# **Benfield Motor Group Pension Plan**

# **Engagement Policy Implementation Statement for the year ended** 31 December 2024

During the year ending 31 December 2024, the Plan's investment policies were implemented in line with the principles set out in the Plan's Statement of Investment Principles (SIP).

The Trustee's policy is to delegate responsibility for the exercising of rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments to the investment manager, Legal and General Investment management (LGIM) and to encourage the manager to exercise those rights in accordance with the Statement of Investment Principles. The Plan invests through pooled fund arrangements and so acknowledges that the investment manager exercises those rights in accordance with their own corporate governance policies on behalf of all investors in its funds. In doing so LGIM takes account of current best practice including the UK Corporate Governance Code and the UK Stewardship Code.

The Trustee has considered LGIM's stewardship activities in relation to the specific funds the Plan holds. The Trustee reviewed LGIM's approach to stewardship and are comfortable with the activity taken on the Plan's behalf.

The Trustee concludes that, based on these considerations, LGIM has followed the requirements of the SIP.

In reviewing the investment strategy, the Trustee in conjunction with their investment adviser, LGIM, investigated options for implementing the portfolio and explored their ESG investment beliefs and options for reflecting them. The Trustee believes adding an ESG integrated investment strategy to the portfolio is consistent with their views and members' expectations. Including such a strategy is not expected to materially impact the risk, return or cost characteristics of the portfolio.

#### Voting behaviour

LGIM's voting decisions are made by their Investment Stewardship team and in accordance with their relevant Corporate Governance & Responsible Investment and Conflicts of Interest policy documents which are reviewed annually. Each member of the team is allocated a specific sector globally so that the voting is undertaken by the same individuals who engage with the relevant company. This ensures the stewardship approach flows smoothly throughout the engagement and voting process and that engagement is fully integrated into the vote decision process, therefore sending consistent messaging to companies. The full voting record and LGIM's voting policies can be found on LGIM's website: https://vds.issgovernance.com/vds/#/MjU2NQ==/

LGIM's Investment Stewardship team uses ISS's 'ProxyExchange' electronic voting platform to electronically vote clients' shares. All voting decisions are made by LGIM and they do not outsource any part of the strategic decisions. LGIM's use of ISS recommendations is purely to augment their own research and proprietary ESG assessment tools. The Investment Stewardship team also uses the research reports of Institutional Voting Information Services (IVIS) to supplement the research reports that we receive from ISS for UK companies when making specific voting decisions.

To ensure the proxy provider votes in accordance with LGIM's position on ESG, they have put in place a custom voting policy with specific voting instructions. These instructions apply to all markets globally and seek to uphold what LGIM consider are minimum best practice standards that all companies globally should observe, irrespective of local regulation or practice.

LGIM summarises its voting record across all markets each quarter. This information is available on request. The Trustee receives regular updates from LGIM in its quarterly reporting on these activities.

Examples of LGIM's engagement activities during the 12 months to 31 December 2024:

Active ownership, which is a broader topic than voting in isolation, forms a key part of how LGIM conducts responsible investing. This is reflected in the following activities conducted on behalf of the Plan.

- Company engagement
- Using voting rights globally, with one voice across all active and index funds
- · Addressing systemic risks and opportunities
- Seeking to influence regulators and policymakers
- Collaborating with other investors and stakeholders

The examples below demonstrate some of the specific initiatives undertaken by LGIM in this regard during the year.

#### LGIM Climate impact pledge

At the end of June 2024, LGIM published their Climate Impact Pledge results from their latest cycle of engagement which aims to raise market standards and encourage companies to play their part in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Highlights include:

- 1. 5,000+ companies assessed across 20 climate-critical sectors: LGIM communicated with over half of the 5,000+ companies assessed in April 2024, their largest campaign to date. 455 companies were identified as subject to voting sanctions. Of these, 106 were companies in emission-intensive sectors that do not meet LGIM's new baseline expectations
- 100+ 'dial-mover' companies were assessed with greater scrutiny: 37 of these companies were identified as being subject to voting sanctions (down from 43 in 2024), indicating progress from LGIM's engagement with these companies. Two companies were added to the divestment list for failing to meet LGIM's expectations
- 3. 86% of the total carbon emissions attributable to LGIM's equity and debt holdings are covered by the Pledge

#### **Deforestation campaign**

Continuing their deforestation campaign from 2023 LGIM wrote to companies again in April 2024 to inform them of their deforestation assessment results and potential sanctions. Through their Climate Impact Pledge, they engaged through their written campaign with half of the 5,000+ companies assessed quantitatively, and also directly with several 'dial-mover' companies in sectors where deforestation is critical, such as apparel, food, and forestry.

LGIM expect companies in 'deforestation-critical' sectors with exposure to forest-risk commodities within their portfolios, for which they have data, to have:

- A public deforestation policy
- A programme of actions to deliver on that policy

LGIM also assess how robust the policies and plans are, including whether there is a commitment to zero deforestation exposure; inclusion of targets related to deforestation management; and development and adoption of traceability systems.

