

Somerset County Council Pension Fund Risk Register - December 2020

1. Risk Ref No: 2. Senior Risk Owner:	Description of Risk	Control measures already in place	Current Risk Score (with known controls in place)		Combined score	Additional mitigating actions/control measures planned to achieve target score	Target Risk score		combined score	Additional Control measure owner	Target Date	commentary following review, inc. date	Additional Information and explanation
			L	I			L	I					
1. PF1 2. Anton Sweet	The pension fund has insufficient available cash to meet its immediate (next 6 months) liabilities.	Cash flow forecasting of TM function. Monthly review of asset allocation and cash levels	2	4	8		2	4	8		on-going with quarterly review		
1. PF2 2. Pensions Committee	The pension fund has insufficient available assets to meet its long term liabilities.	Funding Strategy Statement Investment Strategy Statement	3	5	15	The triennial valuation includes provision for restoring the fund to full funding over 19 years The current risk score partly reflects that the fund was 86% funded at the last valuation. An improvement in the funding level will reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring at some point in the future	2	5	10		Review again at next Valuation - 2022		This risk encapsulates the purpose of the fund in trying to always have sufficient assets to meet uncertain future liabilities with a pool of assets with uncertain future investment performance. There is also the need to balance the funding needs of the fund with the desire to keep contributions as low and constant as possible.
1. PF3 2. Stephen Morton	The insolvency of an employer places additional liabilities on the fund and ultimately the remaining employers.	Admission agreements Guarantee bonds	3	3	9	Ensure the on-going suitability of the guarantees in place with a review after each formal valuation Review of actuarial results to consider employer specific funding ratios and employer 'Hot Spots'	2	2	4	Stephen Morton	on-going with quarterly review		Review of guarantee bonds currently underway, September 2020
1. PF4 2. SCC Section 151 Officer	Vulnerability to long-term staff sickness and staff turn-over, especially for higher graded posts.	None, other than experience of other staff within the sections	3	3	9		2	3	6		on-going with quarterly review	Updated to include positive impact of pooling September 2016	Shared service with Devon makes this less of an issue with respect to benefits administration staff. The move to pooling of investments should make the fund less reliant on a small number of internal officers

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1. PF5 2. SCC Section 151 Officer	Reliance on bespoke IT, which is exacerbated by a lack of experience of these bespoke systems within SCC IT support	As IT systems are refreshed or replaced build in support mechanisms	3	4	12		2	4	8		on-going with quarterly review		Shared service with Devon makes this less of an issue with respect to benefits administration IT. Pooling will also remove the need for some systems.
1. PF6 2. Pensions Committee	Risk of Regulatory change: - Implementation of change risks - Consequences of change risks	Continuous engagement with MHCLG and other interested stakeholders	4	4	16		4	3	12		on-going with quarterly review		The dictated change to pooling of investment arrangements and implementation of this presents a significant risk to the scheme.
1. PF7 2. Stephen Morton	Failure of Benefits Administration to perform their tasks, specifically leading to incorrect or untimely benefits payment.	Internal audit coverage Annual report to committee with feedback from stakeholders Internal procedures and checks	3	3	9		2	3	6		on-going with quarterly review		The greater resilience gained from the Peninsula Pensions shared service has been balanced by greater complexity coming into the scheme benefits.
1. PF8 2. Pensions Committee	Failure of Pensions Committee to manage the fund effectively	Policies and procedures adopted by pensions committee, specifically the committee training policy	3	4	12		2	4	8		on-going with quarterly review		Current score is influenced by the collective experience and consistency of the Pensions Committee, which has had a number of changes relatively recently

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1. PF9 2. Anton Sweet	Insolvency of the fund's Global Custodian	Fund's assets held in client accounts not as assets of the custodian Review of credit worthiness and inherent business risk of custodian at tender phase	2	4	8		2	4	8		on-going with quarterly review		The designation of the fund's assets as client assets ensures that they cannot be appropriated by creditors of the Custodian bank in the case of that entity going into administration. As a result we should be able to recover substantially all of the assets of the fund held in custody but there would be considerable administrative and liquidity disruption
1. PF10 2. Pensions Committee	Failure of Brunel to deliver either Fee savings or investment performance	Representation on the Brunel Client Group and Oversight Board.	2	4	8		2	4	8		on-going with quarterly review		Added as per Committee request at September 2017 meeting.
1. PF11 2. SCC Section 151 Officer	A breach of cyber security	Peninsula Pensions have assessed that relevant administrators and service providers have measures in place to avoid cyber security breaches and have adequate back up and business continuity plans.	3	4	12		2	4	8		on-going with quarterly review		Added December 2019
1. PF12 2. SCC Section 151 Officer	Impact of COVID-19 crisis	Staff of Peninsula Pensions and SCC finance are working remotely without significant impact on performance. There are possible knock on consequences for PF2, PF3 and PF4 above.	3	2	6		3	2	6		on-going with quarterly review		Added as per Committee request at June 2020 meeting.