# Westfield Retirement Security Plan ('the Scheme') – Implementation Statement 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

This Implementation Statement ('Statement') has been prepared in accordance with applicable legislation, taking into account guidance from The Department for Work and Pensions for the period from  $1^{st}$  April  $2024 - 31^{st}$  March 2025 ('the Scheme Year').

The Scheme's reporting period for each fund is the holding period of that fund across the Scheme Year.

The Statement sets out how, and the extent to which, the Trustee's policy in relation to exercising voting rights has been followed during the year by describing the voting behaviour on behalf of the Trustee of the Scheme.

The Trustee has appointed Minerva Analytics ('Minerva') to obtain voting and investment engagement information ('VEI') on the Scheme's behalf.

This Statement includes Minerva's report on key findings on behalf of the Trustee over the Scheme Year.

A summary of the key points is set out below.

#### Columbia Threadneedle ('CT')

CT stated that there was no voting information to report for the Liability-Driven Investment ('LDI') Funds due to nature of the underlying holdings.

In relation to the Dynamic Real Return Fund, it was determined by Minerva that the manager's public voting policy and disclosures contain minor divergences from good practice due to limited disclosures in Audit & Reporting, Capital, Shareholder Rights and Sustainability. However, the information gaps were not sufficiently material to justify saying the policy is not 'compliant' with the Scheme's requirements. CT provided a summarised voting record that was in line with the Scheme's reporting period. Significant votes were also provided. From this, Minerva was able to confirm that the manager's voting activity was in line with the Trustee's policy.

The manager provided basic fund-level information on engagements for the Dynamic Real Return Fund and basic LDI counterparty-level information on engagements for the LDI Funds. These were both provided for the calendar year rather than the Scheme's reporting period. Despite this, Minerva was able to confirm that the activity appeared to broadly comply with CT's own engagement approach, and so complies with the Scheme's approach.

### Legal and General Investment Management ('LGIM')

The manager stated that there was no voting or engagement information to report on the Cash Fund due to nature of the underlying holdings.

In relation to the Dynamic Diversified Fund, UK Equity Index Fund and World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund, it was determined by Minerva that LGIM's public voting policy and disclosures contain minor divergences from good practice due to limited disclosures in relation to Shareholder Rights. However, the information gaps were not sufficiently material to justify saying the policy is not 'compliant' with the Scheme's requirements. The manager provided a summarised voting record that was in line with the Scheme's reporting period. Significant votes were also provided. From this, Minerva was able to confirm that the manager's voting activity was in line with the Trustee's policy.

LGIM provided basic fund-level information on engagements that was in line with the Scheme's reporting period. Despite the basic level of information, Minerva was able to confirm that the activity appeared to broadly comply with LGIM's own engagement approach, and so complies with the Scheme's approach.

#### **Annuities**

The Scheme holds insurance products with Canada Life and Friends Life and Prudential. Given the nature of these policies, the Trustee's view is that voting and engagement practices of the provider does not need to be covered.

#### **Final Comments**

Since last year, CT and LGIM have continued to provide good levels of voting information. However, both managers have limited disclosures in their public voting policy and disclosures this year. Minerva's voting policy assessment has been updated for 2025 to reflect their latest thinking on what constitutes good practice. CT have maintained limited disclosures across Audit & Reporting, Capital, Shareholder Rights and Sustainability from last year. For LGIM, Minerva determined that there were limited disclosures on Shareholder Rights whereas last year, Minerva determined that LGIM's public voting policy and disclosures were aligned with good practice across all assessed policy pillars.

In line with last year, further improvement is also needed from both managers to provide more detail on engagements. Additionally, CT have continued to provide engagement information for the calendar year and could improve by providing this information in line with the Scheme's reporting period.



# Westfield Retirement Security Plan

Dalriada Trustees Limited

# Implementation Statement (IS):

Voting & Engagement Information (VEI) Report

Scheme Reporting Period: 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

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# 1 SIP Disclosures

This section sets out the policies in the Statement of Investment Principles ('SIP') in force at the Scheme year-end relating to the following:

- 1. Financially Material Considerations
- 2. Non-Financial Considerations
- 3. Investment Manager Arrangements

Stewardship - including the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities - is set out in the 'Voting and Engagement' section.

Source of Information:

Westfield Retirement Security Plan Statement of Investment Principles July 2022



# 1.1 Financially Material Considerations

The Trustee has considered financially material factors such as environmental, social and governance ('ESG') issues as part of the investment process to determine a strategic asset allocation over the length of time during which the benefits are provided by the Scheme for members. It believes that financially material considerations (including climate change) are implicitly factored into the expected risk and return profile of the asset classes they are investing in.

In endeavouring to invest in the best financial interests of the beneficiaries, the Trustee has elected to invest through pooled funds. The Trustee acknowledges that it cannot directly influence the environmental, social and governance policies and practices of the companies in which the pooled funds invest. However, the Trustee does expect its fund managers and Investment Adviser to take account of financially material considerations when carrying out their respective roles.

The Trustee accepts that the Scheme's assets are subject to the investment managers' own policies on socially responsible investment. The Trustee will assess that these correspond with its responsibilities to the beneficiaries of the Scheme with the help of its Investment Adviser.

An assessment of the ESG and responsible investment policies forms part of the manager selection process when appointing new managers. Developments in existing managers' approaches to ESG are also reviewed regularly with the help of the Investment Adviser. The Trustee will only invest with investment managers that are signatories for the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment ('UN PRI') or other similarly recognised standard.

The Trustee will monitor financially material considerations through the following means:

- Obtain training where necessary on ESG considerations in order to understand fully how ESG factors, including climate change, could impact the Scheme and its investments:
- Use ESG ratings information provided by its Investment Adviser to assess the existing investment managers' ESG credentials; and
- Request that all of the Scheme's investment managers provide information about their ESG policies, and details of how they integrate ESG into their investment processes, via its Investment Adviser.

If the Trustee determines that financially material considerations have not been factored into the investment managers' processes, it will take this into account on whether to select or retain an investment.

#### 1.2 Non-Financial Considerations

The Trustee's policy is that non-financial matters should not be taken into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments.

# 1.3 Investment Manager Arrangements

# Alignment of incentives

The Scheme invests in pooled funds and so the Trustee acknowledges that the investment managers' investment strategies and decisions cannot be tailored to the Trustee's policies. However, the Trustee sets its investment strategy and then selects managers that best suits its strategy. Investment managers are incentivised to perform in line with expectations for their specific mandate as their continued involvement as investment managers as part of the Scheme's investment strategy – and hence the fees they receive – are dependent upon them doing so.

The Trustee uses the fund objective/benchmark as a guide on whether its investment strategy is being followed and monitors this regularly.

The Trustee selects investment managers based on a variety of factors including investment philosophy and process, which it believes should include assessing the long term financial and non-financial performance of the underlying companies in which they invest.

The Trustee also considers the managers' voting and ESG policies and how they engage with the underlying companies as it believes that these can factors can improve the medium to long-term performance of the investee companies.

