reviews, manager oversight meetings and operational due diligence reviews.

### **Investment manager monitoring and changes**

During the year the Trustees received four reports from the investment consultant examining the performance of the pooled funds used.

Changes were made to the Plan's investment manager arrangements during the year.

Appropriate written advice is taken from the investment consultant before the review, appointment or removal of the investment managers.

### **Stewardship of investments**

The Trustees have a fiduciary duty to consider their approach to the stewardship of the investments, to maximise financial returns for the benefit of members and beneficiaries over the long term. The Trustees can promote an investment's long-term success through monitoring, engagement and/or voting, either directly or through their investment managers.

The Trustees, in conjunction with their investment consultant, appoint their investment managers and choose the specific pooled funds to use in order to meet specific policies. They expect that their investment managers make decisions based on assessments about the financial and non-financial performance of underlying investments (including environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors, and that they engage with issuers of debt or equity to improve their performance (and thereby the Plan's performance) over an appropriate time horizon.

The Trustees also expect their investment managers to take non-financial matters into account as long as the decision does not involve a risk of significant detriment to members' financial interests.

## Stewardship - monitoring and engagement

The Trustees recognise that an investment manager's ability to influence the companies in which it invests will depend on the nature of the investment.

The Trustees acknowledge that the concept of stewardship may be less applicable to some of their assets, particularly for short-term money market instruments, gilt and liability-driven investments. As such the Plan's investments in these asset classes are not covered by this engagement policy implementation statement.

The Trustees' policy is to delegate responsibility for the exercising of rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments to the investment manager and to encourage the manager to exercise those rights. The investment manager is expected to provide regular reports for the Trustees detailing its voting activity.

The Trustees also delegate responsibility for engaging and monitoring investee companies to the investment managers and they expect the investment managers to use their discretion to maximise financial returns for members and others over the long term.

The Trustees seek to appoint managers that have strong stewardship policies and processes and are supportive of their investment managers being signatories to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment and the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code 2020. Details of the signatory status of the investment manager is shown below:

Investment manager	UN PRI Signatory	UK Stewardship Code Signatory
LGIM	Yes	Yes

The Trustees review each investment manager prior to appointment and monitor them on an ongoing basis through the regular review of the manager's voting and engagement policies and a review of each manager's voting and engagement behaviour. The Trustees may also request their investment consultant's manager ESG ratings to aid them in this process.

As most investments are held in pooled vehicles, the Trustees do not envisage being directly involved with peer-to-peer engagement in investee companies.

### Investment manager engagement policies

The Plan's investment managers are expected to have developed and publicly disclosed an engagement policy. This policy, amongst other things, provides the Trustees with information on how each investment manager engages in dialogue with the companies it invests in and how it exercises voting rights. It also provides details on the investment approach taken by the investment manager when considering relevant factors of the investee companies, such as strategy, financial and non-financial performance and risk, and applicable social, environmental and corporate governance aspects.

Links to each investment manager's engagement policy or suitable alternative is provided in the Appendix.

These policies are publicly available on each investment manager's websites.

The latest available information provided by the investment managers (with mandates that contain equities or bonds) is as follows:

Implementation Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023

Fund	Period	Engagement definition	Number of companies engaged with over the year	Number of engagements over the year
LGIM Maturing B&M Credit 2030-2034	01/07/2022-30/06/2023	Purposeful, targeted communication with an entity (e.g. company, government, industry body, regulator) on particular matters of concern with the goal of encouraging change at an individual issuer and/or the goal of addressing a market-wide or system risk (such as climate). Regular communication to gain information as part of ongoing research should not be counted as engagement.	83	141
LGIM Maturing B&M Credit 2035-2039	01/07/2022-30/06/2023		51	105
LGIM Maturing B&M Credit 2040-2054	01/07/2022-30/06/2023		70	129
LGIM All World Equity Index	01/07/2022-30/06/2023		438	700
LGIM AAA-AA-A Bonds Over 15Y Index	01/07/2022-30/06/2023		14	37

### Exercising rights and responsibilities

The Trustees recognise that different investment managers should not be expected to exercise stewardship in an identical way, or to the same intensity.

The investment manager is expected to disclose annually a general description of its voting behaviour, an explanation of the most significant votes cast and report on the use of proxy voting advisers.

