

**PENSIONS AND
LIFETIME SAVINGS
ASSOCIATION**

SOUTH EAST

Welcome to our 2024 Autumn Seminar

24 October 2024

Agenda for today

09:05 - 09:45

DB Funding Code

Marcos Abreu, First Actuarial

Emily Goodridge, Cardano

Felix Mantz, Cardano

09:45 - 10:30

DB funding surpluses - how to apply an alternative end game

Steven Keller, Aon

10:45 - 11:30

Lifetime Savings Initiative

Rachel Harris, Schroders

Taylor Weeks, Schroders

11:30 - 12:15

PLSA's Key Priorities

Justin Wray, PLSA

**PENSIONS AND
LIFETIME SAVINGS
ASSOCIATION**

SOUTH EAST

TPR's (new) DB Funding Code

PLSA South East Group Autumn Seminar

24 October 2024



TPR's (new) Funding Code: At a glance

- Replaces the 2014 funding code.
- Is effective for schemes with valuation dates on or after 22 September 2024.
- Expects maturing schemes to focus on their long-term objective
 - Buy out, run on while cautiously invested, consolidate
- Requires trustees to:
 - Determine a funding and investment strategy jointly with the employer
 - Record the funding and investment strategy in a Statement of Strategy and submit this to TPR
 - Submit a lengthy data submission to TPR
- Doesn't replace the SFO, but the "scheme specific funding" principle of the SFO is largely overridden



Requirements of the Code: long term planning

Low-dependency funding basis

- Assumptions should be selected, such that no further contributions can be expected to be required if the scheme:
 - is fully funded on the LD basis, and
 - is invested in accordance with the low-dependency investment allocation

Low-dependency investment allocation

- is a notional investment allocation supporting the low-dependency funding basis
- must be “highly resilient” to short term adverse changes in market conditions
- must be agreed with the employer
- does not interfere with the trustees’ power over the detail of a scheme’s actual investments

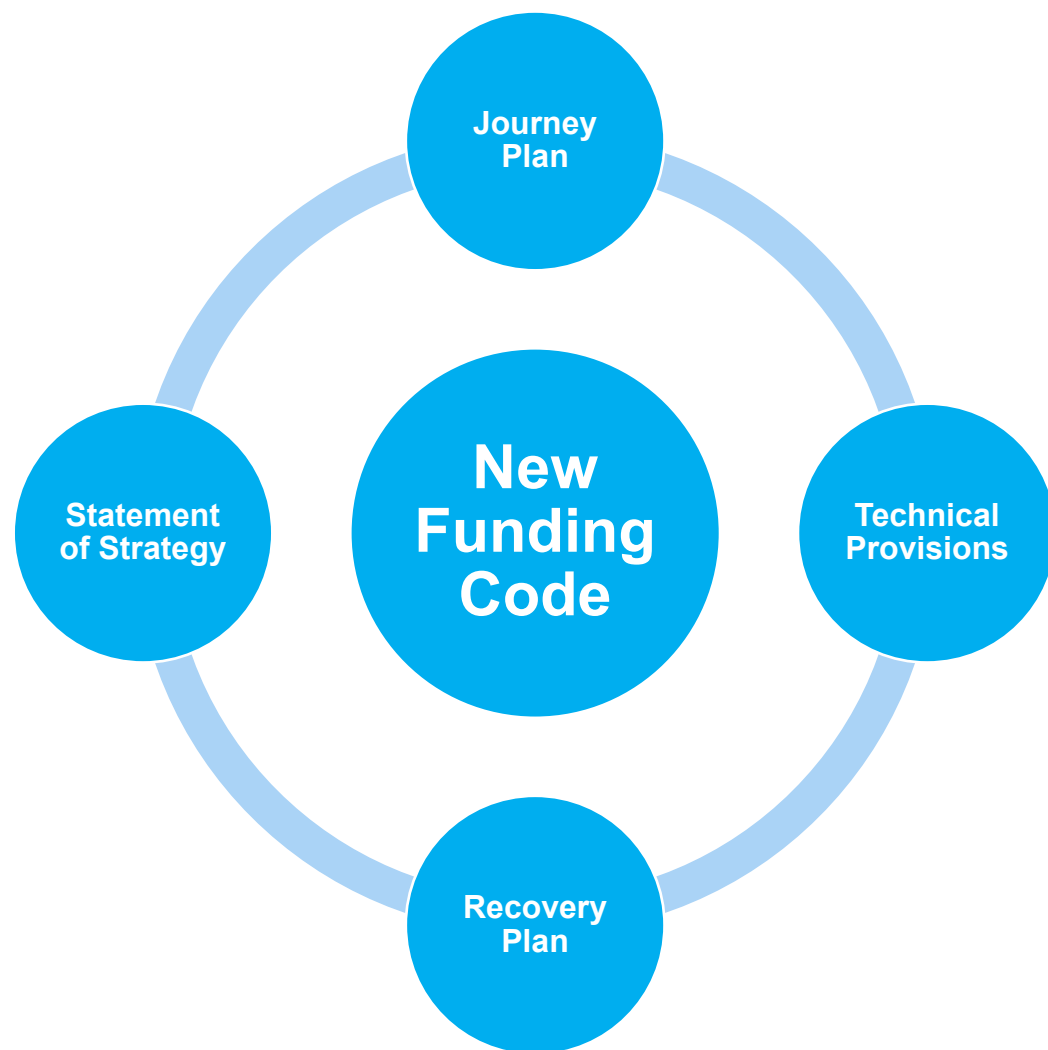
Significant maturity

- A Defined Benefit scheme with a duration of 10* years is deemed to be ‘significantly mature’
* based on low dependency funding basis and investment market conditions as at 31 March 2023
- Trustees must reach their low-dependency funding target by the time the scheme reaches significant maturity

Employer covenant

- All trustees must assess covenant, with detailed guidance to be published separately.
- Trustees must have regard to:
 - Covenant reliability, and
 - Covenant longevity
- Affordability Principle and new Sustainable Growth impact consideration

Application



LD Journey Plan

- A plan setting out how the funding and investment strategy will evolve over time toward a scheme's long-term plan (buy out, run on while cautiously invested)
- A fully open scheme might not be maturing, of course

Technical Provisions

- Must be consistent with a scheme's journey plan

Recovery Plan

- Funding shortfalls should be recovered as quickly as the employer can reasonably afford
- Post-valuation experience and/or investment outperformance may be allowed for
- Reasonable affordability should be regularly reviewed

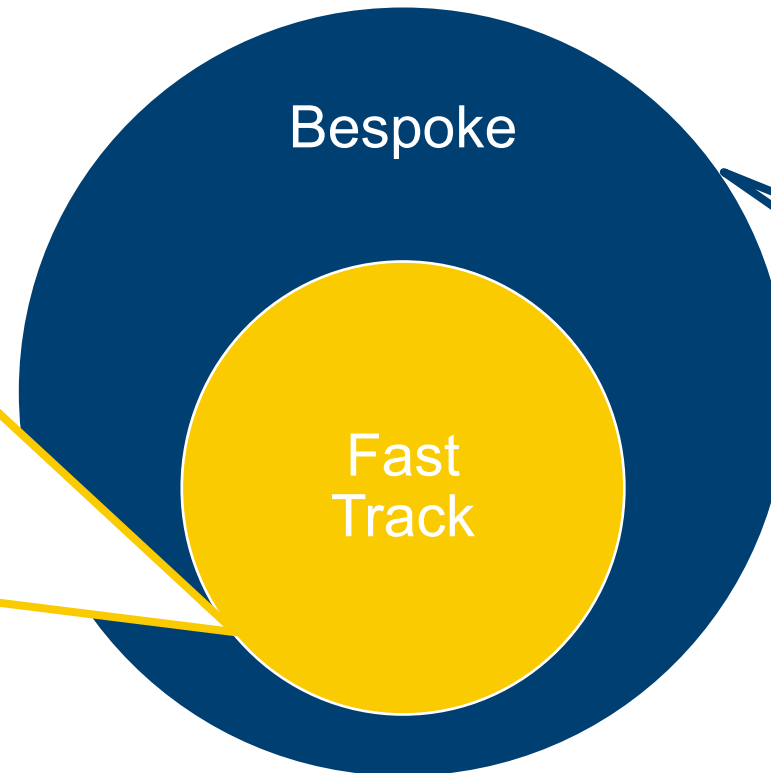
Statement of Strategy

- TPR have provided templates
- Onerous data submission, expensive for small schemes to prepare
- Digital platform will be made available for this

Routes to compliance: two options, both of which are equally valid

Fast Track

- A set of quantitative parameters
- Representing **TPR's view** of "tolerated risk for a scheme"
- Aims to provide a simpler path for compliance for trustees
- TPR are less likely to engage with trustees
- It is not a minimum level of compliance...
- But does provide more clarity on what TPR will accept
- Confirmation needed from the Scheme Actuary that the Fast Track parameters are met



Bespoke

- Allows more risk than under Fast Track
- May be appropriate if Fast Track recovery plan length cannot be met
- TPR are more likely to scrutinise submissions and maybe engage with trustees

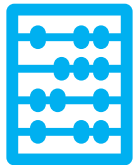
As at March 2023, TPR estimated that 62% of schemes satisfied the Fast Track tests and another 19% could alter their funding approach with no additional cost of doing so

Routes to compliance: Fast Track



Low-dependency funding basis

- Certain assumptions must be at least as strong as specified under Fast Track
- Low-dependency discount rate: no greater than **0.5% pa above the gilt yield curve**
- Expense reserve



Technical Provisions test

- SFO Technical Provisions must be at least a percentage of the low-dependency target where the percentage rises to 100% at significant maturity date



Funding and investment stress test

- To be eligible for Fast Track, a scheme must pass a funding level stress test



Recovery Plan test

- To be eligible for Fast Track, Recovery Plans must meet certain criteria on:
 - Recovery Plan length
 - increases to deficit repair contributions
 - assumed future investment outperformance
 - post-valuation experience