As a result of 2024 engagements LGIM have identified 119 companies that they will vote against where possible as a result of them lagging their minimum expectations on deforestation. LGIM also added a company to their divestment list for a lack of a deforestation policy, among other climate concerns.

#### Policy dialogue

UK highlights: Social factors in pension investment decisions consultation

LGIM responded to the consultation by the Taskforce for Social Factors, a UK organisation which aims to support pension scheme trustees and the wider pensions industry in the consideration of social risks and opportunities. The consultation includes more than 30 recommendations about how social factors can be better incorporated into investment decisions.

#### International highlights: Japan climate and energy policy

LGIM are ramping up their climate policy engagement in Japan, where preparations for the next round of policy deliberations that determine the nation's mid-term climate and energy policies are underway. LGIM continue to advocate for Paris-aligned policies and that provide the right backdrop to enable Japanese businesses, once leaders in low-carbon technologies, to remain competitive.

#### Asia Stock Exchanges campaign bulletin

Within their Nature Framework, LGIM's Natural Capital Management sub-theme captures their efforts to strengthen how companies understand and disclose their risks and opportunities that result from their impact and dependencies on nature. LGIM aim to initiate constructive dialogue on the adoption of The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) reporting requirements, in order to accelerate global action on tackling nature change.

Across Asia, many globally critical sensitive environments must be safeguarded, and investors do not yet have access to standardised nature-related disclosure of companies with operations and supply chains in these regions.

LGIM are currently engaging with the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, Singapore Stock Exchange, Bursa Malaysia and Stock Exchange of Thailand as they believe stock exchanges have a critical role in the integration and disclosure of corporate nature-related risks and opportunities, impacts and dependencies.

LGIM are encouraging these exchanges to align with the targets and goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to set clear recommendations within disclosure expectations and listing rules during 2025. Having written to these four exchanges in the second quarter, LGIM are commencing dialogue as responses are received.

#### **Company specific**

### Nippon Steel

Nippon Steel Corporation is the largest steel maker in Japan and one of the largest globally in terms of production. Traditional steelmaking processes are highly carbon intensive, and a shift to green steel will require a policy environment that supports a sufficient supply of low-carbon alternatives. Assessments undertaken by third-party data providers have demonstrated that Nippon Steel lags its peers on climate policy engagement disclosures, and in 2022 InfluenceMap named Nippon Steel as one of the most influential companies blocking climate policy action globally.

We have been engaging with Nippon Steel for many years and specifically through our Climate Impact Pledge since early 2022, the same year in which we added the 'red line' related to climate-related lobbying. The company failed to meet this criterion, so we made it the focus of our engagement with them and expanded our engagement to work collaboratively with other investors to increase our influence. As part of this LGIM co-filed a shareholder proposal asking the company to begin producing climate-related reporting.

We were pleased to see our resolution achieved 28% support, one of the highest levels of support recorded for a climate-related shareholder resolution in Japan. We believe this sends a strong message to the company's board and we will continue to engage with the company on this topic.

#### Significant votes for the Plan during the year

In determining significant votes, LGIM takes into account the criteria provided by the Pensions & Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) and the Plan's Statement of Investment Principles. This includes but is not limited to:

- High profile vote which has such a degree of controversy that there is high client and/or public scrutiny
- Significant client interest for a vote
- Sanction vote as a result of a direct or collaborative engagement
- Vote linked to an LGIM engagement campaign

The Plan was invested c.39% in LGIM's Future World Multi-Asset Fund and c.10% in LGIM's Multi-Asset Target Return Fund as at 31 December 2024. Significant votes for these funds during the year to 31 December 2024 have been summarised in the table below:

The Trustee deems this voting behaviour to be in line with the Plan's stewardship priorities, which include but are not limited to climate change, biodiversity, diversity and ethnicity, remuneration and governance.

## **LGIM Future World Multi-Asset Fund**

Company Name	Details of Vote		
Apple Inc	Date of vote: 28 February 2024		
	Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.53%  Summary of the resolution: Report on Risks of Omitting Viewpoint and Ideological Diversity from EEO Policy		
	How LGIM voted: Against		
	Rationale for voting decision: Environmental and Social: The company appears to be providing shareholders with sufficient disclosure around its diversity and inclusion efforts and nondiscrimination policies, and including viewpoint and ideology in EEO policies does not appear to be a standard industry practice.		
	Why was the vote significant? Diversity: LGIM views diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.		
	Outcome: The vote did not pass.		
Shell Plc	Date of vote: 21 May 2024		
	Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.40%		
	Summary of the resolution: Resolution 22 – Approve the Shell Energy Transition Strategy		
	How LGIM voted: Against		
	Rationale for voting decision: Climate change: We acknowledge the substantive progress the company has made in respect of climate related disclosure over recent years, and we view positively the commitments made to reduce emissions from operated assets and oil products, the strong position taken on tackling methane emissions, as well as the pledge of not pursuing frontier exploration activities beyond 2025. Nevertheless, in light of the revisions made to the Net Carbon Intensity (NCI) targets, coupled with the ambition to grow its gas and LNG business this decade, we expect the company to better demonstrate how these plans are consistent with an orderly transition to net-zero emissions by 2050.		