The investment manager publishes online the overall voting records of the firm on a regular basis.

The investment manager uses proxy advisers for the purposes of providing research, advice or voting recommendations that relate to the exercise of voting rights.

The Trustees do not carry out a detailed review of the votes cast by or on behalf of their investment manager but rely on the requirement for their investment manager to provide a high-level analysis of its voting behaviour.

The latest available information provided by the investment manager, covering equity voting rights for the year ending 30 June 2023, is as follows:

Fund	Period	Number of meetings eligible to vote at	Number of resolutions eligible to vote on	Proportion of votes cast	Proportion of votes for management	Proportion of votes against management	Proportion of resolutions abstained from voting on
LGIM All World Equity Index	01/07/20 22- 30/06/20 23	6,351	62,920	99.9%	79.7%	19.6%	0.7%

### Trustees' engagement

The Trustees have undertaken a review of the investment manager's engagement policy including its policies in relation to financially material considerations.

The Trustees may also request the environmental, social and governance rating for each fund/investment manager provided by the investment consultant, which includes consideration of voting and/or engagement activities. This also includes those funds that do not hold listed equities.

The Trustees may also consider reports provided by other external ratings providers. The Trustees have reviewed the investment manager's policies relating to engagement and voting and how they have been implemented and have found them to be acceptable at the current time.

The Trustees recognise that engagement and voting policies, practices and reporting, will continue to evolve over time and are supportive of their investment manager being signatory to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment and the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code 2020.

## Appendix

A link to the investment manager's engagement policy can be found here:

<b>Investment manager</b>	<b>Engagement Policy (or suitable alternative)</b>
Legal & General Investment Management	<a href="https://www.lgim.com/landg-assets/lgim/document-library/capabilities/lgim-engagement-policy.pdf">https://www.lgim.com/landg-assets/lgim/document-library/capabilities/lgim-engagement-policy.pdf</a>

Information on the most significant votes for each of the funds containing equities is shown below.

<b>LGIM All World Equity Index Fund</b>	<b>Vote 1</b>	<b>Vote 2</b>	<b>Vote 3</b>
Company name	Amazon.com, Inc.	NVIDIA Corporation	Alphabet Inc.
Date of Vote	24/05/2023	22/06/2023	02/06/2023
Approximate size of fund's holding as at the date of the vote (as % of portfolio)	1.5	1.5	1.2
Summary of the resolution	Resolution 13 – Report on Median and Adjusted Gender/Racial Pay Gaps	Resolution 1i - Elect Director Stephen C. Neal	Resolution 18 - Approve Recapitalization Plan for all Stock to Have One-vote per Share
How the fund manager voted	For (against Management Recommendation)	Against (against management recommendation)	For (against management recommendation)
Where the fund manager voted against management, did they communicate their intent to the company ahead of the vote	LGIM pre-declared its vote intention for this meeting on the LGIM Blog. As part of this process, a communication was set to the company ahead of the meeting.	LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website the day after the company meeting, with a rationale for all votes against management. It is our policy not to engage with our investee companies in the three weeks prior to an AGM as our engagement is not limited to shareholder meeting topics.	LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website the day after the company meeting, with a rationale for all votes against management. It is our policy not to engage with our investee companies in the three weeks prior to an AGM as our engagement is not limited to shareholder meeting topics.

Rationale for the voting decision	A vote in favour is applied as LGIM expects companies to disclose meaningful information on its gender pay gap and the initiatives it is applying to close any stated gap. This is an important disclosure so that investors can assess the progress of the company's diversity and inclusion initiatives. Board diversity is an engagement and voting issue, as we believe cognitive diversity in business – the bringing together of people of different ages, experiences, genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and social and economic backgrounds – is a crucial step towards building a better company, economy and society.	Diversity: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects a company to have at least one-third women on the board. Average board tenure: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects a board to be regularly refreshed in order to maintain an appropriate mix of independence, relevant skills, experience, tenure, and background.	Shareholder Resolution - Shareholder rights: A vote in favour is applied as LGIM expects companies to apply a one-share-one-vote standard.
Outcome of the vote	29.0% for	Not provided	30.7% for
Implications of the outcome	LGIM will continue to engage with the company and monitor progress.	LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.	LGIM will continue to monitor the board's response to the relatively high level of support received for this resolution.
Criteria on which the vote is assessed to be "most significant"	Pre-declaration and Thematic – Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients,	Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for	High Profile meeting: This shareholder resolution is considered significant due to the relatively

	with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.	the assets we manage on their behalf.	high level of support received.
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Information on the most significant engagement case studies for the investment manager as a company for the funds containing public equities and bonds as at 31 December 2022 is shown below:

<b>LGIM - Firm-level</b>	<b>Case Study 1</b>	<b>Case Study 2</b>	<b>Case Study 3</b>
Name of entity engaged with	ExxonMobil	BP Plc	J Sainsbury Plc
Topic	Environment: Climate change (Climate Impact Pledge)	Environment: Climate change (Climate Impact Pledge)	Social: Income inequality - living wage (diversity, equity and inclusion)
Rationale	<p>As one of the world's largest public oil and gas companies in the world, we believe that Exxon Mobil's climate policies, actions, disclosures and net zero transition plans have the potential for significant influence across the industry as a whole, and particularly in the US. At LGIM, we believe that company engagement is a crucial part of transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050. Under our Climate Impact Pledge, we publish our minimum expectations for companies in 20 climate-critical sectors. We select roughly 100 companies for 'in-depth' engagement - these companies are</p>	<p>As one of the largest integrated oil and gas producers in the world, BP has a significant role to play in the global transition to net zero, hence our focus on this company for in-depth engagements. As members of the CA100+ we commit to engaging with a certain number of companies on their focus list and on account of our strong relationship with BP, we lead the CA100+ engagements with them. At LGIM, we believe that company engagement is a crucial part of transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050. Under our Climate Impact Pledge, we publish our minimum</p>	<p>Ensuring companies take account of the 'employee voice' and that they are treating employees fairly in terms of pay and diversity and inclusion is an important aspect of our stewardship activities. As the cost of living ratchets up in the wake of the pandemic and amid soaring inflation in many parts of the world, our work on income inequality and our expectations of companies regarding the living wage have acquired a new level of urgency. LGIM's expectations of companies:</p> <p>i) As a responsible investor, LGIM advocates that all companies should ensure that they are paying their employees a living</p>

influential in their sectors, but in our view are not yet leaders on sustainability; by virtue of their influence, their improvements would be likely to have a knock-on effect on other companies within the sector, and in supply chains. Our in-depth engagement is focused on helping companies meet these minimum expectations, and understanding the hurdles they must overcome. For in-depth engagement companies, those which continue to lag our minimum expectations may be subject to voting sanctions and/ or divestment (from LGIM funds which apply the Climate Impact Pledge exclusions).  
UN SDG 13: Climate action

expectations for companies in 20 climate-critical sectors. We select roughly 100 companies for 'in-depth' engagement - these companies are influential in their sectors, but in our view are not yet leaders on sustainability; by virtue of their influence, their improvements would be likely to have a knock-on effect on other companies within the sector, and in supply chains. Our in-depth engagement is focused on helping companies meet these minimum expectations, and understanding the hurdles they must overcome. For in-depth engagement companies, those which continue to lag our minimum expectations may be subject to voting sanctions and/ or divestment (from LGIM funds which apply the Climate Impact Pledge exclusions).  
UN SDG 13: Climate action

wage and that this requirement should also be extended to all firms with whom they do business across their supply chains.

ii) We expect the company board to challenge decisions to pay employees less than the living wage.

iii) We ask the remuneration committee, when considering remuneration for executive directors, to consider the remuneration policy adopted for all employees.

iv) In the midst of the pandemic, we went a step further by tightening our criteria of bonus payments to executives at companies where COVID-19 had resulted in mass employee lay-offs and the company had claimed financial assistance (such as participating in government-supported furlough schemes) in order to remain a going concern.