Easements

Open schemes

- Must still comply with the requirement to have a low-dependency target
- Will be required to provide more information in the Statement of Strategy, reflecting their specific characteristics

But, they can:

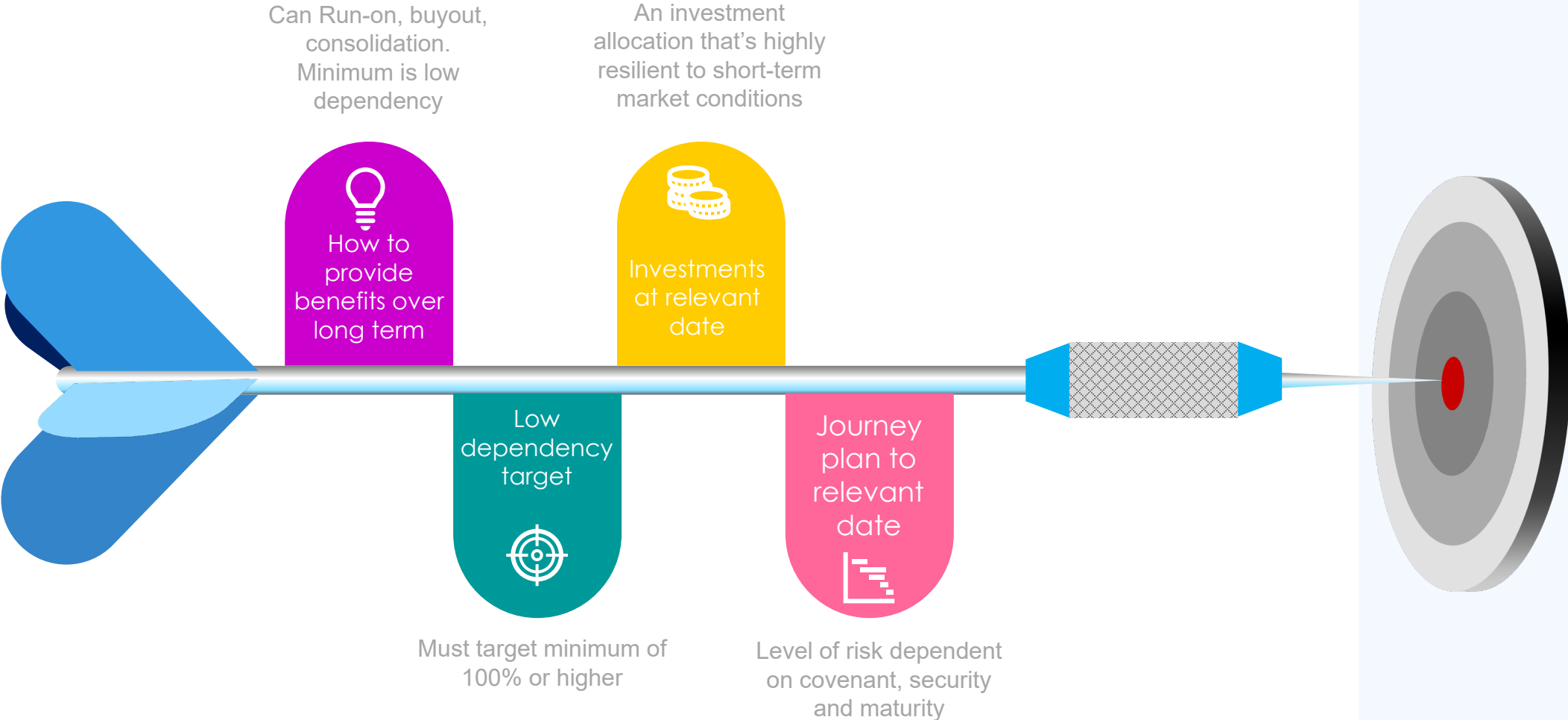
- Allow for an assumption for new entrants and 9 years of future accrual
- Reflect the expectation that they will take longer to reach significant maturity and allow for this in the journey plan (**a properly open scheme never reaches significant maturity**)
- Consider using surplus to fund future accrual where appropriate
- Assume that risk will be taken for a longer period of time

Smaller schemes

- Less than 200 members
- Use a TPR specified proxy for duration
- Use single discount rate and inflation assumptions rather than yield curve
- Use the PPF s179 valuation expense allowance

Funding and Investment strategy

Determining the best strategy for your scheme



Thoughts

- Low dependency (LD) target may change funding plans.
- If weakly funded, getting from current to SFO is hard.
- Getting from SFO to LD is likely to be much easier.
- The LD data submission may be a LOT of new work.
- Additional fees to implement.
- If fully open, low dependency is a hypothetical.
- If closed, then considering the long term future of the scheme is what you should be doing anyway.

Considerations and next steps

- Trustees and sponsors should engage early and work collaboratively.
- Actuary, investment adviser and covenant adviser to work together.
- Choose your long-term objective.
- When will your (closed) scheme reach significant maturity?
- What will your journey plan may look like?
- Don't assume fast track is the way to go. Don't assume bespoke is the way to go.
- Valuation may be lengthy and detailed. Try to be pragmatic and proportionate.



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- **Upcoming webinars**

- Running on pension schemes (November 2024)
- Accounting for pension schemes (December 2024)

- **Topical news and expert comment**

- [News - First Actuarial](#)

- **First Briefings**

- [New DB funding Code of Practice](#)
- [Pension Scheme Run-on](#)
- [Trade Union briefing](#)
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- **Contact us**



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Covenant and the New Funding Code AI Developments in Covenant

Cardano Advisory

24 October 2024

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A person is sitting on a grassy hill, looking out over a vast landscape. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a body of water. The sky is cloudy. The word "cardano" is written in large, dark blue letters across the bottom of the image.



Covenant and the New Funding Code



Emily Goodridge
Managing Director
Head of Covenant Assessment

Funding Code – why should trustees look at covenant?

It's the law!