#### Why was the vote significant?

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.

#### Outcome:

The vote passed.

#### Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited

Date of vote: 24 April 2024

**Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.01%** 

#### Summary of the resolution:

Resolution 3: Management Advisory Vote on Climate Change

How LGIM voted: For

#### Rationale for voting decision:

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.

#### Why was the vote significant?

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.

#### Outcome:

The vote passed.

#### Microsoft Corporation

Date of vote: 10 December 2024

**Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.61%** 

#### **Summary of the resolution:**

Resolution 9: Report on Al Data Sourcing Accountability

How LGIM voted: For

# Rationale for voting decision:

Governance: A vote FOR this resolution is warranted as the company is facing increased legal and reputational risks related to copyright infringement associated with its data sourcing practices. While the company has strong disclosures on its approach to responsible Al and related risks, shareholders would benefit from greater attention to risks related to how the company uses third-party information to train its large language models

# Why was the vote significant?

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

	Outcome: The resolution failed.
The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	Date of vote: 9 April 2024  Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.01%
	Summary of the resolution: Resolution 4: Report on Lobbying Payments and Policy
	How LGIM voted: For
	Rationale for voting decision: Political lobbying: A vote in favour is applied as LGIM expects companies to provide sufficient disclosure on such contributions.
	Why was the vote significant? High Profile meeting: This shareholder resolution is considered significant due to the relatively high level of support received.
	Outcome: The vote did not pass.

How many meetings were you eligible to vote at over the year	
How many resolutions were you eligible to vote on over the year	96,879
What % of resolutions LGIM voted on where eligible	99.76%
Of the resolutions on which LGIM voted, the % voted with management was	
Of the resolutions on which LGIM voted, the % voted against management was	22.57%
Of the resolutions on which LGIM voted, the % abstained was	0.68%

# LGIM Multi-Asset Target Return Fund

Company Name	Details of Vote
National Grid Plc	Date of vote: 10 July 2024
	Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.07%
	Summary of the resolution: Resolution 17: Approve Climate Transition Plan
	How LGIM voted: For
	Rationale for voting decision: 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.
	Why was the vote significant? LGIM is publicly supportive of so called "Say on Climate" votesWe 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.

	Outcome:
	The vote passed.
Analog Devices, Inc.	Date of vote: 13 March 2024
	Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.04%
	Summary of the resolution: Adopt a simple majority vote
	How LGIM voted: For
	Rationale for voting decision: Shareholder rights: A vote in favour is applied as reducing the supermajority vote requirement will improve minority shareholder rights.
	Why was the vote significant? High Profile meeting: This shareholder resolution is considered significant due to the relatively high level of support received.
	Outcome: The vote passed.
Alphabet Inc.	Date of vote: 7 June 2024
	Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.06%
	Summary of the resolution: Resolution 1d – Elect Director John L. Hennesy
	How LGIM voted: Against
	Rationale for voting decision: A vote against was applied for a number of reasons including average board tenure, diversity of the board, shareholder rights and the independence of board members.
	Why was the vote significant?  Diversity: LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.  One Share One Vote: LGIM considers this vote to be significant as LGIM supports the principle of one share one vote.
	Outcome: The vote passed.
Booking Holdings Inc.	Date of vote: 4 June 2024
me.	Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.04%
	Summary of the resolution: Resolution 4- Amend Clawback Policy
	How LGIM voted: For
	Rationale for voting decision: Remuneration: LGIM believes that clawback is an important safeguard for the compensation committee to enable them to clawback any compensation payments that were unjustly paid out.

	Why was the vote significant? High Profile meeting: This shareholder resolution is considered significant due to the relatively high level of support received.  Outcome: The vote did not pass.
Consolidated Edison, Inc.	Date of vote: 20 May 2024  Approximate size of Fund's holding: 0.06%
	Summary of the resolution: Resolution 1a – Elect Director Timothy P. Crawley
	How LGIM voted: Against
	Rationale for voting decision: 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.
	Why was the vote significant? 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.
	Outcome: The vote passed.

How many meetings were you eligible to vote at over the year	336	
How many resolutions were you eligible to vote on over the year		
What % of resolutions LGIM voted on where eligible		
Of the resolutions on which LGIM voted, the % voted with management was		
Of the resolutions on which LGIM voted, the % voted against management was		
Of the resolutions on which LGIM voted, the % abstained was	0.79%	