The Trustee will monitor the fund managers' engagement and voting activity on an annual basis as it believes this can improve long term performance. The Trustee expects investment managers to make every effort to engage with investee companies but acknowledges that their influence may be more limited in some asset

classes, such as bonds, as they do not have voting rights.

The Trustee acknowledges that in the short term, these policies may not improve the returns it achieves, but does expect those companies with better financial and non-financial performance over the long term will lead to better returns for the Scheme.

The Trustee believes the annual fee paid to the fund managers incentivises them to do this.

If the Trustee feels that the fund managers are not assessing financial and non-financial performance or adequately engaging with the companies they are investing in, it will use these factors in deciding whether to retain or terminate the involvement of an investment manager.

# Performance and remuneration reporting

The Trustee reviews the performance of each of the underlying funds every six months on a net of fees basis compared to its objective.

The Trustee assesses the performance periods of the funds over at least a 3-5 year period when looking to select or terminate a manager, unless there are reasons other than performance that need to be considered. The regular reporting also looks at performance over the previous 6 and 12 month periods.

The fund managers' remuneration is considered as part of the manager selection process. It is also monitored regularly with the help of its Investment Adviser to ensure it is in line with the Trustee's policies and fees applying for similar asset classes and fund types.

### Portfolio turnover costs

In respect of the underlying funds, the Trustee monitors the portfolio turnover costs on an annual basis.

The Trustee defines target portfolio turnover as the average turnover of the portfolio expected in the type of strategy the manager has been appointed to manager. This is monitored on an annual basis.

The Trustee has delegated the responsibility of monitoring portfolio turnover costs and targeted portfolio turnover to their Investment Adviser.

# **Investment manager duration**

In respect of the underlying funds, the Trustee plans to hold each of its investments for the long term but will keep this under review.

Changes in investment strategy or changes in the view of the fund manager can lead to the duration of the arrangement being shorter than expected.

# 2 Sourcing of Voting and Engagement Information

This section sets out the availability of the information Minerva initially requested from the Scheme's managers, to facilitate the preparation of this report:

**Table 2.1: Summary of Available Information** 

Fund Manager	Investment Fund/Product	Voting Information	Significant Votes	Engagement Information
Columbia	Dynamic Real Return Fund	Full Info Available	Full Info Available	Part Info Available
Threadneedle	LDI Fund (2 funds)	No Info to Report	No Info to Report	Part Info Available
	Cash Fund	No Info to Report	No Info to Report	No Info to Report
LGIM*	Dynamic Diversified Fund	Full Info Available	Full Info Available	Part Info Available
LGIIVI	UK Equity Index Fund	Full Info Available	Full Info Available	Part Info Available
	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	Full Info Available	Full Info Available	Part Info Available

<sup>\*</sup> LGIM have requested that a Disclaimer be shared, which should be read in relation to any stewardship information provided by them. It can be found at the end of this report.

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Full Info Available	

The manager has provided either a PLSA Voting Template or voting data that precisely matches the specific investment's holding / reporting period

Part Info Available

The manager has provided either a PLSA Voting Template or voting data that partially matches the specific investment's holding / reporting period

No Info to Report

The manager has explicitly stated that there is no voting or engagement information to report for this specific investment or that it is not expected there will be any voting or engagement information to report due to the nature of the underlying investments

No Info Provided

At the time of preparing this report, the manager has either not formally responded to the information request or has not provided information when we believe there should be information to report

# Minerva Says:

# **Voting Activity**

There was voting information disclosed for the Scheme's investments in the following funds:

- Columbia Threadneedle Dynamic Real Return Fund
- LGIM Dynamic Diversified Fund
- LGIM UK Equity Index Fund
- LGIM World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund

# **Significant Votes**

There was 'Significant Vote' information disclosed for the Scheme's investments in the following funds:

- Columbia Threadneedle Dynamic Real Return Fund
- LGIM Dynamic Diversified Fund
- LGIM UK Equity Index Fund
- LGIM World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund

# **Engagement Activity**

There was reportable engagement information provided for the Scheme's investments with the following managers:

- Columbia Threadneedle Dynamic Real Return Fund
- Columbia Threadneedle LDI Fund (2 funds)
- LGIM Dynamic Diversified Fund
- LGIM UK Equity Index Fund
- LGIM World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund

# 3 Voting and Engagement

The Trustee is required to disclose the voting and engagement activity over the Scheme year. The Trustee have used Minerva Analytics ('Minerva') to obtain voting and investment engagement information (VEI) on the Scheme's behalf.

This statement provides a summary of the key information and summarizes Minerva's findings on behalf of the Scheme over the Scheme's reporting year.

The voting and engagement activity undertaken by the Scheme's managers, as reported by them and set out in this document, has been in the scheme members' best interests insomuch that it demonstrates that the Scheme's managers have undertaken stewardship activity they deem to be appropriate and proportionate in the oversight and management of the Scheme's investments.

# 3.1 Stewardship

The Trustee's policy on Stewardship from the Scheme's SIP is set out below:

The Trustee's policy on the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, is that these rights should be exercised by the investment manager on the Trustee's behalf, having regard to the best financial interests of the beneficiaries.

The investment manager should engage with companies to take account of ESG factors in the exercise of such rights, where practical to do so, as the Trustee believes this will be beneficial to the financial interests of members over the long term. The Trustee will review the investment managers' voting policies, with the help of its Investment Adviser, and decide if they are appropriate.

The Trustee also expects the fund managers to engage with investee companies on the capital structure and management of conflicts of interest.

If the policies or level of engagement are not deemed to be appropriate, the Trustee will engage with the investment manager, with the help of its Investment Adviser, to influence the investment managers' policy. If this fails, the Trustee will review the investments made with the investment manager.

The Trustee has taken into consideration the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code and expects investment managers to adhere to this where appropriate for the investments they manage.

The following table sets out:

- The funds and products in which the Scheme was invested during the Scheme's reporting period;
- The holding period for each fund or product; and
- Whether each investment manager made use of a 'proxy voter', as defined by the Regulations

Table 3.1: Scheme Investment/Product Information

Fund Manager	Investment Fund/Product	Investment Made Via	Fund / Product Type	Period Start Date	Period End Date	'Proxy Voter' Used?
Columbia	Dynamic Real Return Fund	Mobius Platform	DB Fund	01/04/24	31/03/25	ISS, IVIS, Glass Lewis
Threadneedle	LDI Fund (2 funds)	Mobius Platform	DB Fund	01/04/24	31/03/25	N/A
	Cash Fund	Mobius Platform	DB Fund	01/04/24	31/03/25	N/A
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Fund	Mobius Platform	DB Fund	01/04/24	31/03/25	ISS
LGIM	UK Equity Index Fund	Mobius Platform	DB Fund	01/04/24	31/03/25	ISS
	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	Mobius Platform	DB Fund	01/04/24	31/03/25	ISS

# **Minerva Says**

# As shown in the previous table:

- Columbia Threadneedle identified Institutional Shareholder Services ('ISS'), Institutional Voting Information Service ('IVIS') and Glass Lewis as their 'Proxy Voters'.
- LGIM identified ISS as their 'Proxy Voter'.
- The investments shown as 'N/A' had no listed equity voting activity associated with them, and so had no need for a proxy voter.