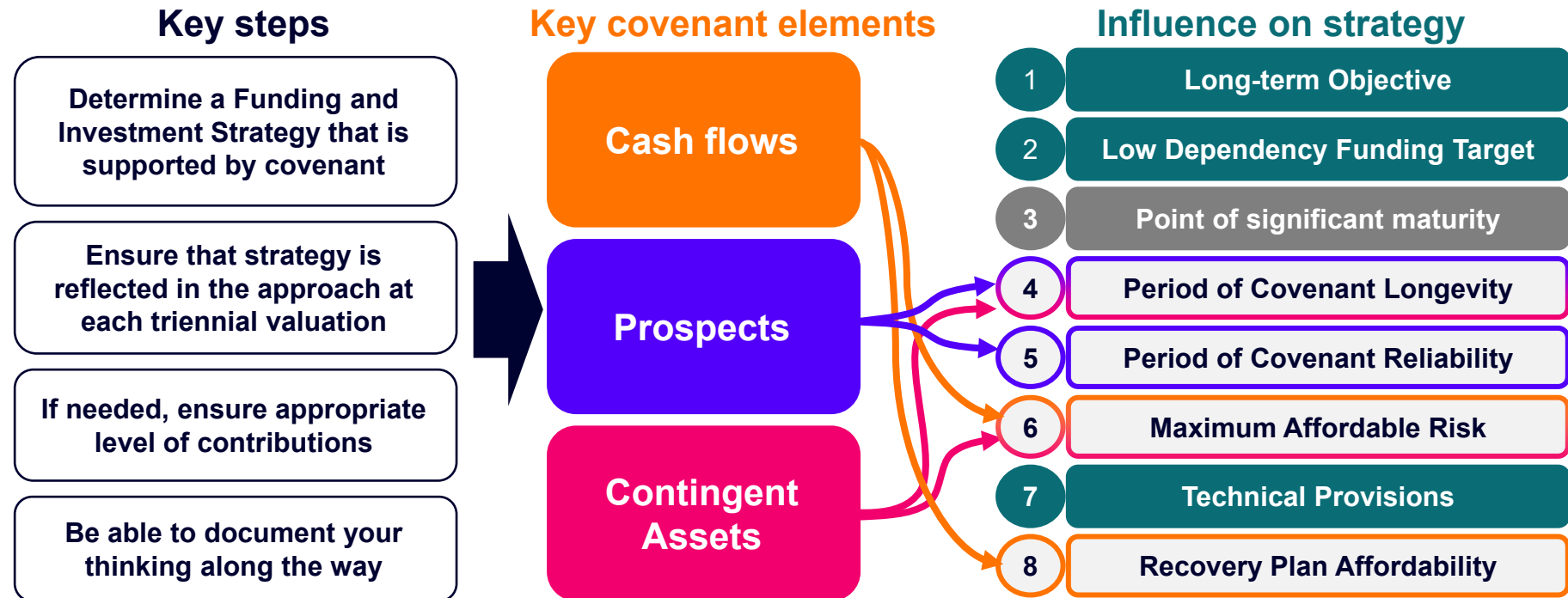
Setting the right long-term objective

Determining how much risk to take and over what period

Setting a recovery plan

Best practice

Practical application of covenant requirements



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AI Developments in Covenant



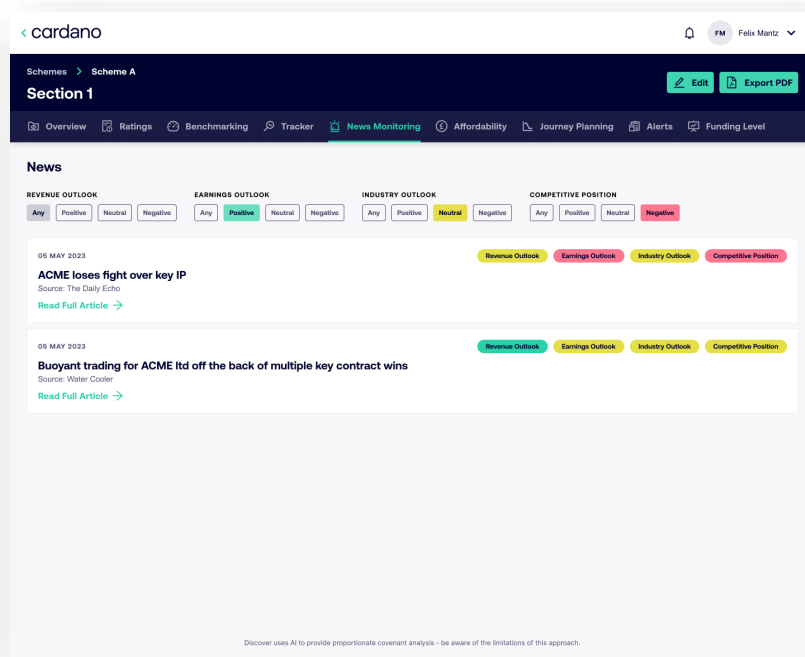
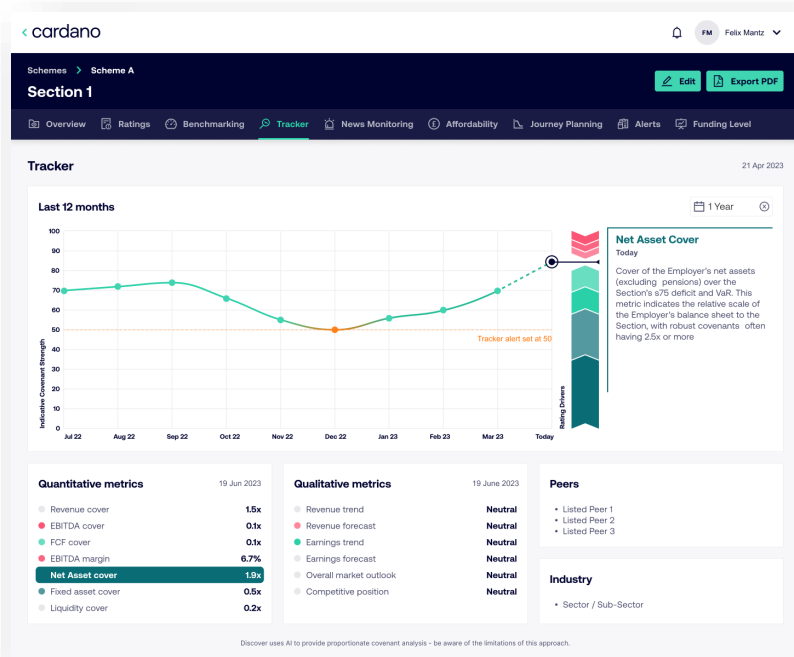
Felix Mantz
Senior Director
Head of Technology

AI.
Huh.



**What
is it
good
for?**

Discover – AI powered covenant



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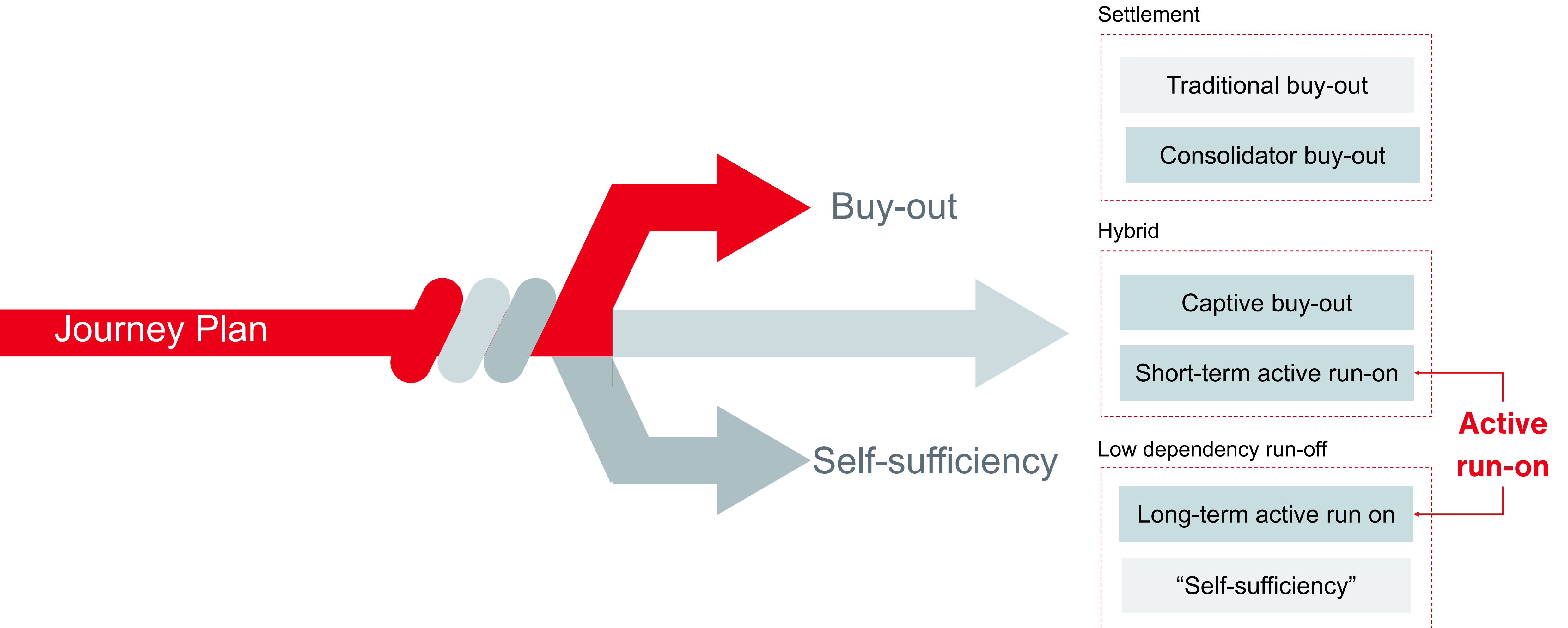
Running on – considering alternatives to buy-out

Prepared for PLSA SEG

October 2024

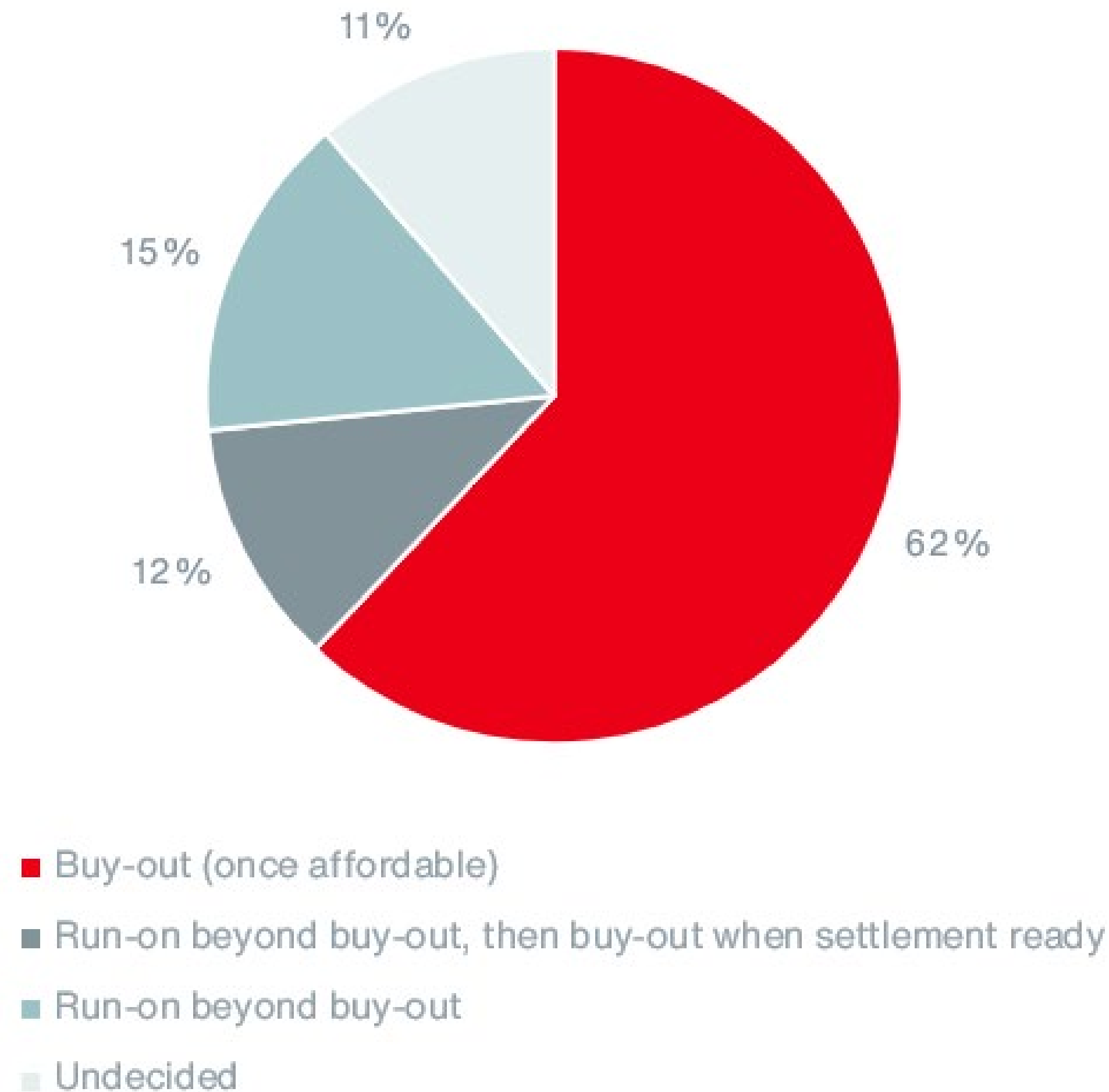


Endgames – changing landscape in UK



Long-term strategy / endgame

What is the planned long-term strategy / endgame of surveyed schemes?



