



Quarterly Risk and Return Analysis Total Fund

Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund





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Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Total Fund

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Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund

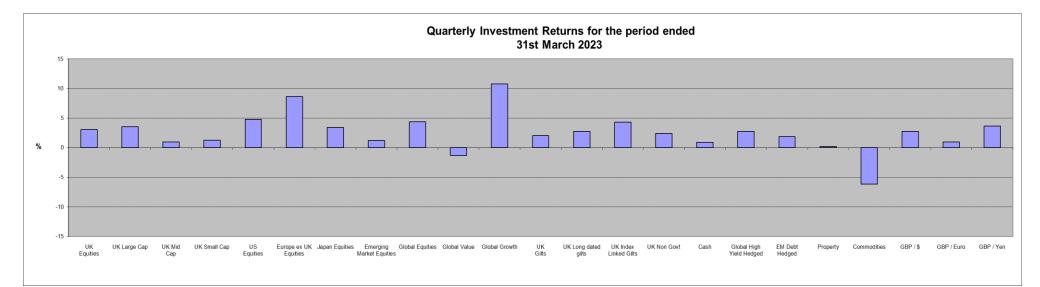




Portfolio Evaluation Ltd Market Commentary Q1 2023 (Sterling)

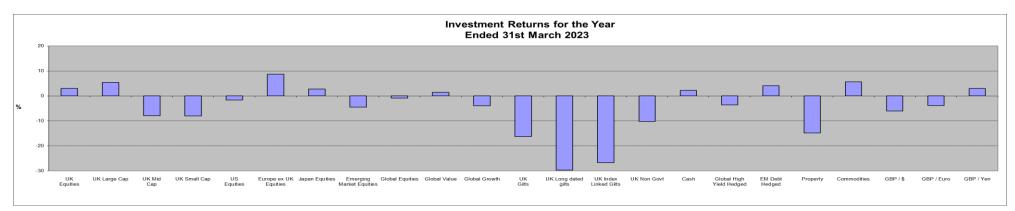
Q1 2023 witnessed key equity markets, corporate bonds, many gilt markets, and property rising. Commodities was the key loser. Sterling also continued to strengthen; however, over the year the strong dollar / weak sterling and the weight of USD assets in the global indices has impacted GBP returns. For the quarter within global equity sectors the majority have had positive returns except for Energy, Healthcare, Utilities, and Information Technology which had significant negative returns. The year ended March 2023 has seen mixed results with some asset classes generating positive returns (led by UK equities, European equities and Commodities) and some negative returns (led by bond asset classes and property). This reflects the struggles investors have had digesting high inflation, central bank tightening, the war between Ukraine and Russia, energy supply problems, tightening labour markets, COVID and output falling in China (this now appears to have changed). Over the three-year period (since the first lockdown) equity markets and commodities have had strong positive return whilst most bond asset classes have had negative returns. Over the one and three- year periods we have seen value stocks outperform growth stocks, but over Q1 Growth has outperformed value equities.

It should also be noted that many of our clients are continuing to fund 'alternative' asset portfolios. We saw some clients being impacted by increasing yields requiring LDI portfolio margin accounts to require significant funding; this in some instances is requiring selling other portfolio assets and it should be noted that the BofE had to assist this part of the market in early October.

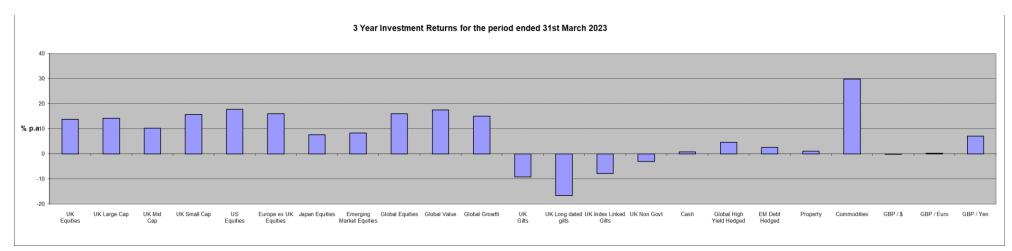








It appears that going into 2023 many investors are apprehensive. Many investors feel that the era of low interest rates fuelling markets has ended. Although inflation rates have reduced, they remain stubbornly high, and growth will reduce. Many market commentators expect the U.S. and Europe to escape recession. However, they do expect interest rate rises albeit at a slower pace than in 2022 and to peak this year. Risk within asset classes and correlations has increased over the year. The outlook for market risk is uncertain.