# 4 Exercise of Voting Rights

The following tables show a comparison of each of the Scheme's relevant manager(s) voting activity versus the Trustee's policy (which in this instance is the manager's own policy).

Table 4.1: Columbia Threadneedle's Approach to Voting

Asset manager	Columbia Threadneedle
Relevant Scheme Investment(s)	Dynamic Real Return Fund
Key Points of Manager's	

# Key Points of Manager's Voting Policy

Columbia Threadneedle's proxy voting policy is set out in the document 'Corporate Governance Guidelines'. They say the following in terms of their approach to proxy voting:

'As an asset management business, we seek to act in the best economic interests of clients when carrying out our investment activities. Our investment clients are retail and institutional investors, including corporate pension funds.

Our voting guidelines are applied to all listed equity client portfolios. However, our institutional clients always have the right to determine how we vote their securities. We will always comply with those requests.

In addition to these guidelines, general and country-specific voting guidelines are maintained and applied within the voting process. Voting guidelines provide greater detail on resolutions that will (and will not) be supported and are drawn directly from these Corporate Governance Guidelines.

In executing votes, where companies put forward a strong case for not complying with our voting guidelines, we will take this into account and adjust our vote if we believe the company is acting in the best economic interests of shareholders (and, thus, our clients). We apply our guidelines to client portfolios in a manner that considers our clients' respective investment objectives and best economic interests. This could result in our voting on a matter the same way (or differently) for different clients. (...)

Well governed companies are better positioned to manage risks, identify opportunities, and deliver sustainable growth and returns for our clients. These guidelines establish a consistent philosophy and approach to corporate governance and the exercise of voting rights. The approach is based on the overarching principles of:

- An empowered and effective board and management team;
- Appropriate checks and balances in company management structures;
- Effective systems of internal control and risk management covering all material risks, including environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues;

- A commitment to promoting throughout the company a culture of transparency and accountability that is grounded in sound business ethics;
- Compensation policies that reward the creation of long-term shareholder value through the achievement of corporate objectives; and
- A commitment to protecting the rights and interests of all.

The manager's policy focusses on the following areas:

#	Area	Details
1	Role, Structure and Operation of Boards	Roles and independence; Competence, objectivity and renewal; Effective functioning of boards; Communication and accountability
2	Board Committees	Independence of committees; Corporate Governance; Corporate responsibility and sustainability; Business ethics
3	Compensation	Level of pay; Relationship to strategy and risk; Disclosure; Executive contracts and pensions; Share schemes/ share compensation arrangements; Equity incentive plans; Holding periods, vesting and malus/clawback policies; Employee ownership
4	Audit, Risk and Control	Appointment and liability of auditor; Auditor fees; Related-party transactions; Risk management
5	Shareholder Rights	Liaison with shareholders; Issuance and repurchase of shares; Pre-emption rights; Voting rights and caps; Corporate transactions; Poison pills; Shareholder resolutions
6	Reporting	Director biographies; Nomination and audit committee report; System of internal controls and risk management; Compensation report; Sustainability reporting; Code of conduct and corporate governance; Reincorporation in a tax or governance haven; Shareholder resolutions and access to the proxy statement
7	Social and Environmental Factors	Environmental and social management; Climate change; Biodiversity; Sustainability and integrated reporting; Audit of social and environmental management systems; Labor practices and standards; Human rights; Political and charitable donations
8	Voting Matters	Annual general meetings; Vote disclosure; Shareblocking and stocklending; Electronic voting and of use proxy advisory services; Additional soliciting materials; Bundled and any other business resolutions; Political and charitable donations; Amendments to Articles

Is Voting Approach in Line with the Scheme's Policy?

Yes

Some examples of the manager's voting activity are provided in Section 7 - Significant Votes

### Asset manager

LGIM (Legal & General Investment Management)

# Relevant Scheme Investment(s)

- Dynamic Diversified Fund
- UK Equity Index Fund
- World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund

# Key Points of Manager's Voting Policy

LGIM's latest 'Global corporate governance and responsible investment policy' sets out what the manager considers to be corporate governance best practice. It explains their expectations with respect to topics they believe are essential for an efficient governance framework, and for building a sustainable business model. LGIM have this to say in terms of their overall approach:

When developing our policies, we consider broader global guidelines and principles such as those provided by the United Nations Global Compact, OECD and ILO conventions and recommendations as well as local market regulatory expectations. The extent to which we apply these policies allows some leeway for those markets that are still developing their governance policies. Although there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution to building a sustainable business model, we look for the companies in which we invest to demonstrate that sustainability is effectively integrated into their long-term strategy and daily operations. Companies should aim to minimise any negative impact their businesses have on the environment, while innovating to find better solutions. Their strategies should include ways to make a positive impact on society, embrace the value of their workforce and supply chains, while delivering positive long-term returns to shareholders.

LGIM's voting policy is built on the assessment of 5 key policy areas:

#	Policy Area	Examples of Topics Covered
1	Company Board	Board Leadership, Board Independence, Board Diversity, Board Committees, Succession Planning, Board Effectiveness, Stakeholder Engagement
2	Audit, Risk & Internal Control	External and Internal Audit, Whistleblowing, Cybersecurity and Climate Risks
3	Remuneration	Remuneration Committee, Remuneration Transparency, Fixed Remuneration, Variable Pay, Service Contracts and Termination Payments
4	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Voting Rights and Share-Class Structures, Amendments to Articles, Capital Management, Mergers and Acquisitions, Shareholder Proposals and Political Donations
5	Sustainability	Material ESG Risks & Opportunities, Governance and Accountability, Sustainability Themes, Reporting and Disclosure

Yes

# **Minerva Says**

- Columbia Threadneedle and LGIM have set out how they approach their stewardship responsibilities for listed companies on behalf of their clients.
- From the information available, we believe that the voting approaches are consistent with the Scheme's voting approach expectations of its investment managers.

# 5 Manager Voting Policy

As the current approach of the Scheme is to use the voting policy of the external asset managers, it is important that these policies are independently reviewed to ensure that they match current good practice and the general stewardship expectations set by the Scheme. Well-managed companies that operate in a commercially, socially and environmentally responsible manner are expected to perform better over the longer term, as the Scheme believe that adopting such an approach will allow each company's management to identify, address and monitor the widest range of risks associated with their specific business.

Set out in the following table is Minerva's independent assessment of the Scheme's managers' publicly available voting policies, in the context of current good practice as represented by the ICGN Voting Guidelines, whilst also bearing the Scheme's stewardship expectations in mind. This has been done for each manager where they have identified voting activity on behalf of the Scheme.

We have assessed each manager's policy individually, looking at it from Minerva's perspective of seven 'Voting Policy Pillars' that are at the core of our proxy voting research process, and which we have developed over the last 25 years. In using this well-tried approach, the Scheme can be sure that their investment managers voting policies are being carefully considered against current good practice.