- **62%** of schemes have an objective to **buy-out**, once this becomes affordable.
- **27%** of schemes plan to **run-on** beyond buy-out funding in some capacity:
 - **15%** aiming to actively **run-on** past when they can feasibly buy-out
 - **12%** aiming to **run on until they are ready to settle**
- **11%** of schemes are **still to decide** on the long-term strategy/endgame






















Key statistics

- 150 schemes from Aon advised clients
- ~ 30/70 corporate/trustee
- Wide spread of scheme size and endgame journey
 - 30% less than £100M, 22% £1bn+
 - c. 40% already sufficiently funded or 1-2 years away

What does run-on best practice look like?

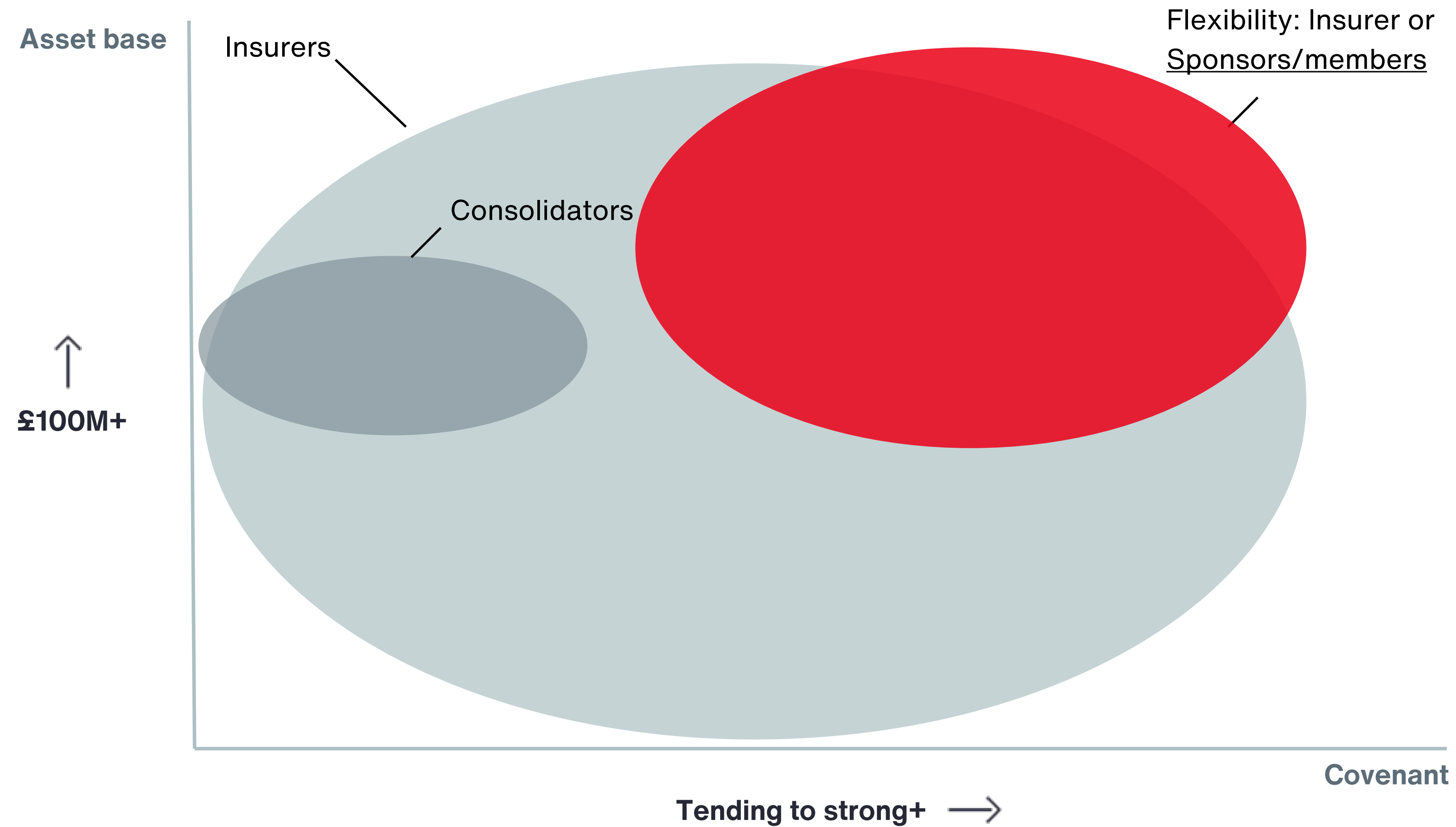
The case for active run-on

“**Active run-on**” is running a scheme on for a short or long period of time with the specific intent of building up surplus.

Criteria	Self-sufficiency	Active run-on (assets only)	Active run-on (aspiration)
Low risk of failure?			
In active/deferred member interests?			
Pensioner member interests?			
Sponsor’s interests?			
Deficit self-corrects?			
Low volatility exit vs buy-out?			
Compliant with regulation?			

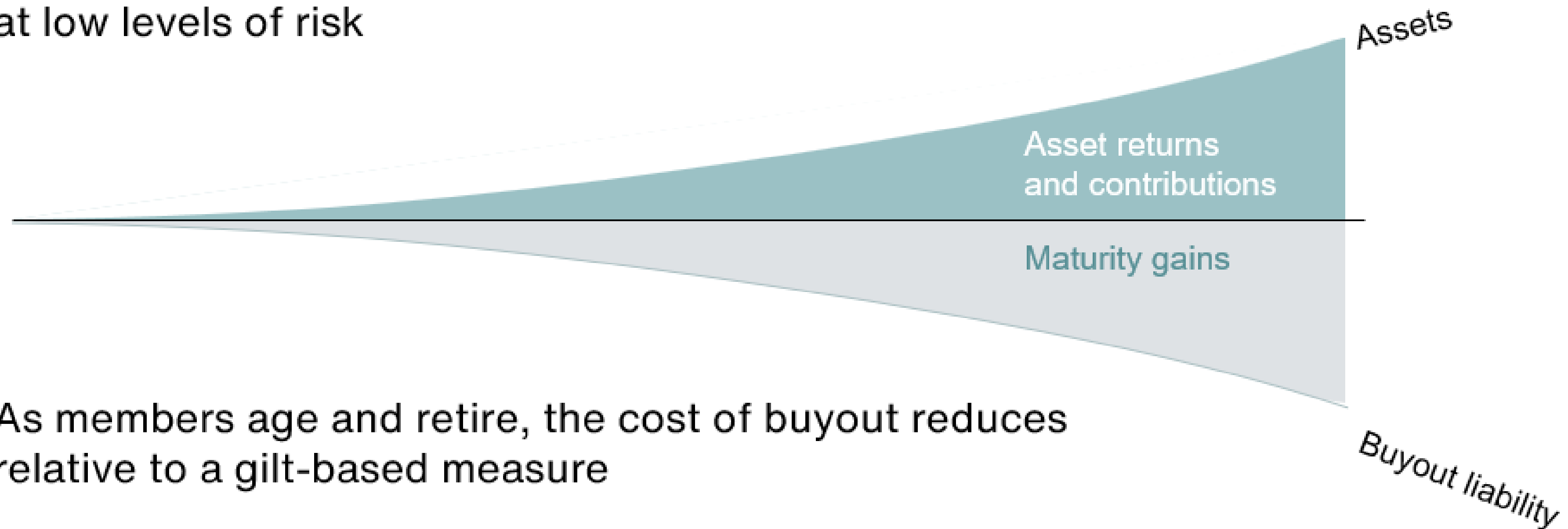
Who Gets the Value/Risk in the Scheme?

Segmenting the DB Market



Generating value: Where does the value come from?

Targeting returns above gilts is achievable
at low levels of risk



As members age and retire, the cost of buyout reduces
relative to a gilt-based measure



Rule of thumb: up to £2M p.a. surplus per £100M of pension liability*

*Based on a model scheme fully-funded on solvency, targeting returns of gilts + 1% to 1.5%

Suitability

Which schemes are appropriate for active run on?



Well-funded schemes

At least 90%+ of solvency



“Mid to large” size

Surplus generation must comfortably cover expenses, unless running on for paternalistic reasons



Good covenant

Adequate and decent visibility



Insurance buyout may be better solution for many schemes or where sponsor wants to transfer risk.

After a short or long period of run on most schemes will still buy out.

Active run on is not a once and for all decision

Aon's Active Solution To Run On (ASTRO)

A framework for considering run on

Stable, buyout-aware investments

- Low investment volatility versus buyout
- Conscious outperformance to deliver value

Multi-layer protection

- Strong contributing employer
- Regular covenant monitoring
- Funding buffer and/or security against default

Member benefit

- Maintain member support, options and factors
- Potential for future discretionary increases