For further information If you would like further information about the topics contained in this newsletter or would like to discuss your investment performance requirements please contact Nick Kent or Deborah Barlow (e-mail: nick.kent@portfolioevaluation.net) or visit our website at www.portfolioevaluation.net. Please note that all numbers, comments, and ideas contained in this document are for information purposes only and as such are not investment advice in any form. Please remember that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund - Commentary Period ending 31st March 2023

QUARTERLY SUMMARY: Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Return: 2.7% Benchmark Return: 3.2% Excess Return: -0.5%

- This quarter has been quiet as regards new fund investments. The final cash from the R&M EPO was transferred out. Significant investments were made into the Gresham House Forestry Growth & Sustainability Fund and the Gresham House BSIF II Infrastructure Fund (allowing for reporting lags).
- The Fund and its benchmark have both generated positive returns, but the Fund has underperformed its benchmark by -0.5% excess.
- Equity returns outperformed the benchmark due to the Active Pool as all four portfolios in the Pool outperformed their benchmarks (the LGPSC Global Sustainable Equity Active Targeted Fund, the LGPSC Sustainable Equity Active Thematic Fund, the Nomura Far East portfolio, and the LGPSC EMM). The passive equity pool performed broadly in line with the benchmark (as expected) as did the Total Alternatives Equity Pool. Additionally Total Fixed Income outperformed its benchmark. The primary areas of underperformance have been generated by Property and Infrastructure asset classes. It should be noted that the positive appreciation of sterling versus the US dollar has been a negative contributor to the Fund.
- Within the primary asset classes, equity assets were the highest returning generators over the quarter at 4.3%. Fixed Income Assets had a return of 2.4%. Infrastructure assets had a return of -1.8% whilst Property assets generated the lowest return of -2.3%. Within equities, the Alts Pool had the highest return of 5.7%, the Passive Pool had a return of 4.6% (approximately in line with the benchmark) and the Active Pool had a return of 3.2%.
- The Fund remains underweight Total Fixed Income and is overweight equities primarily due to the overweight exposure to UK equities. Property and Infrastructure are in line with their strategic weights. The Fund underperformed the benchmark primarily due to Property and Infrastructure. Total Fixed Income and Asset Allocation were neutral contributors to excess return. Equity assets were a positive influence on excess return.
- The benchmark structure continues to influence excess return as, although the weight to Fixed Income and some equity portfolios is fixed, it is necessary to neutralise the asset allocation weights of property and Infrastructure to be in line with their asset class weights within The Fund. Any residual is allocated to largely to the UK passive portfolio but the LGPSC Global Sustainable Equity Active Targeted Fund, the LGPSC Sustainable Equity Active Thematic Fund are also impacted by the rebalancing process.
- The latest valuation data supplied by Bridgepoint, Green Investment Bank, Gresham House, Hermes, Invesco UK Property Fund, Stonepeak Partners III, VENN and Walton Street is lagged by three months and was for periods ending June 2022 whilst the Gresham House Forestry Funds and the Stonepeak Partners Fund IV have lags of 6 months.



YEAR SUMMARY:

Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Return: 1.2%

: 1.2%

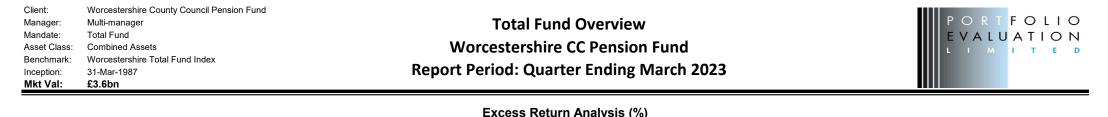
Benchmark Return: 1.7%

Excess Return: -0.5%

- The Fund and its benchmark have generated positive returns, but the Fund has underperformed its benchmark by -0.5% excess. The underperformance has been primarily generated by equity assets, and by the performance of the Fixed Income assets which underperformed. The Infrastructure Pool slightly underperformed whilst the Property Pool outperformed. It should be noted that many of the Alternative asset pools are investing in new portfolios; these types of portfolios often underperform initially due to the expenses of these funds 'investing' and that it takes time for many of these vehicles to generate positive significant returns from their investments.
- With the closure of the EPO strategy the Fund, due to the assets being invested in passive equities, has become overweight passive equities due to becoming overweight the UK Index Fund.
- The most significant drag on excess return was primarily generated by the Active Equity Fund. The highest positive contributors to excess return were the EPO and Property assets.
- Infrastructure assets generated the highest return of 12.8% followed by Property with a return of 9.9%. Equity assets were the next highest return generators over the year and excluding the overlay generated a return of -0.3% whilst Fixed Income generated the lowest return with a return of -6.5%. Within equities the Passive Pool was the highest return generator followed by the Alternatives Pool and finally the Active Pool (generating returns of 2.6%, 0.3% and -4.8% respectively), all of them underperformed their benchmarks. Fixed Income assets had a return of -6.5% underperforming by -3.5%.

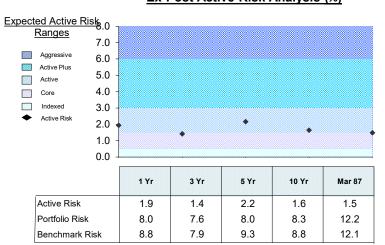
THREE YEAR SUMMARY: Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Return: 9.6% p.a. Benchmark Return: 11.0% p.a. Excess Return: -1.4% p.a.

- Over the three-year period, the Fund has generated a positive return of 9.6% p.a. and has underperformed the benchmark. It should be noted that there has been a considerable number of new mandates established in that timeline especially in the property, infrastructure, and bond asset classes. Additionally, the equites have been restructured.
- All primary asset classes, except for Total Fixed Income have generated positive returns.
- The equity protection overlay program has decreased the Fund return over the three-year period (by -0.3% p.a.). It should also be noted that the EPO strategy has lowered the volatility of the Fund as expected.
- The Total Risk and Active risk are consistent with a typical multi asset class fund that uses both passive and active strategies.

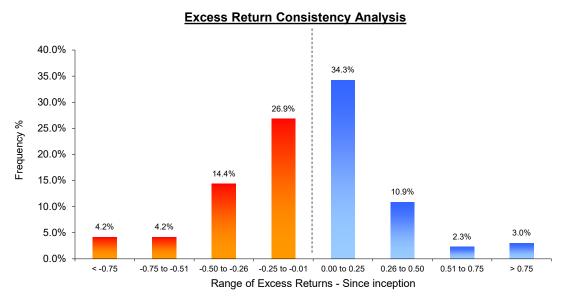




All returns for periods in excess of 1 year are annualised. The portfolio return is net.



Ex-Post Active Risk Analysis (%)



Ex-Post Active Risk measures the volatility of the actual excess returns achieved by the Portfolio/Fund.

Excess Return Consistency Analysis measures the frequency of the Portfolio/Fund's outperformance (Blue) and underperformance (Red) versus its benchmark, calculated using monthly (or quarterly if indicated) returns since inception.



Attribution to Total Fund Excess Return Analysis Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund for Quarter Ended 31st March 2023

Market Value: £3.6bn



Attribution to Total Fund Excess Return Analysis Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund for Year Ended 31st March 2023