**Table 5.1: Voting Policy Alignment** 

#### Manager Voting Policy Alignment with Current Good Practice

Investment Manager	Audit & Reporting	Board	Capital	Corporate Actions	Remilleration 1		Sustainability	
Columbia Threadneedle	Limited	Aligned	Limited	Aligned	Aligned	Limited	Limited	
Coldilibia Till eadileedle	Disclosures	Aligned	Disclosures	Aligned	Aligned	Disclosures	Disclosures	
Comments	policy also does not  Capital: The policy capital to sharehold  Shareholder Rights key aspects relating  Sustainability: The	address the issue of is lacking disclosures lers, or dividend payor: Whilst the manager to shareholder gove policy does not address	regarding the managouts.  's policy broadly covernance or amendme	er's expectations arousers disclosure expectants to the company's	egarding their expect ound the treatment of ation in this area, the governing document argets and it does not gement or whistleblo	authorised share cap re is a lack of informa s. set requirements in I	oital, return of oition surrounding relation to board's	
LGIM		Aligned	Aligned	Aligned	Aligned	Limited  Disclosures	Aligned	
Comments	Comments  Shareholder Rights: LGIM has disclosed limited information publicly on its approach regarding anti-takeover provisions. The public policy all lacks details around the rights of shareholders to hold special meetings, and proxy access.							

# Table Key

Aligned	This aspect of the manager's voting policy is aligned with good practice
<b>Limited Disclosures</b>	This policy pillar could only be partially assessed on the information available in the manager's voting policy
No Disclosures	This policy pillar could not be assessed due to a lack of information in the manager's voting policy
Not Available	The manager's voting policy was not disclosed for analysis by Minerva

# **Minerva Says**

For the Scheme's manager that responded to our information requests by providing voting information:

- Columbia Threadneedle's public voting policy contains limited disclosures across a range of policy pillars.
- LGIM's public voting policy is, in our view, broadly in line with good practice, and is what we would expect to see from such a large asset steward.

# 6 Manager Voting Behaviour

The Trustee believes that responsible oversight of investee companies is a fundamental duty of good stewardship. As such, it expects the Scheme's managers to vote at the majority of investee company meetings every year, and to provide sufficient information as to allow for the independent assessment of their voting activity.

The table below sets out the voting behaviour as disclosed by the each of the Scheme's managers:

Table 6.1: Manager Voting Behaviour

		No. of Meetings			No. of Resolution	s					
Manager	Fund	Eligible for Voting	Eligible for Voting	% Eligible Voted	% Voted in Favour	% of Voted Against	% Abstain				
	Dynamic Real Return Fund	186	2,949	98.9%	93.1%	6.5%	0.4%				
Columbia Threadneedle	Comments  The manager provided a summarised voting record for the Dynamic Real Return Fund that covered the Scheme's investment reporting period.										
		From the summarised information provided, we can see that the manager has voted at almost all investee company meetings for the Fund, which is in line with the Trustee's expectations of their managers.									
	Dynamic Diversified Fund	10,106	102,057	99.8%	76.7%	22.5%	0.8%				
	UK Equity Index Fund	717	10,134	100.0%	93.8%	6.2%	0.0%				
LGIM	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	2,810	33,434	99.7%	77.9%	21.8%	0.3%				
	Comments										
	The manager provided summarised voting records for the Funds shown above, that covered the Scheme's investment reporting period.  From the summarised information provided, we can see that the manager has voted at almost all investee company meetings for the Funds, which is in line with the Trustee's expectations of their managers.										

# **Minerva Says**

For the Scheme's managers that responded to our information requests by providing voting information, we believe that they have followed the Scheme's requirements in relation to voting activity, as stated in the Scheme's SIP:

The Trustee's policy on the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, is that these rights should be exercised by the investment manager on the Trustee's behalf, having regard to the best financial interests of the beneficiaries.

# 7 Significant Votes

Set out in the following section are 5 examples of the Scheme's manager(s) voting behaviour from the relevant fund(s) in which the Scheme was invested. A 'Significant Vote' relates to any resolution at a company that meets one of the following criteria:

- 1. Identified by the manager themselves as being of significance;
- 2. Contradicts local market best practice (e.g., the UK Corporate Governance Code in the UK);
- 3. Is one proposed by shareholders that attracts at least 20% support from investors;
- 4. Attracts over 10% dissenting votes from shareholders.

Where the manager has not provided sufficient data to identify 'Significant Votes' based on criteria 2-4 above, we have used manager-identified examples:

## Table 7.1 Columbia Threadneedle's 'Significant Votes'

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
Columbia Threadneedle	Dynamic Real Return Fund	Alphabet Inc.	07/06/24	0.55%	Report on Lobbying Payments and Policy	For	N/A

# Why a Significant Vote?

Vote against management on certain environmental or social proposals.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

While we appreciate that the company provides some disclosure around board and management oversight of lobbying activities and information on its policy priorities, we note that the company does not disclose direct lobbying expenses on its website or in a user-friendly format, does not disclose indirect lobbying expenses or expenditures made to organizations that may lobby on its behalf, does not disclose a congruency report for its lobbying, and does not address grassroots lobbying in its policies. It also does not describe specific board and management oversight for its trade association memberships.

Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

No.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

Active stewardship (engagement and voting) continues to form an integral part of our research and investment process.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Role, Structure and Operation of Boards

Board committees

Compensation

Audit, Risk and Control

Shareholder Rights

Reporting

Social and Environmental Factors

Voting Matters

We believe this voting activity is consistent with the manager's stated approach, and so is also consistent with the Scheme's approach

Manager	Fund	Company Name		Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
Columbia Threadneedle	Dynamic Real Return Fund	American Tower Corporation	22/05/24	0.03%	Report on Median and Adjusted Gender/Racial Pay Gaps	For	N/A

# Why a Significant Vote?

Vote against management on certain environmental or social proposals.

# Manager's Vote Rationale:

The proposed enhanced disclosure would help the board and shareholders better assess existing and potential future risks related to human capital management.

# Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

No.

# Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome

Active stewardship (engagement and voting) continues to form an integral part of our research and investment process.

Role, Structure Operation o Boards		ommittees Co	mpensation	Audit, Risk a Control	Shareholder Rights	Reporting	Social Environr Facto	mental	Voting Matters	
	We believe this voting activity is consistent with the manager's stated approach, and so is also consistent with the Scheme's approach									
Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	on Votii	ng Action	Out	come of Vote	
Columbia Threadneedle	Dynamic Real Return	Amazon.com,	22/05/24	0.88%	Report on Median and Ad Gender/Racial Pay Ga		No		Fail	

# Manager's Vote Rationale:

The proposed enhanced disclosure would help the board and shareholders better assess existing and potential future risks related to human capital management.

Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

No.

# Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

Active stewardship (engagement and voting) continues to form an integral part of our research and investment process.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Role, Structure and Operation of Boards	Board Committees	Compensation	Audit, Risk and Control	Shareholder Rights	Reporting	Social and Environmental Factors	Voting Matters
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# We believe this voting activity is consistent with the manager's stated approach, and so is also consistent with the Scheme's approach

Manager	Fund	Company Name		Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
Columbia Threadneedle	Dynamic Real Return Fund	NVR, Inc.	07/05/24	0.02%	Report on Effectiveness of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts and Metrics	For	Fail

# Why a Significant Vote?

Vote against management on certain environmental or social proposals.