Sponsor payback

- Rewarded for ongoing risk
- Expect c2% pa surplus generation

>99.5%*

accrued benefit payout

110%**

15-20%*

20 year value released

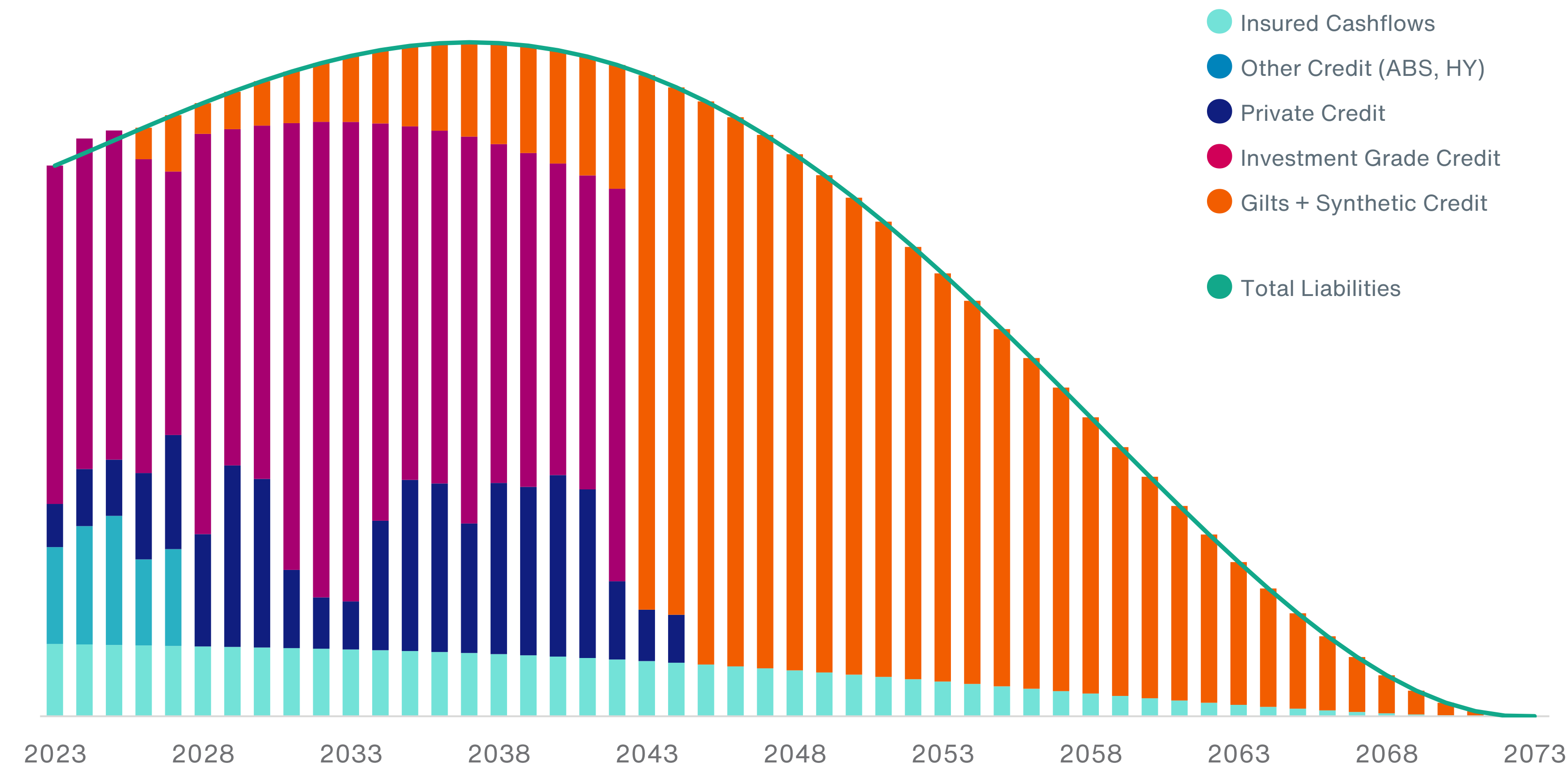
10-14%**

*Average proportion of benefits paid/insured, based on a BBB employer, £1Bn scheme 100% solvency funded with a 20-year core ASTRO run on. 100% of solvency surplus released to the employer.

**1/3rd surplus distributed to members

How To Do It – Invest Like an Insurer?

Cashflow Driven Investing



0.8%
historic 5-year
investment grade
default¹

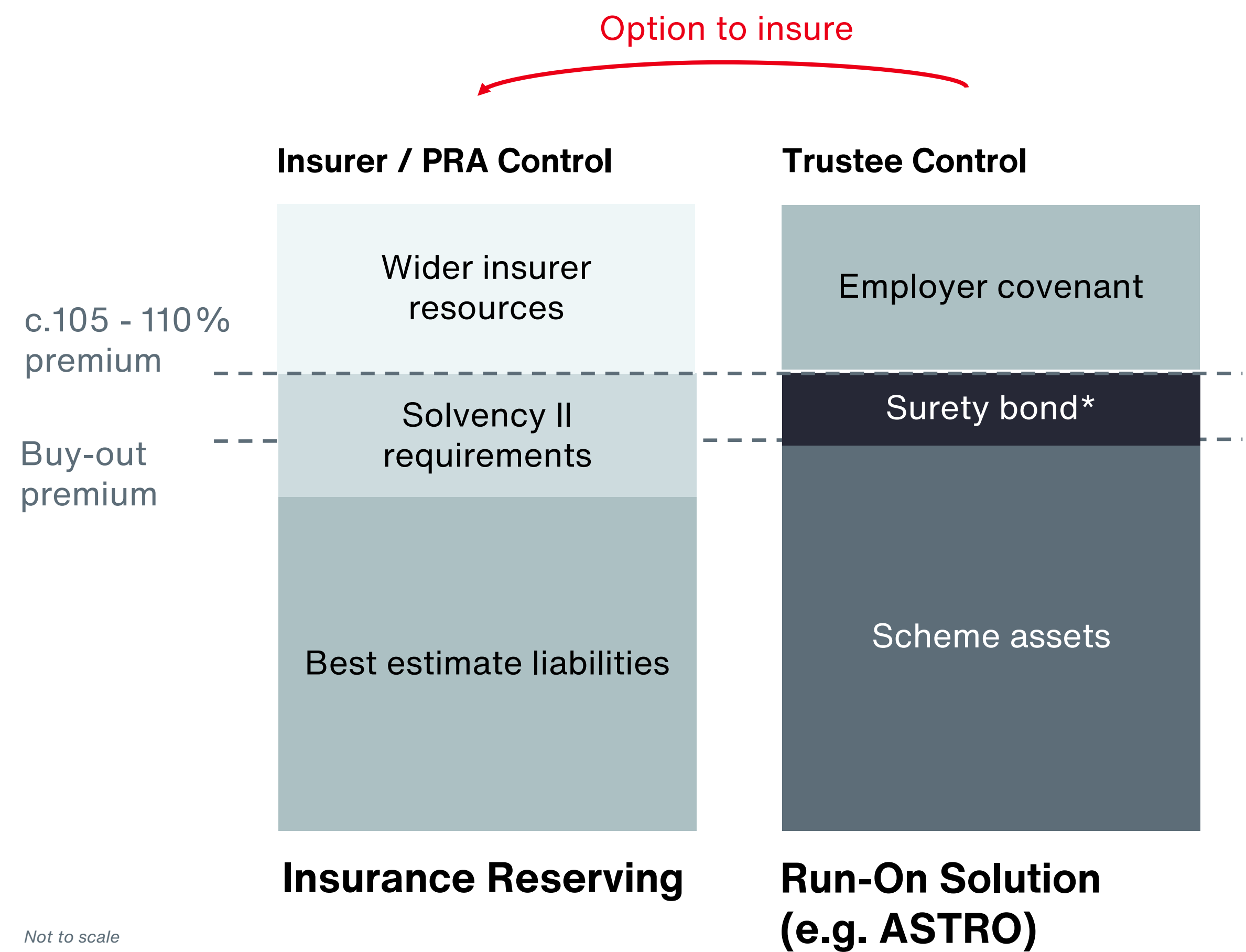
1.8%
historic 10-year
investment grade
default¹

Subject to consideration of integration with LDI mandates

¹ S&P 2022

How Secure Is It?

Comparison to Insurance



When Does It Fail?

Rapid insolvency of strong covenant

+

Market shock or Longevity shock

+

Exceeds capital (and surety) buffers

Aon modelling shows

> 99.5%

benefit security*

*Average proportion of benefits paid/insured, based on a £1Bn scheme
100% solvency funded, BBB sponsor with a 20-year core ASTRO run on.
100% of solvency surplus released to the employer.

The Pay-Off



Members

- Still open to accrual
- Discretionary pension increases
- Other general discretions
- Member options
- Support at retirement



Sponsor

- Compensation for risk / support
- Contribution subsidy (move DC into trust?)
- Meet expenses
- Refund of surplus (if permitted?)

15-20%

20-year value released

With 1/3 share:

110%

Member benefits

10-15%

20-year value released

**Average proportion of benefits paid/insured, based on a £1Bn scheme 100% solvency funded with a 20-year core ASTRO run on. Figures shown after tax and discounted to NPV.*

Discussion



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Break

Restart at 10:45

**PENSIONS AND
LIFETIME SAVINGS
ASSOCIATION**

SOUTH EAST

Lifetime Savings Initiative

 **PMI** | **Schroders**

Mission Statement of the LSI

“

To look across the entire UK savings system and identify actionable recommendations for industry and policy makers that solve key pain points preventing people from being able to secure their financial future, and in doing so, create a more sustainable national Lifetime Savings Model.

”

Timeline

Stage 1:
Defining the challenges



Stage 2:
Identifying solutions



Stage 3:
Delivering change



Create a view of the current
Lifetime Savings journey through
the lens of everyday savers and
identify the **key pain points**



Because it matters



Financial resilience

- 1 in 4** Households have low financial resilience¹
- 46%** Have less than £1,000 in household savings²
- 44%** Reduced likelihood of falling into 'problem debt' with £1,000 in savings³



Housing

- 64%** Home ownership across the UK (down from 71% 10 years ago)⁴
- 3x** More people projected to be renters in retirement within 20 years⁵
- 9% p.a.** Average contributions to cover cost of rent in retirement (from age 22)⁶



Long-term savings

- 1.8tn** Total household savings sitting in cash (vs. FTSE 100 mk cap £1.9 tn)⁷
- 3%** Av. millennial households predicted to reach PLSA moderate standards⁸
- 8%** Of UK consumers received financial advice⁹

Sources: ¹FCA (2023). ²Finder (2024). ³Stepchange (2017). ⁴ONS (2003,2022). ⁵PPI (2023). ⁶Schroders analysis based on ONS and PPI data (2023). ⁷The Times (2023). ⁸The Peoples Pension (2022). ⁹FCA (2022).