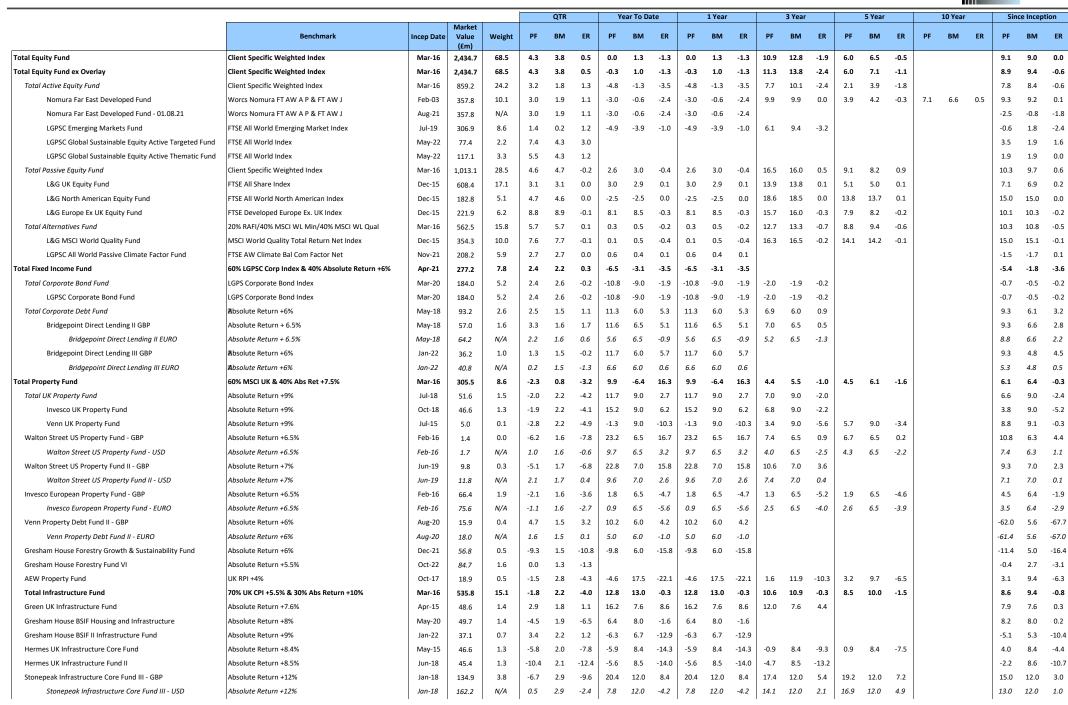


Attribution to Total Fund Excess Return Analysis - Annualised Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund for 3 Year Period Ended 31st March 2023









P O R T F O L I O E V A L U A T I O N

I T E

| Worcestershire CC Total Fund | | Mar-87 | 3,553.2 | 100.0 | 2.7 | 3.2 | -0.5 | 1.2 | 1.7 | -0.5 | 1.2 | 1.7 | -0.5 | 9.6 | 11.0 | -1.4 | 5.8 | 6.3 | -0.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 0.0 | 7.8 | 8.2 | -0.4 |
|---|----------------------|--------|---------|-------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| Worcestershire CC Total Fund ex Overlay | | Mar-87 | 3,553.2 | 100.0 | 2.7 | 3.2 | -0.5 | 0.9 | 1.4 | -0.5 | 0.9 | 1.4 | -0.5 | 9.9 | 11.8 | -1.8 | 5.8 | 6.8 | -1.0 | 7.4 | 7.7 | -0.3 | 7.8 | 8.3 | -0.5 |
| First Sentier EDIF III EURO | Absolute Return +8% | Nov-22 | 8.5 | N/A | -1.0 | 1.9 | -3.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3.4 | 3.3 | 0.1 |
| First Sentier EDIF III GBP | Absolute Return +8% | Nov-22 | 7.5 | 0.2 | -2.0 | 1.9 | -3.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3.7 | 3.3 | 0.5 |
| First Sentier EDIF II EURO | Absolute Return +9% | Jun-18 | 150.1 | N/A | 4.6 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 12.1 | 9.0 | 3.1 | 12.1 | 9.0 | 3.1 | 16.8 | 9.0 | 7.8 | | | | | | | 11.0 | 9.1 | 1.9 |
| First Sentier EDIF II GBP | Absolute Return +9% | Jun-18 | 131.9 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 16.1 | 9.0 | 7.1 | 16.1 | 9.0 | 7.1 | 16.5 | 9.0 | 7.5 | | | | | | | 11.3 | 9.1 | 2.2 |
| Stonepeak Infrastructure Core Fund IV - USD | Absolute Return +12% | Jan-22 | 38.1 | N/A | 1.3 | 2.9 | -1.5 | 0.6 | 12.0 | -11.4 | 0.6 | 12.0 | -11.4 | | | | | | | | | | 0.5 | 9.5 | -9.1 |
| Stonepeak Infrastructure Core Fund IV - GBP | Absolute Return +12% | Jan-22 | 34.2 | 1.0 | 10.1 | 2.9 | 7.2 | 24.2 | 12.0 | 12.2 | 24.2 | 12.0 | 12.2 | | | | | | | | | | 19.0 | 9.5 | 9.5 |