# Manager's Vote Rationale:

The company should disclose its demographic workforce data as per the EEO-1 requirement. This will help to increase transparency and aid shareholders in assessing the effectiveness of the company's stated efforts to address related human capital material risks and opportunities.

Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

No.

# Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

Active stewardship (engagement and voting) continues to form an integral part of our research and investment process.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Role, Structure and Operation of Boards	Board Committees	Compensation	Audit, Risk and Control	Shareholder Rights	Reporting	Social and Environmental Factors	Voting Matters
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Manager	Fund	Company Name		Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
Columbia Threadneedle	Dynamic Real Return Fund	Amazon.com, Inc.	22/05/24	0.88%	Commission Third Party Assessment on Company's Commitment to Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	For	Fail

Vote against management on certain environmental or social proposals.

# Manager's Vote Rationale:

Shareholders would benefit from increased disclosure through a third-party assessment of the company's commitment to its freedom of association policies and practices to provide assurance regarding the company's claims.

Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

No.

# Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

Active stewardship (engagement and voting) continues to form an integral part of our research and investment process.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Role, Structure and Operation of Boards	Board Committees	Compensation	Audit, Risk and Control	Shareholder Rights	Reporting	Social and Environmental Factors	Voting Matters
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### Table 7.2 LGIM's 'Significant Votes'

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Fund	Loews Corporation	14/05/24	0.01%	Resolution 1D: Elect Director Paul J. Fribourg	Against	Pass

# Why a Significant Vote?

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.

#### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Remuneration - Accountability - Escalation: A vote against is applied as LGIM has had concerns with the remuneration practices for the past year. 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. Independence: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects the Chair of the Committee to have served on the board for no more than 15 years in order to maintain independence and a balance of relevant skills, experience, tenure, and background. Independence: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects the Lead Director to have served on the board for no more than 15 years in order to maintain independence and a balance of relevant skills, experience, tenure, and background.

### Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Fund	Howden Joinery Group Plc	02/05/24	0.02%	Resolution 10: Re-elect Peter Ventress as Director	Against	Pass

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf. Thematic - Nature: LGIM considers this vote to be significant as it is applied under our engagement program on deforestation, targeting companies in high-risk sectors.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Deforestation Policy: A vote against is applied as the company is deemed to not meet minimum standards with regard to LGIM's deforestation policy. Diversity: A vote against is applied because of a lack of progress on ethnic diversity on the board. LGIM expects the boards of the largest UK companies to include a minimum of one ethnically diverse director.

### Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

### Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board	Audit, Risk & Internal Control	Remuneration	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Sustainability
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Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Fund	Royal Bank of Canada	11/04/24	0.02%	Resolution 4: SP 4: Hold Annual Meetings of the Company in Person with Virtual Meetings as Complements	For	Fail

High Profile meeting: This shareholder resolution is considered significant due to the relatively high level of support received.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Shareholder Resolution - Shareholder rights - AGM attendance: A vote in favour is applied because LGIM believes that shareholder meetings are a fundamental shareholder right and an important forum for dialogue between shareholders and board directors. We support AGMs to be held via electronic means as long as in-person attendance remains an option for those shareholders wishing to participate in the governance practices of the company in this manner.

### Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

# Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Con	ol Remuneration	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Sustainability
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Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Fund	Mirvac Group	15/11/24	0.03%	Resolution 2.1: Elect Jane Hewitt as Director	Against	Pass

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Auditor independence - Accountability: LGIM notes concerns with the auditor's independence given their long tenure and/or excessive non-audit fees being paid. As shareholders are not afforded a separate resolution to vote on the auditor's ratification, a vote against the Audit Committee member is warranted to highlight our concerns. Diversity: LGIM notes that following the AGM, the board will have 29% female representation. LGIM expects a company to have a diverse board, with at least one-third of board members being women. LGIM notes the out-of-cycle resignation of Samantha Mostyn which dips the company below one third female diversity and encourage the board to increase female participation both on the board and in leadership positions following the AGM.

# Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Fund	XP Inc.	24/05/24	Less than 0.01%	Resolution 6: Elect Director Guilherme Dias Fernandes Benchimol	Against	Pass

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.

# Manager's Vote Rationale:

Remuneration: A vote against has been applied as LGIM expects companies to obtain annual shareholder approval of executive directors' pay and non-executive directors' fees.

Remuneration Committee - Independence: A vote AGAINST Guilherme Dias Fernandes Benchimolis warranted for serving as a non-independent member of a key board committee.

Nomination/Governance Committee - Independence: A vote AGAINST Guilherme Dias Fernandes Benchimol is warranted for serving as a non-independent member of a key board committee. Diversity: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects a company to have at least one-third women on the board.

# Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	UK Equity Index Fund	National Grid Plc	10/07/24	1.74%	Resolution 17: Approve Climate Transition Plan	For	97.3% of votes cast were in support of the resolution

Thematic - Climate: LGIM is publicly supportive of so called "Say on Climate" votes. We expect transition plans put forward by companies to be both ambitious and credibly aligned to a 1.5C scenario. Given the high-profile nature of such votes, LGIM deem such votes to be significant, particularly when LGIM votes against the transition plan.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Climate Change: LGIM is voting in favour of the National Grid Climate Transition plan. We commend the company's efforts in committing to net-zero emissions across all scopes by 2050 and setting 1.5C-aligned near term science based targets. We also appreciate the clarity provided in the 'Delivering for 2035 report' and look forward to seeing the results of National Grid's engagement with SBTi regarding the decarbonisation of heating.

# Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

	Company Board	Audit, Risk & Internal Control	Remuneration	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Sustainability
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Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	UK Equity Index Fund	Fresnillo Plc	21/05/24	0.04%	Resolution 4: Re-elect Alejandro Bailleres as Director	Against	Pass

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.

#### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Chair tenure: A vote against the Chair's re-election is applied because we believe the role of Board Chair should be refreshed regularly in line with best practice. Committee independence: A vote against is applied because the director is not independent and sits on a Board Committee that should be comprised solely of independent directors. Diversity: A vote against is applied due to the lack of gender diversity at executive leadership level. LGIM expects executive leadership teams to include at least 1 woman. Board mandates: A vote against is applied because we have concerns regarding the time commitment required to manage all board positions and how this may impact their ability to remain informed and effectively contribute to board discussions.

## Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board	Audit, Risk & Internal Control	Remuneration	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Sustainability
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Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	UK Equity Index Fund	London Stock Exchange Group plc	25/04/24	1.85%	Resolution 4: Approve Remuneration Policy	For	Pass

High Profile meeting: This resolution is considered significant as we overrode our custom vote policy on the basis of the engagement that we had with the company.

#### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Remuneration - Quantum: A vote FOR is applied as an exception to our policy. This follows productive consultation with the company that resulted in improvements to the proposals initially discussed. Our support of the remuneration policy and the adoption of the EIP is in recognition of Mr Schwimmer's leadership in driving the company's performance, as well as acknowledging the competitive talent market in which the company operates. We will review Mr Schwimmer's pay package on an annual basis under the resolution for approval of the remuneration report and may apply a negative vote in the future should we consider his pay no longer reflects company performance or evolving market norms. We would not expect any significant changes to the executive directors' pay policy within this three-year policy term. It is worth highlighting that, we expect a successor to Mr Schwimmer to not be awarded the same remuneration package as standard if he or she does not bring the same amount of experience, calibre and performance.

## Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

#### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

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Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	UK Equity Index Fund	Hill & Smith Plc	23/05/24	0.06%	Resolution 4: Re-elect Alan Giddins as Director	Against	N/A

Thematic - Board Leadership: LGIM considers this vote to be significant as it is in application of an escalation of our vote policy on the topic of the combination of the board chair and CEO.

# Manager's Vote Rationale:

Board mandates: A vote against is applied because we have concerns regarding the time commitment required to manage all board positions and how this may impact their ability to remain informed and effectively contribute to board discussions. Joint Chair/CEO: A vote against is applied because we believe the role of Chair and CEO are distinctly different and therefore should be held by two different people.

## Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board	Audit, Risk & Internal Control	Remuneration	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	UK Equity Index Fund	JD Wetherspoon Plc	21/11/24	0.02%	Resolution 4: Re-elect Tim Martin as Director	Against	N/A

Thematic - Nature: LGIM considers this vote to be significant as it is applied under our engagement program on deforestation, targeting companies in high-risk sectors. Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Deforestation Policy: A vote against is applied as the company is deemed to not meet minimum standards with regard to LGIM's deforestation policy. Chair tenure: A vote against the Chair's re-election is applied because we believe the role of Board Chair should be refreshed regularly in line with best practice. Chair independence: A vote against is applied to the (re-) election of a non-independent Chair due to concerns regarding the lack of independence on the board. Diversity: A vote against is applied because of a lack of progress on gender diversity on the board. LGIM expects companies to have at least 40% female representation on the board.

### Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	Capgemini SE	16/05/24	0.05%	Resolution 11: Reelect Sian Herbert-Jones as Director	Against	N/A

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Diversity: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects a company to have a diverse board, with at least 40% of board members being women. We expect companies to increase female participation both on the board and in leadership positions over time. Auditor independence - Accountability: LGIM notes concerns with the auditor's independence given their long tenure. As shareholders are not afforded a separate resolution to vote on the auditor's ratification, a vote against the Audit Committee member is warranted to highlight our concerns.

# Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	Harvey Norman Holdings Limited	27/11/24	Less than 0.01%	Resolution 4: Elect Christopher Herbert Brown as Director	Against	N/A

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Independence - Nomination Committee: A vote against is applied to the members of the nomination committee due to our concerns around the independence of the board. Audit Committee independence: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects the Committee to be comprised of independent directors. Remuneration Committee independence: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects the Committee to be comprised of independent directors. Diversity: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects a company to have a diverse board, with at least one-third of board members being women. We expect companies to increase female participation both on the board and in leadership positions over time. Auditor independence - Accountability: LGIM notes concerns with the auditor's independence given their long tenure and/or excessive non-audit fees being paid. As shareholders are not afforded a separate resolution to vote on the auditor's ratification, a vote against the Audit Committee member is warranted to highlight our concerns. Remuneration - Accountability - Escalation - A vote against is applied as LGIM has had concerns with remuneration practices for consecutive years.

# Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

# Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

# Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated	15/05/24	0.16%	Resolution 4: Reduce Ownership Threshold for Shareholders to Call Special Meeting	For	Pass

### Why a Significant Vote?

High Profile meeting: This shareholder resolution is considered significant due to the relatively high level of support received.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Shareholder Resolution - Shareholder rights: A vote in favour is applied as the current threshold necessary to call a special meeting is high and this resolution is seeking to reduce the threshold.

### Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

### Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board	Audit, Risk & Internal Control	Remuneration	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Sustainability
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We believe this voting activity is consistent with the manager's stated approach, and so is also consistent with the Scheme's approach

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.	13/06/24	0.05%	Resolution 1.1: Elect Director Eugen Elmiger	Against	N/A

### Why a Significant Vote?

Thematic - Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf. Thematic - Board Leadership: LGIM considers this vote to be significant as it is in application of an escalation of our vote policy on the topic of the combination of the board chair and CEO.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Remuneration - Accountability - Escalation: A vote against is applied as LGIM has had concerns with the remuneration practices for the past year. 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. Diversity: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects a company to have at least one-third women on the board. Joint Chair/CEO: A vote against is applied as LGIM expects companies to separate the roles of Chair and CEO due to risk management and oversight concerns.

### Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

#### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

### Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board Audit, Risk & Internal Control Remuneration Shareholder & Bondholder Rights Sustainability

We believe this voting activity is consistent with the manager's stated approach, and so is also consistent with the Scheme's approach

Manager	Fund	Company Name	Date of Vote	Approx Size of Holding (as % of Fund)	Summary of Resolution	Voting Action	Outcome of Vote
LGIM	World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund	Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited	24/04/24	0.12%	Resolution 3: Management Advisory Vote on Climate Change	For	Pass

### Why a Significant Vote?

Thematic - Climate: LGIM is publicly supportive of so called "Say on Climate" votes. We expect transition plans put forward by companies to be both ambitious and credibly aligned to a 1.5C scenario. Given the high-profile nature of such votes, LGIM deem such votes to be significant, particularly when LGIM votes against the transition plan.

### Manager's Vote Rationale:

Climate change: A vote FOR is applied as LGIM expects companies to introduce credible transition plans, consistent with the Paris goals of limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C. This includes the disclosure of scope 1, 2 and material scope 3 GHG emissions and short-, medium- and long-term GHG emissions reduction targets consistent with the 1.5°C goal. As CPKC set targets validated by Science Based Target initiative, we welcome the company's efforts to reduce its GHG emissions and expects to see a clear transition plan.

### Were Votes Against Company Management Communicated to the Company Ahead of the Meeting?

LGIM publicly communicates its vote instructions on its website with the 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.

### Next Steps / Implications of the Outcome:

LGIM will continue to engage with our investee companies, publicly advocate our position on this issue and monitor company and market-level progress.

### Relevance to Manager's Stated Policy:

Company Board	Audit, Risk & Internal Control	Remuneration	Shareholder & Bondholder Rights	Sustainability
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We believe this voting activity is consistent with the manager's stated approach, and so is also consistent with the Scheme's approach



Columbia Threadneedle's and LGIM's reported 'Significant Vote' information seems to be consistent with their stated voting policies, and so is consistent with the Scheme's expectations.

# 8 Manager Engagement Information

The Trustee have set the following expectation in the Scheme's SIP in relation to its managers' engagement activity:

The investment manager should engage with companies to take account of ESG factors in the exercise of such rights, where practical to do so, as the Trustee believes this will be beneficial to the financial interests of members over the long term. The Trustee will review the investment managers' voting policies, with the help of its Investment Adviser, and decide if they are appropriate.

The Trustee also expects the fund managers to engage with investee companies on the capital structure and management of conflicts of interest.