Drivers underpinning our lifetime savings 'pinch points'



Affordability



Societal shifts



Financial Literacy



Engagement/
Support



Culture



Behavioural
biases



Accessibility



Complexity



Housing specific
factors

Timeline

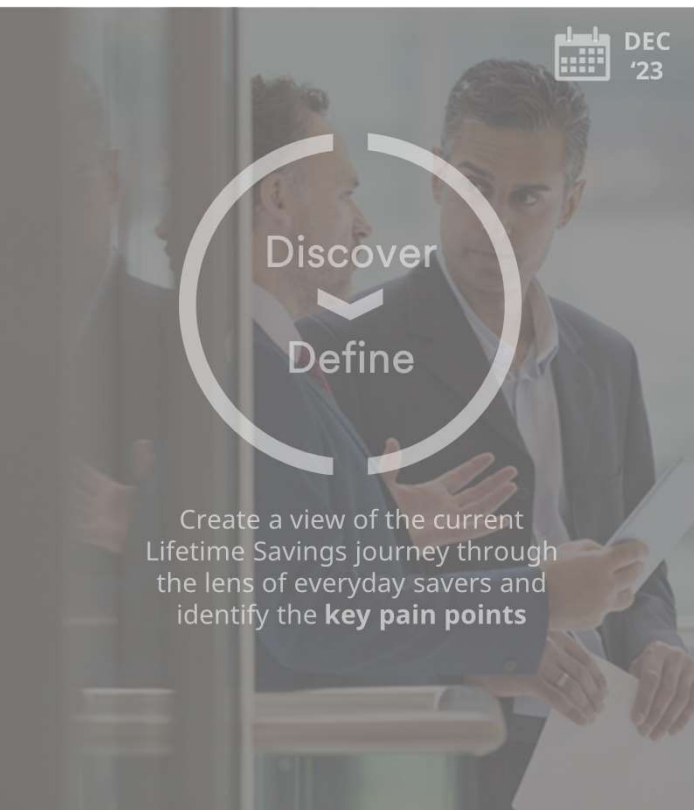
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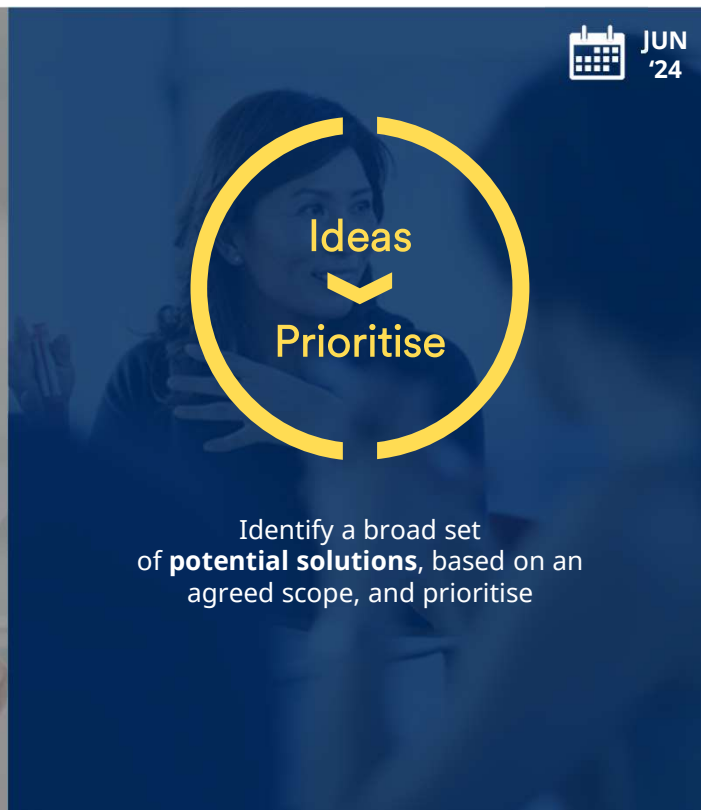


DEC '23




Discover
↓
Define

Create a view of the current Lifetime Savings journey through the lens of everyday savers and identify the **key pain points**



JUN '24

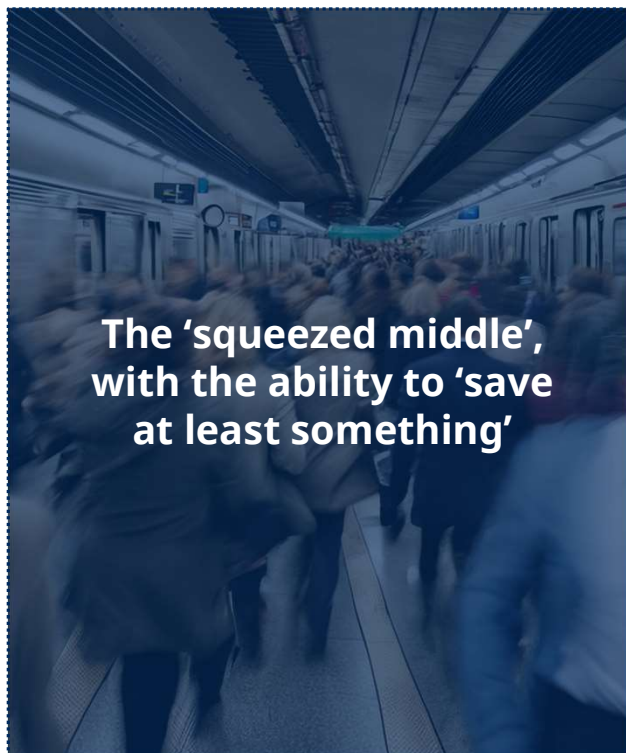


Ideas
↓
Prioritise

Identify a broad set of **potential solutions**, based on an agreed scope, and prioritise



The who, the what and the how



To improve financial outcomes:

- ① Improve financial resilience by building up **rainy day savings**
- ② Support **home ownership** by helping first-time buyers save for a deposit
- ③ Improve retirement adequacy through increased **long-term savings rates**



Lessons from Home and Abroad: Our top 5 takeaways

- ① The UK pension system is less flexible than in other countries
- ② When people are given greater pension freedoms, they take them
- ③ Inertia is a powerful tool, but needs to be used with caution
- ④ We must recognise the limitations of affordability
- ⑤ Interesting ideas for change are already being discussed



Timeline

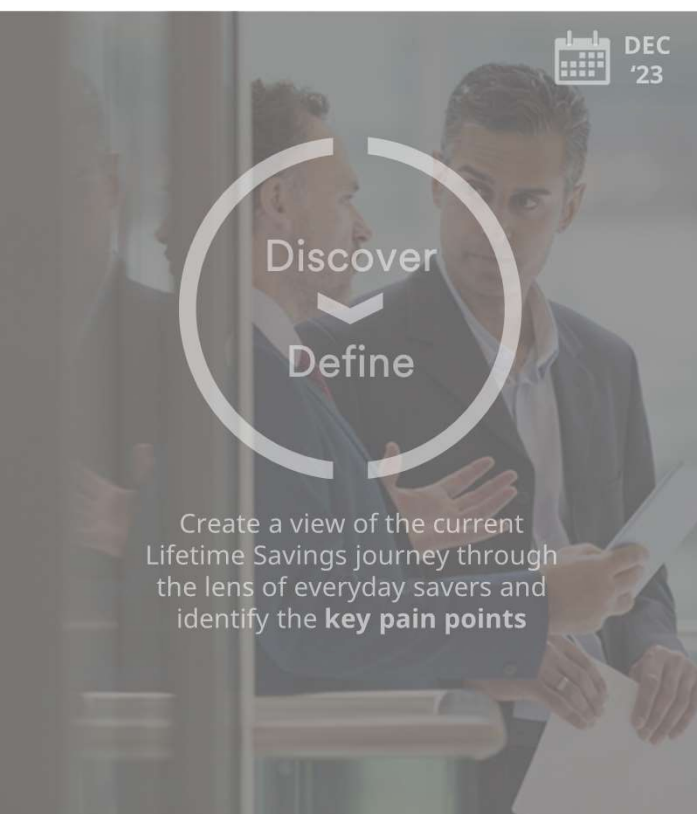
Stage 1:
Defining the challenges




Stage 2:
Identifying solutions



Stage 3:
Delivering change

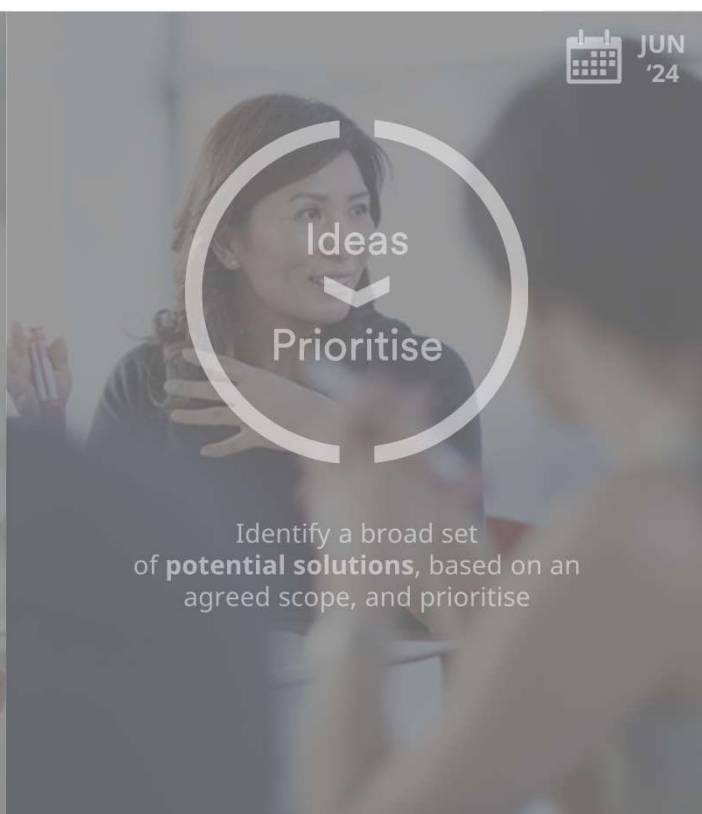


DEC '23




Discover
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Define

Create a view of the current Lifetime Savings journey through the lens of everyday savers and identify the **key pain points**