PF = Portfolio Return BM = Benchmark Return ER = Excess Return

| | CLIENT SPECIFIC BENCHMARK: | Notes: |
|----------------------|---|---|
| | 17% FTSE All Share - % Dependant upon actual drawdowns of Infra & Prop | Q4 2022: Disinvested from River & Mercantile Equity Protection Fund from 10th November 2022. Invested into First Sentier EDIF III from 15th November 2022. Q2 2022: Investment into LGPSC Global Sustainable Equity Active Targeted Fund and LGPSC Global Sustainable Equity Active Thematic Fund from 04.05.2022. Total Fund |
| | 5.5% FTSE Developed Europe Ex UK | Benchmark updated. The attribution for Total Active/Total Equity/Total Fund will not add up due to the transition. |
| | 10% FTSE All World Emerging Markets | Q4 2021: Total Fund Benchmark updated and backdated from 01.04.2021. Total Fixed Income Fund created from 01.04.21. New investments were made on 24.11.2021 into |
| | 15% 60% MSCI World Quality Total Return NET & 40% LGPSC All World Climate Index | LGPSC All World Passive Climate Factor Fund, and Stonepeak Fund IV Infrastructure Core Fund (data is 'lagged'). A new investment was also made with Gresham House Forestry Growth & Sustainability Fund from 10.12.2021 (data is produced annually in February). Full disinvestments were made from L&G RAFI Fundamental Developed Reduced Carbon Pathway Index Fund on 22.10.2021 and from L&G MSCI World Minimum Volatility Fund on 24.11.2021. |
| Total Fund Benchmark | 6.5% FTSE All World North America | |
| | 6% FTSE All World | Historic data up to and including 31.03.2016 has been provided by the WM Co and L&G. |
| | 10% 5.5% FTSE All World Asia Pacific ex Japan & 4.5% FTSE All World Japan | |
| | 6% Corp Bonds: LGPS Central Specific Index | |
| | 4% Corporate Private Debt @ Absolute Return +10% | |
| | Infrastructure: 70% UK CPI +5.5%, 30% Absolute Return 10% | |
| | Property: 60% MSCI UK Monthly Property Index, 40% Absolute Return +7.5% | |



Total Fund Reconciliation Analysis Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund for Quarter Ended 31st March 2023