If the policies or level of engagement are not deemed to be appropriate, the Trustee will engage with the investment manager, with the help of its Investment Adviser, to influence the investment managers' policy. If this fails, the Trustee will review the investments made with the investment manager.

The Trustee believes that an important part of responsible oversight is for the Scheme's investment managers to engage with the senior management of investee companies on any perceived risks or shortcomings – both financial and non-financial – relating to the operation of the business, with a specific focus on ESG factors. As such, they expect the Scheme's managers to engage with investee companies where they have identified any such issues.

The following table(s) summarises the engagement activity of the manager(s):

Table 8.1: Summary of Engagement Information Provided

Manager	Engagement Information Obtained	Level of Available information	Info Covers Scheme's Reporting Period?	Comments
Columbia Threadneedle	YES	FUND & FIRM	PART	The manager provided <i>basic fund level information</i> for Dynamic Real Return Fund and <i>basic LDI counterparty-level information</i> for LDI Funds for the <i>period from 01/01/24 to 31/12/24</i> , rather than for the Scheme's specific investment reporting period.
LGIM	YES	FUND	YES	The manager provided basic fund level information covering the Scheme's investment reporting period.

### Table Key

GREEN = A positive result. The manager has provided engagement information / fund level info available / matches the Scheme's reporting / investment holding period

ORANGE = A 'partial' result. We had to try to source engagement information / firm level info available / does not match the Scheme's reporting / investment holding period

RED = A negative result. No engagement information was located at any level

Columbia T	hreadneedle	Breakdown of Engagement Topics Covered				Outcomes				
Fu	nd(s)	Period Start	Period End	No. of Engagements	Environmental	Social	Governance	Other	Resolved	Open
Dynamic Real Return	Fund	01/01/24	31/12/24	112	25.0%	36.6%	35.7%	2.7%	Not Stated	Not Stated
CT LDI Funds - LDI C	ounterparties	01/01/24	31/12/24	20	45.0%	15.0%	40.0%	0.0%	Not Stated	Not Stated
Aspect of Engagement Activity	Details									
Key Points of the Manager's Engagement Policy	'At Columbia Threadneedle Investments we strive to be responsible research and good governance. We embrace our role as active investment (RI) engagement with issuers is an imported and helps create future value. In addition, we believe that engagen performance and investment returns, as well as on society or the eventual well as a material negative impact on their businesses and, when the engagement is to support long-term investment returns by mitigate negative impact that our investment decisions could have on these global economy by encouraging issuers to improve their ESG practive.					ositive change sustainability hent approach l, social, and lith issuers on aging improven opportunition at we can postive positive positive positive positive perspective mber of sev	e both for our many to create value for the Active ownershing overnance issues environmental, so ement in ESG many a part in building interacting on the cally interacting on the suring that we additionally in the control of the con	naged assets and or our clients as vip enhances insignations of an area of a magement practicular and a more sustained and a more sustained and a more sustained and a more to all applications are to all applications actively putions actively putions actively putions or one with issues.	reo clients. Well as society hts, encourage tive impact or ince (ESG) risles. Our purpoing any mater able and rest society that allow investe hermore, collersuing collabored.	Ve V. Targeted ves change, n corporate ks that ose with rial ilient are in line lding a or join t ors to aborations orative

'Our engagements focus on financial performance, sustainability risks and opportunities, operational excellence, capital allocation policies and managerial incentives, among other topics, Collaboration across asset classes and thematic and sectoral disciplines ensures an informed approach. Our engagement programme is structured around seven high level themes: Climate change Environmental stewardship, including biodiversity Labour standards Human rights Public health **Business** conduct Corporate governance. Underlying each theme is a range of subthemes to help focus our engagement. We monitor the outcomes of our engagement and report on our progress to our clients and through public reporting.' Whilst the manager provided a list of engagements undertaken on investments in the fund during the period shown above, no additional information was Additional provided in terms of: information on engagement objectives Engagements provided by the collaborative engagements process for escalating ineffective engagement and Manager whether any fintech solution was used to facilitate engagement Set out below is an example of engagement activity reported by Columbia Threadneedle in the Dynamic Real Return Fund: The Procter & Gamble Co - Engagement primarily on an 'Environmental' matters Rationale for the engagement: 'Procter & Gamble (P&G) is a multinational consumer goods company specializing in a wide range of personal health, personal care and hygiene products. As a leading consumer goods company, P&G faces significant environmental challenges, including climate change, plastic waste, and deforestation risks in its supply chain. We engaged with the company to understand its strategies for addressing these issues and promoting sustainable practices.' Comparison of the Manager's Engagement Details: 'We attended P&G's ESG investor update, led by the CEO, CFO, sustainability, and legal leads, to review progress on a range of material Engagement topics, including plastics, deforestation, and climate change. The company presented examples of embedding sustainability into product design, such as dissolving Activity vs the

Trustee's policy

facial tissues and low-temperature, dry detergent pods, which can help reduce energy, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions during use. P&G also discussed its efforts to address plastic waste, including conducting a life-cycle assessment of its plastics sourcing and finding considerable advantages for recycled materials.

However, the company acknowledged challenges in securing sufficient volumes of recycled materials. On deforestation, P&G stated that it is engaging with suppliers and is confident in complying with the new European Union deforestation regulation, although specific details were not provided.'

**Engagement Outcome:** 'It was positive to note that product development is providing a range of improvements through substitution and light-weighting, contributing to reducing environmental impacts. However, we have concerns over the effectiveness and scalability, particularly regarding securing sufficient recycled plastic feedstock and assessing nature impacts from plastic pollution. For a company highly exposed to deforestation risk, we would have welcomed more detail on its assessment of coming regulation. While the company update was welcome, we plan to engage on the details of its strategies and progress in

	addressing these critical environmental issues. Nonetheless, P&G demonstrates a commitment to sustainable product design and responsible sourcing practices.'.
Is Engagement Activity in Line with the Trustee's Policy?	Whilst the activity appears to be consistent with the Manager's stated engagement approach, and so is also consistent with the Scheme's approach, additional information in relation to the nature of the engagement would have been useful and the information provided should match the Scheme's investment holding period.