With over 600 supermarkets, more than 800 convenience stores, and nearly 190,000 employees, Sainsbury's is one of the largest supermarkets in the

<p>What the investment manager has done</p>	<p>We have been engaging with Exxon Mobil since 2016 and they have participated willingly in our discussions and meetings. Under our Climate Impact Pledge, we identified a number of initial areas for concerns, namely: lack of Scope 3 emissions disclosures (embedded in sold products); lack of integration or a comprehensive net zero commitment; lack of ambition in operational reductions targets and; lack of disclosure of climate lobbying activities. Our regular engagements with Exxon Mobil have focused on our minimum expectations under the Climate Impact Pledge. The</p>	<p>We have been engaging with BP on climate change or a number of years, during the course of which we have seen many actions taken regarding climate change mitigation. BP has made a series of announcements detailing their expansion into clean energy. These include projects to develop solar energy in the US, partnerships with Volkswagen (on fast electric vehicle charging) and Qantas Airways (on reducing emissions in aviation), and winning bids to develop major offshore wind projects in the UK and US. Our recommendation for the oil and gas industry is to primarily focus on reducing its own emissions (and production) in line</p>	<p>UK. Although Sainsbury's is currently paying higher wages than many other listed supermarkets, the company has been selected because it is more likely than many of its peers to be able to meet the requirements to become living-wage accredited. UN SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth</p> <p>Sainsbury's has recently come under scrutiny for not paying a real living wage. LGIM engaged initially with the company's [then] CEO in 2016 about this issue and by 2021, Sainsbury's was paying a real living wage to all employees, except those in outer London. We joined forces with ShareAction to try to encourage the company to change its policy for outer London workers. As these engagements failed to deliver change, we then joined ShareAction in filing a shareholder resolution in Q1 2022, asking the company to becoming a living wage accredited employer. This escalation succeeded insofar as,</p>
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<p>improvements made have not so far been sufficient in our opinion, which has resulted in escalations. The first escalation was to vote against the re-election of the Chair, from 2019, in line with our Climate Impact Pledge sanctions. Subsequently, in the absence of further improvements, we placed Exxon Mobil on our Climate Impact Pledge divestment list (for applicable LGIM funds) in 2021, as we considered the steps taken by the company so far to be insufficient for a firm of its scale and stature. Nevertheless, our engagement with the company continues. In terms of further voting activity, in 2022 we supported two climate-related shareholder resolutions (i.e. voted against management recommendation) at Exxon's AGM, reflecting our continued wish for the company to take sufficient action on climate change in line with our minimum expectations. Levels of individual typically engaged with include lead independent director,</p>	<p>with global climate targets before considering any potential diversification into clean energy. BP has also announced that it would be reducing its oil and gas output by 40% over the next decade, with a view to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. We met with BP several times during 2022. In BP's 2022 AGM, we were pleased to be able to support management's 'Net Zero – from ambition to action' report (Resolution 3). Having strengthened its ambition to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and to halve operational emissions by 2030, BP has also expanded its scope 3 targets, committed to a substantial decline in oil and gas production, and announced an increase in capital expenditure to low-carbon growth segments. Levels of director typically engaged with include the chair, the CEO, head of sustainability, and investor relations.</p>	<p>in April 2022, Sainsbury's moved all its London-based employees (inner and outer) to the real living wage. We welcomed this development as it demonstrates Sainsbury's values as a responsible employer. However, the shareholder resolution was not withdrawn and remained on the 2022 AGM agenda because, despite this expansion of the real living wage to more employees, there are still some who are excluded. This group comprises contracted cleaners and security guards, who fulfil essential functions in helping the business to operate safely. Levels of individual typically engaged with include the Chair, the CEO, and head of investor relations.</p>
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	investor relations, director and CFO.		
Outcomes and next steps	<p>Since 2021, we have seen notable improvements from Exxon Mobil regarding our key engagement requests, including disclosure of Scope 3 emissions, a 'net zero by 2050' commitment (for Scopes 1 and 2 emissions), the setting of interim operational emissions reduction targets, and improved disclosure of lobbying activities. However, there are still key areas where we require further improvements, including inclusion of Scope 3 emissions in their targets, and improving the level of ambition regarding interim targets. We are also seeking further transparency on their lobbying activities.</p> <p>The company remains on our divestment list (for relevant funds), but our engagement with them continues.</p>	<p>We will continue engaging with BP on climate change, strategy and related governance topics. Following the company's decision to revise their oil production targets, we met with the company several times in early 2023 to discuss our concerns.</p>	<p>Since filing the shareholder resolution, Sainsbury's has made three further pay increases to its directly employed workers, harmonising inner and outer London pay and is now paying the real living wage to its employees, as well as extending free food to workers well into 2023. We welcome these actions which demonstrate the value the board places on its workforce. We have asked the board to collaborate with other key industry stakeholders to bring about a living wage for contracted staff.</p>