| larket Value: £3.6bn | Fund for Quarter Ended 31st March 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | mber 2022 | Net | Total | Total | 31st March 2023 | | | | | | |
| | Market Val (£000s) | Exposure (%) | Investment (£000s) | Income (£000s) | Gain/Loss (£000s) | Market Val (£000s) | Exposure (%) | | | | | |
| Fotal Equity Fund | 2,333,617 | 67.9 | -36 | 0 | 101,142 | 2,434,723 | 68.5 | | | | | |
| otal Equity Fund ex Overlay | 2,333,617 | 67.9 | -36 | 0 | 101,142 | 2,434,723 | 68.5 | | | | | |
| otal Active Equity Fund | 832,927 | 24.3 | 0 | 0 | 26,251 | 859,178 | 24.2 | | | | | |
| Iomura Far East Developed Equity Fund | 347,328 | 10.1 | 0 | 0 | 10,506 | 357,834 | 10.1 | | | | | |
| GPSC Emerging Markets Fund | 302,613 | 8.8 | 0 | 0 | 4,263 | 306,876 | 8.6 | | | | | |
| GPSC Global Sustainable Equity Active Targeted Fund | 72,034 | 2.1 | 0 | 0 | 5,322 | 77,356 | 2.2 | | | | | |
| GPSC Global Sustainable Equity Active Thematic Fund | 110,953 | 3.2 | 0 | 0 | 6,159 | 117,113 | 3.3 | | | | | |
| Fotal Passive Equity Fund | 968,765 | 28.2 | 0 | 0 | 44,291 | 1,013,056 | 28.5 | | | | | |
| &G UK Equity Fund | 590,057 | 17.2 | 0 | 0 | 18,311 | 608,367 | 17.1 | | | | | |
| &G North American Equity Fund | 174,659 | 5.1 | 0 | 0 | 8,126 | 182,786 | 5.1 | | | | | |
| &G Europe Ex UK Equity Fund | 204,049 | 5.9 | 0 | 0 | 17,854 | 221,903 | 6.2 | | | | | |
| Total Alternatives Fund | 531,888 | 15.5 | 0 | 0 | 30,600 | 562,488 | 15.8 | | | | | |
| &G MSCI World Quality Fund | 329,189 | 9.6 | 0 | 0 | 25,075 | 354,263 | 10.0 | | | | | |
| GPSC All World Passive Climate Factor Fund | 202,699 | 5.9 | 0 | 0 | 5,526 | 208,225 | 5.9 | | | | | |
| River & Mercantile Equity Protection Fund | 36 | 0.0 | -36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| River & Mercantile Equity Protection Fund ex Overlay | 36 | 0.0 | -36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| otal Fixed Income Fund | 273,355 | 8.0 | -1,844 | o | 5,654 | 277,166 | 7.8 | | | | | |
| Total Corporate Bond Fund | 179,681 | 5.2 | 0 | 0 | 4,299 | 183,980 | 5.2 | | | | | |
| LGPSC Corporate Bond Fund | 179,681 | 5.2 | 0 | 0 | 4,299 | 183,980 | 5.2 | | | | | |
| Total Corporate Debt Fund | 93,674 | 2.7 | -1,844 | 0 | 1,355 | 93,186 | 2.6 | | | | | |
| Bridgepoint Direct Lending II | 57,887 | 1.7 | -2,177 | 0 | 1,285 | 56,995 | 1.6 | | | | | |
| Bridgepoint Direct Lending III | 35,787 | 1.0 | 333 | 0 | 71 | 36,191 | 1.0 | | | | | |
| Fotal Property Fund | 294,155 | 8.6 | 18,560 | 1,391 | -7,246 | 305,469 | 8.6 | | | | | |
| Fotal UK Property Fund | 54,506 | 1.6 | 0 | 0 | -2,929 | 51,578 | 1.5 | | | | | |
| nvesco UK Property Fund | 47,682 | 1.4 | 0 | 199 | -1,098 | 46,585 | 1.3 | | | | | |
| /enn UK Property Fund | 6,824 | 0.2 | -1,737 | -94 | -94 | 4,993 | 0.1 | | | | | |
| Valton US Property Fund | 1,540 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | -96 | 1,444 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Valton US Property Fund II | 9,893 | 0.3 | 0 | 532 | -102 | 9,792 | 0.3 | | | | | |
| nvesco European Property Fund | 68,357 | 2.0 | 0 | 569 | -1,973 | 66,385 | 1.9 | | | | | |
| /enn Property Debt Fund II | 12,887 | 0.4 | 2,451 | 0 | 602 | 15,940 | 0.4 | | | | | |
| Gresham House Forestry Growth & Sustainability Fund | 42,969 | 1.3 | 17,846 | 0 | -4,013 | 56,802 | 1.6 | | | | | |
| Gresham House Forestry Fund VI | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 84,670 | 84,670 | 2.4 | | | | | |
| New Property Fund | 19,332 | 0.6 | 0 | 186 | -472 | 18,860 | 0.5 | | | | | |
| Total Infrastructure Fund | 533,334 | 15.5 | 17,562 | 1,518 | -15,097 | 535,800 | 15.1 | | | | | |
| Green UK Infrastructure Fund | 48,187 | 1.4 | -982 | 0 | 1,419 | 48,624 | 1.4 | | | | | |
| iresham House BSIF Housing and Infrastructure | 49,818 | 1.5 | 2,156 | 0 | -2,259 | 49,715 | 1.4 | | | | | |
| Gresham House BSIF II Infrastructure Fund | 21,834 | 0.6 | 14,528 | 0 | 746 | 37,107 | 1.0 | | | | | |
| iermes UK Infrastructure Core Fund | 49,446 | 1.4 | 0 | 0 | -2,860 | 46,586 | 1.3 | | | | | |
| Iermes UK Infrastructure Fund II | 50,599 | 1.5 | 0 | 0 | -5,241 | 45,358 | 1.3 | | | | | |
| tonepeak Infrastructure Core Fund III | 144,709 | 4.2 | 1,212 | 931 | -11,068 | 134,854 | 3.8 | | | | | |
| tonepeak Infrastructure Core Fund IV | 34,100 | 1.0 | 648 | 277 | -596 | 34,153 | 1.0 | | | | | |
| irst Sentier EDIF II | 126,993 | 3.7 | 0 | 310 | 4,915 | 131,908 | 3.7 | | | | | |
| First Sentier EDIF III | 7,648 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | -153 | 7,495 | 0.2 | | | | | |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Worcestershire CC Total Fund ex Overlay | 3,434,462 | 100.0 | 34,243 | 2,909 | 84,453 | 3,553,157 | 100.0 | | | | | |
| • | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Worcestershire CC Total Fund | 3,434,462 | 100.0 | 34,243 | 2,909 | 84,453 | 3,553,157 | 100.0 | | | | | |

Note: Cashflow into cash reflects sum of portfolio contributions minus net investments. It is assumed that cash for the Fund is held outside of the invested assets and is therefore withdrawn from the Total Fund