LGIM	Breakdo	Outcomes								
Fun	d(s)	Period Start	Period End	No. of Engagements	Environmental	Social	Governance	Other	Resolved	Open
Dynamic Diversified F	und	01/04/24	31/03/25	4,222	73.4%	13.2%	10.3%	3.1%	Not Stated	Not Stated
UK Equity Index Fund		01/04/24	31/03/25	522	46.4%	13.0%	29.9%	10.7%	Not Stated	Not Stated
World (ex UK) Equity I	ndex Fund	01/04/24	31/03/25	2,043	66.7%	17.5%	12.7%	3.1%	Not Stated	Not Stated
Aspect of Engagement Activity  Key Points of the Manager's Engagement Policy	VINDEV FUND 101/04/24 131/03/25 1 2043 1 66 /% 1 1/5% 1 12 /% 1 3 1% 1 1							npanies,		

	3. People: Priority topics: diversity and human capital management
	4. Health: Safeguarding global health to limit negative consequences for the global economy (two key areas of health – antimicrobial resistance
	(AMR) and nutrition)
	5. Governance: Strengthening accountability to deliver stakeholder value
	6. Digitisation: Establishing minimum standards for how companies manage digitisation-related risks with a focus on the governance aspects of AI
	Whilst the manager provided a list of engagements undertaken on investments in the fund during the Scheme's holding period, no additional information
Additional	was provided in terms of:
information on	
engagements provided by the	<ul><li>engagement objectives</li><li>collaborative engagements</li></ul>
Manager	<ul> <li>process for escalating ineffective engagement and</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>whether any fintech solution was used to facilitate engagement</li> </ul>
	Set out below is an example of engagement activity reported by LGIM in the Dynamic Diversified Fund:
Comparison of the	17/04/24 - SSP Group Plc - Environmental-themed Engagement Activity
Manager's	Engagement Type: Written.
Engagement	Engagement Type. Written.
Activity vs the	Issue Theme: Deforestation.
Trustee's policy	
	Engagement Details: Not provided.
	Engagement Outcome: Not provided.
Is Engagement	Engagement Outcome. Not provided.
Activity in Line	Whilst we believe that the Manager's engagement approach is consistent with the Scheme's approach, we believe that the Manager should be able to
with the Trustee's	provide more information relating to engagements undertaken at fund level.
Policy?	

## **Minerva Says**

As can be seen from the previous tables, the Scheme's managers' 'Engagement Activity' broadly appears to comply with their own engagement approaches, and so also complies with the Scheme's approach.

# 9 Conclusions

## 9.1 Assessment of Compliance

In this report, Minerva has undertaken an independent review of the Scheme's external asset managers' voting and engagement activity. The main objective of the review is for Minerva to be in a position to say that the activities undertaken on the Scheme's behalf by its agents are aligned with its own policies.

Set out in the following table is Minerva's assessment of each manager's compliance with the Scheme's approach:

**Table 9.1: Summary Assessment of Compliance** 

Does the Manager's Reported Activity Follow the Scheme's Expectations: UK Significant **Fund / Product** Voting Use of a 'Proxy Stewardship Overall Engagement Investment Fund/ Product Votes Code 2020 Activity Activity Voter?' Assessment Manager Identified Signatory? ISS, IVIS and **COMPLIANT** Dynamic Real Return Fund **YES** YES **YES** Columbia AN ISSUE EXISTS **Glass Lewis YES** Threadneedle **COMPLIANT** LDI Fund (2 funds) N.I.R. N.I.R. **YES** N/A AN ISSUE EXISTS Cash Fund N.I.R. N.I.R. N.I.R. N/A N.I.R. **COMPLIANT** Dynamic Diversified Fund YES YES **YES** ISS AN ISSUE EXISTS **YES** LGIM\* COMPLIANT **UK Equity Index Fund** YES YES **YES** ISS AN ISSUE EXISTS COMPLIANT YES **YES** ISS World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund YES AN ISSUE EXISTS

## Table Key

**GREEN**=Positive outcome e.g., Manager's reported activity follows the Scheme's expectations

ORANGE=An issue exists e.g., the information provided does not match the Scheme's reporting / investment holding period

BLUE=Manager has confirmed that there is no voting, 'Significant Votes' or engagement information to report (N.I.R.)

RED=Negative outcome e.g., no information provided (N.I.P.); Manager is not a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code 2020

GREY=Not Applicable e.g., there has been no 'Proxy Voter' used due to the nature of the investments held

<sup>\*</sup> LGIM have requested that a Disclaimer be shared, which should be read in relation to any stewardship information provided by them. It can be found at the end of this report.

### **Minerva Says**

### **Overall Assessment:**

We believe that the Scheme's managers have broadly complied with the Scheme's Voting and Engagement requirements of them.

### **Notes**

- 1) The preceding table shows that Minerva has been able to determine that:
- For the managers where Voting and 'Significant Vote' information was available, their overall approaches are broadly in step with the Scheme's requirements
- For the managers where Engagement information was available, their overall approaches are also broadly in step with the Scheme's requirements
- 2) Both of the Scheme's investment managers are Signatories to the UK Stewardship Code.
- 3) We were slightly disappointed with the information provided by the Scheme's managers, in terms of either not specifically covering the Scheme's individual investment holding periods, or by providing little detail on their engagement activities.

#### **LGIM Information Disclaimer**

- i. Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) is a standard unit to compare the emissions of different greenhouse gases.
- ii. The choice of this metric follows best practice recommendations from the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.
- iii. Data on carbon emissions from a company's operations and purchased energy is used.
- iv. This measure is the result of differences in weights of companies between the index and the benchmark, and does not depend on the amount invested in the fund. It describes the relative 'carbon efficiency' of different companies in the index (i.e. how much carbon was emitted per unit of sales), not the contribution of an individual investor in financing carbon emissions.
- v. LGIM set the following threshold for our reportable funds 1) the assets eligible for coverage e.g. eligible ratio needs to be greater than or equal to 50% and 2) the carbon coverage of the eligible assets e.g. eligible coverage needs to be greater than or equal to 60%.
- vi. Eligibility % represents the % of the securities in the benchmark which are eligible for reporting including equity, bonds, ETFs and sovereigns (real assets, private debt and derivatives are currently not included for carbon reporting). The Coverage % represents the coverage of those assets with carbon scores.
- vii. Derivatives including repos are not presently included and the methodology is subject to change. Leveraged positions are not currently supported. In the instance a leveraged position distorts the coverage ratio over 100% then the coverage ratio will not be shown.
- viii. LGIM define 'Sovereigns' as, Agency, Government, Municipals, Strips and Treasury Bills and is calculated by using: the CO2e/GDP, Carbon Emissions Footprint uses: CO2e/Total Capital Stock.
- ix. The carbon reserves intensity of a company captures the relationship between the carbon reserves the company owns and its market capitalisation. The carbon reserves intensity of the overall benchmark reflects the relative weights of the different companies in the benchmark.
- x. Green revenues % represents the proportion of revenues derived from low-carbon products and services associated with the benchmark, from the companies in the benchmark that have disclosed this as a separate data point.
- xi. Engagement figures do not include data on engagement activities with national or local governments, government related issuers, or similar international bodies with the power to issue debt securities.
- xii. LGIM's temperature alignment methodology computes the contribution of a company's activities towards climate change. It delivers an specific temperature value that signifies which climate scenario (e.g.3°C, 1.5°C etc.) the company's activities are currently aligned with. The implied temperature alignment is computed as a weighted aggregate of the company-level warming potential.

Third Party ESG Data Providers: Source: ISS. Source: HSBC© HSBC 2022, Source: IMF (International Monetary Fund). Source: Refinitiv. Information is for recipients' internal use only.

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Minerva helps investors and other stakeholders to overcome data disclosure complexity with robust, objective research and voting policy tools. Users can quickly and easily identify departures from good practice based on their own individual preferences, local market requirements or apply a universal good practice standard across all markets.

For more information please email hello@minerva.info or call + 44 (0) 1376 503500

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