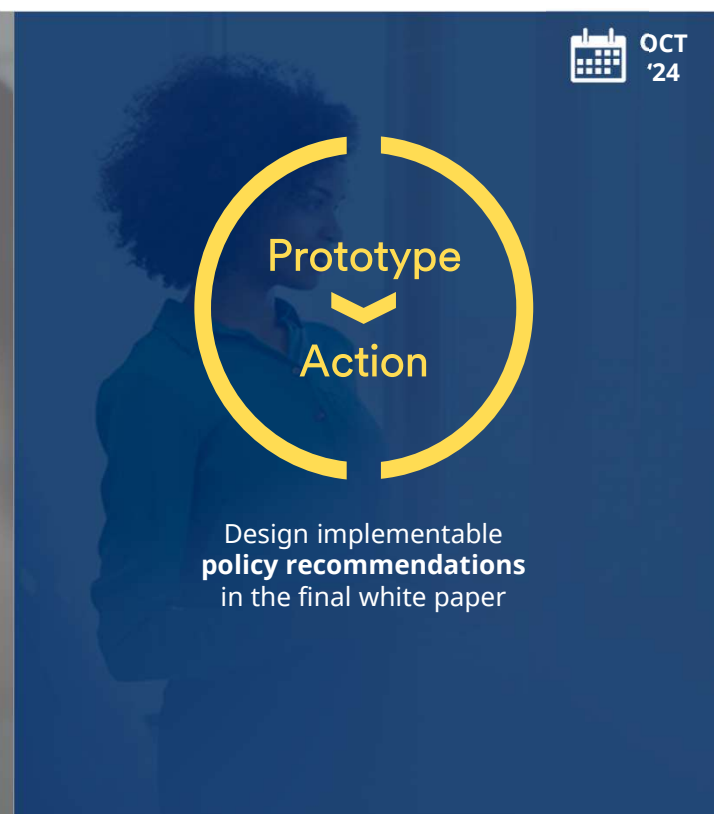


JUN '24




Ideas
↓
Prioritise

Identify a broad set of **potential solutions**, based on an agreed scope, and prioritise



OCT '24



Prototype
↓
Action

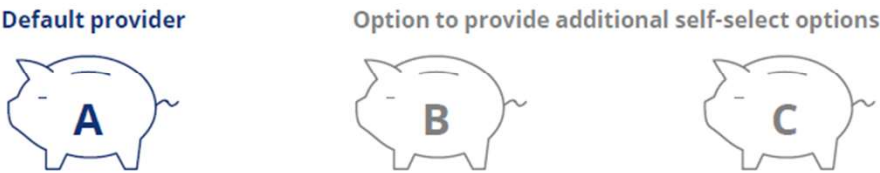
Design implementable **policy recommendations** in the final white paper

National Short-term Savings Plan

1. **Employer** sets the default contribution rate



2. **Pension Scheme Trustees or IGC** select a default provider



3. **Employer** sets the recommended limit



*£1,000 is referred to as a sensible target based on research by StepChange. This amount of liquid savings cuts the chances of going into problem debt by almost a half.

A National Short-term Savings Plan (NSSP)

A National Lifetime Savings Plan (NLSP)

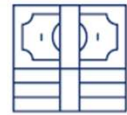
National Lifetime Savings Plan

Pension contributions

Current auto-enrolment minimums

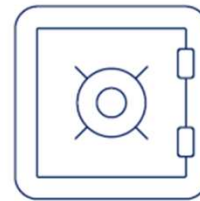


Additional contributions



Pension (pre-55)

Inaccessible



Accessible before age 55

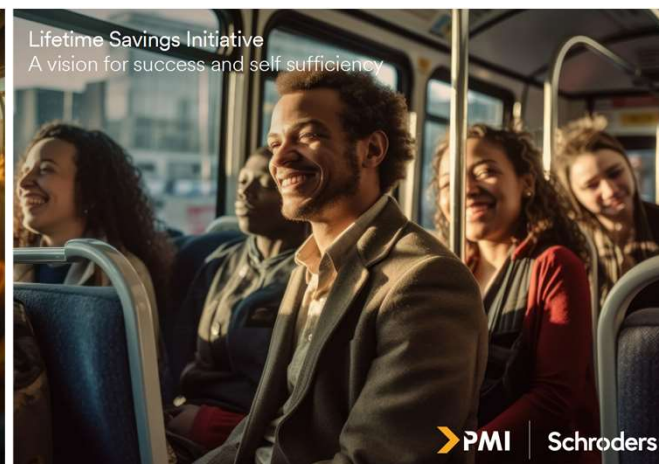


First-time buyers

Qualifying
debt repayment

Where can I find out more?

- [The Lifetime Savings Initiative \(schroders.com\)](https://www.schroders.com)





THANK YOU



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PRESENTATION TO SOUTH EAST GROUP

24 October 2024

Justin Wray

Head of DB, LGPS & Investment

Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association

PLSA PRIORITIES

FIVE STEPS TO BETTER PENSIONS



OUR PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES: 2024

Our Strategic Priority for 2024 is **Pensions and Growth**.

Our other key priority is our **Vision 35**: how we would like the Pensions Landscape to look in the next ten years.

2024 Priority Projects:

- ▶ **Better DC**: Promoting improved pension adequacy, an effective value for money framework, supporting proposals to provide savers with more help at retirement and developing solutions to the proliferation of small pots.
- ▶ **The Future of DB**: Advocating for a wide range of options to ensure the payments of benefits to members, helping open DB schemes to thrive and closed DB pension schemes to run on self-sufficiently or to consolidate into DB Master Trusts, Superfunds or to buyout with an insurer.
- ▶ **Tomorrow's LGPS**: Supporting the orderly transition of fund assets into the eight pools, producing practical guidance to help the scheme with challenges identified in a **2022 report** by the PLSA, and advocating for progress to continue on the ongoing Good Governance Project.
- ▶ **Engagement**: The PLSA will work on initiatives like the Pensions Dashboards, the Advice/Guidance Boundary and the Retirement Living Standards, which are aimed at promoting saver understanding and confidence with pensions.
- ▶ **Responsible Investment**: In 2024 the PLSA will publish its annual Stewardship & Voting Guidelines and engage with a range of associated topics such as the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the 'S' in ESG and the Green Taxonomy initiative.
- ▶ **Governance and Administration**: This theme is about ensuring trustees of pensions schemes, and their supporting teams, have the skills, knowledge and understanding to ensure the right pension is paid to the right people at the right time. Engaging with the Pension Trustee Skills, Capability and Culture consultation is a key pillar of this work.

PENSIONS PRIORITIES FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF A NEW GOVERNMENT

1. Support adequate pension saving

1. Extend auto-enrolment
2. Roadmap for raising a/e contributions
3. Scope of a/e

2. Help savers navigate choices at retirement

1. Statutory duty for trustees on decumulation support

3. Support well run DB schemes

1. Funding code
2. Superfunds

4. Surplus release

5. Bridge the Pensions and Growth gap

1. Value for money
2. Pipeline of assets
3. Investment incentives

6. Support the Local Government Pension Scheme

1. Good governance review

GOVERNMENT'S PENSION REVIEW

Terms of reference:

“The Chancellor has launched a landmark pensions review to boost investment, increase saver returns and tackle waste in the pensions system.

The first phase of the review will focus on developing policy in four areas:

1. Driving scale and consolidation of defined contribution workplace schemes;
2. Tackling fragmentation and inefficiency in the Local Government Pension Scheme through consolidation and improved governance;
3. The structure of the pensions ecosystem and achieving a greater focus on value to deliver better outcomes for future pensioners, rather than cost; and
4. Encouraging further pension investment into UK assets to boost growth across the country.”

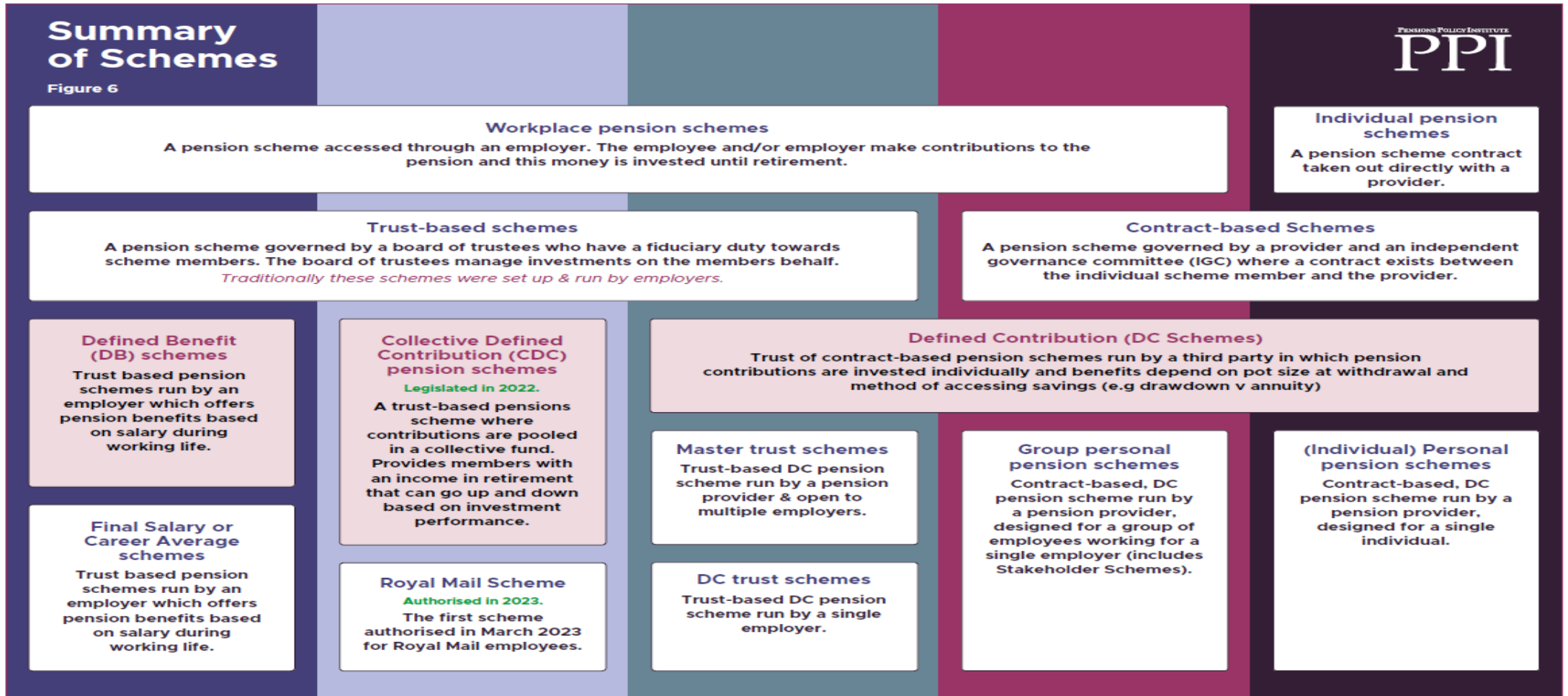
PLSA RESPONSE TO PENSIONS REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE

1. Positive but realistic
 - a. Increase investment by pension funds in UK valid goal
 - b. Lots of parties need to take action
2. Incentives rather than mandation
 - a. Make UK investments more attractive
 - b. Mandation: distorting; impact on members: outcomes and trust; impact on fiduciary duty and investment freedom
1. Support consolidation: greater investment expertise and more diverse capital allocation
2. Consolidation would not automatically increase investment in UK:
3. Starting point is not dire:
4. Consolidation should be voluntary and in the interests of members; single employer trusts for those that want them
5. Greater focus on value and not just cost
6. Adequate pensions, and the supply of pension fund finance for investment, would be enhanced by gradually increasing contributions.

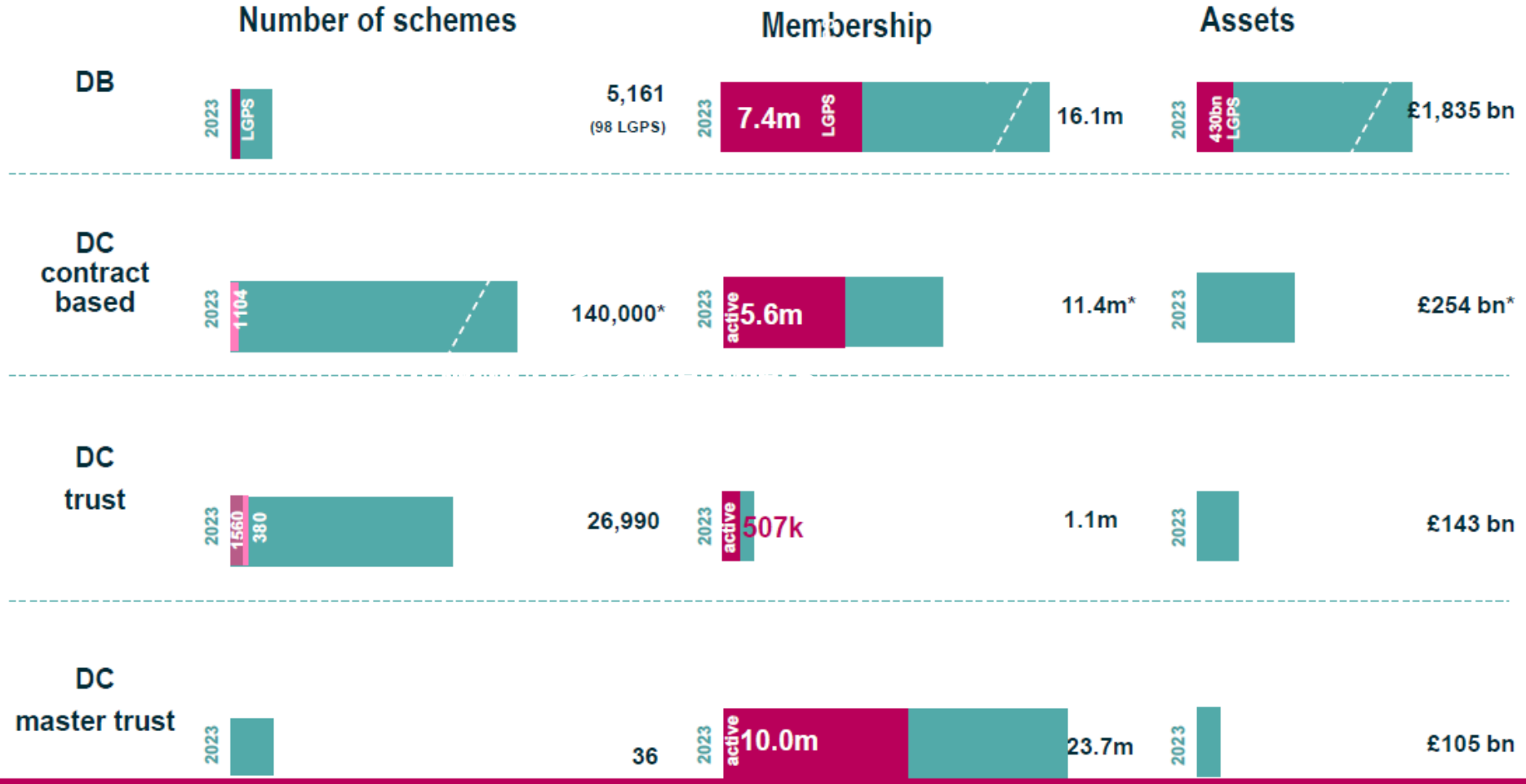
PENSIONS LANDSCAPE

The background features a large, abstract geometric design on the right side. It consists of several overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of teal and turquoise. A solid magenta bar runs horizontally across the bottom of the slide, partially overlapping the teal shapes.

TYPES OF PENSION

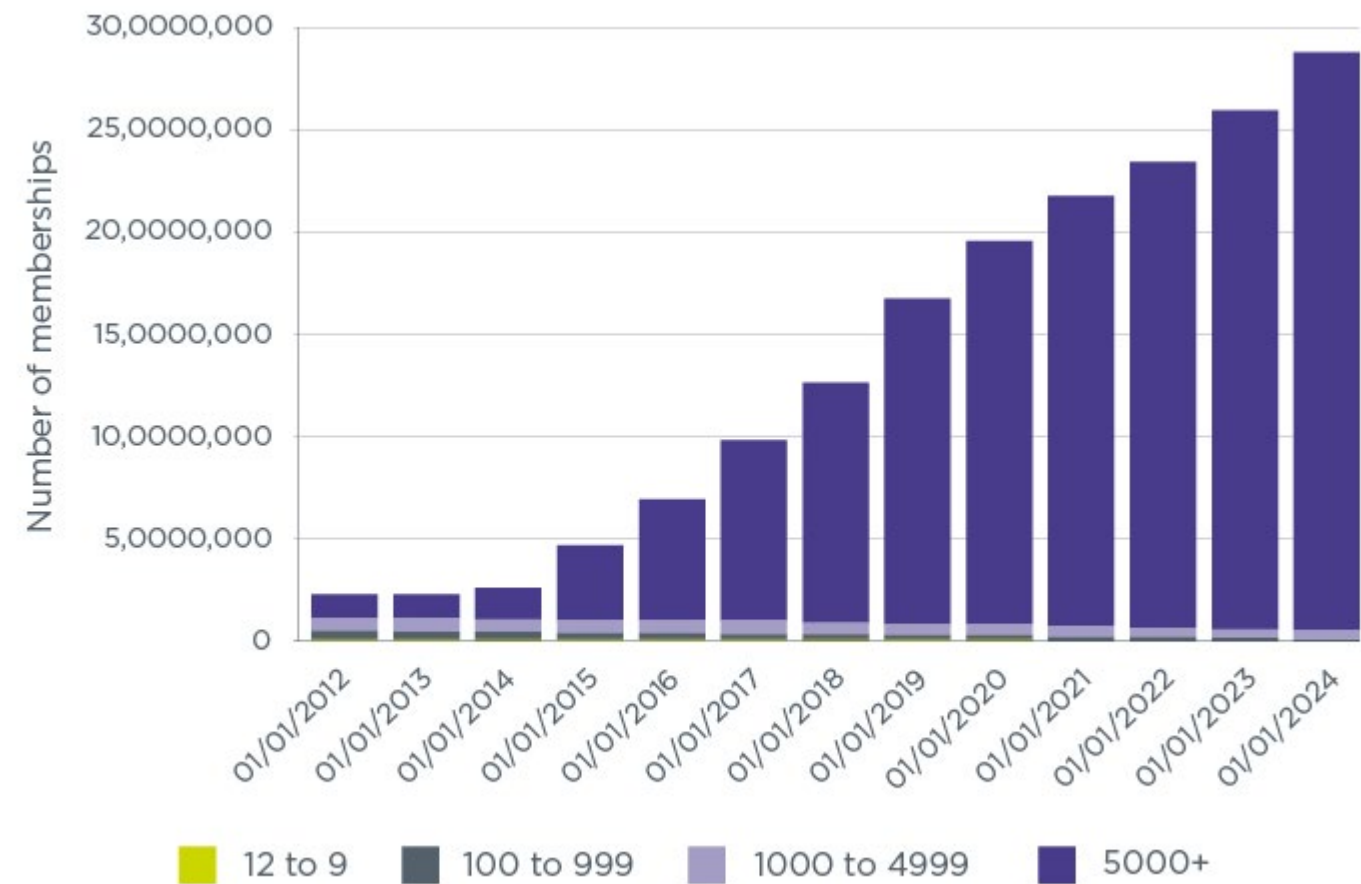


OVERVIEW OF UK WORKPLACE PENSION SCHEMES

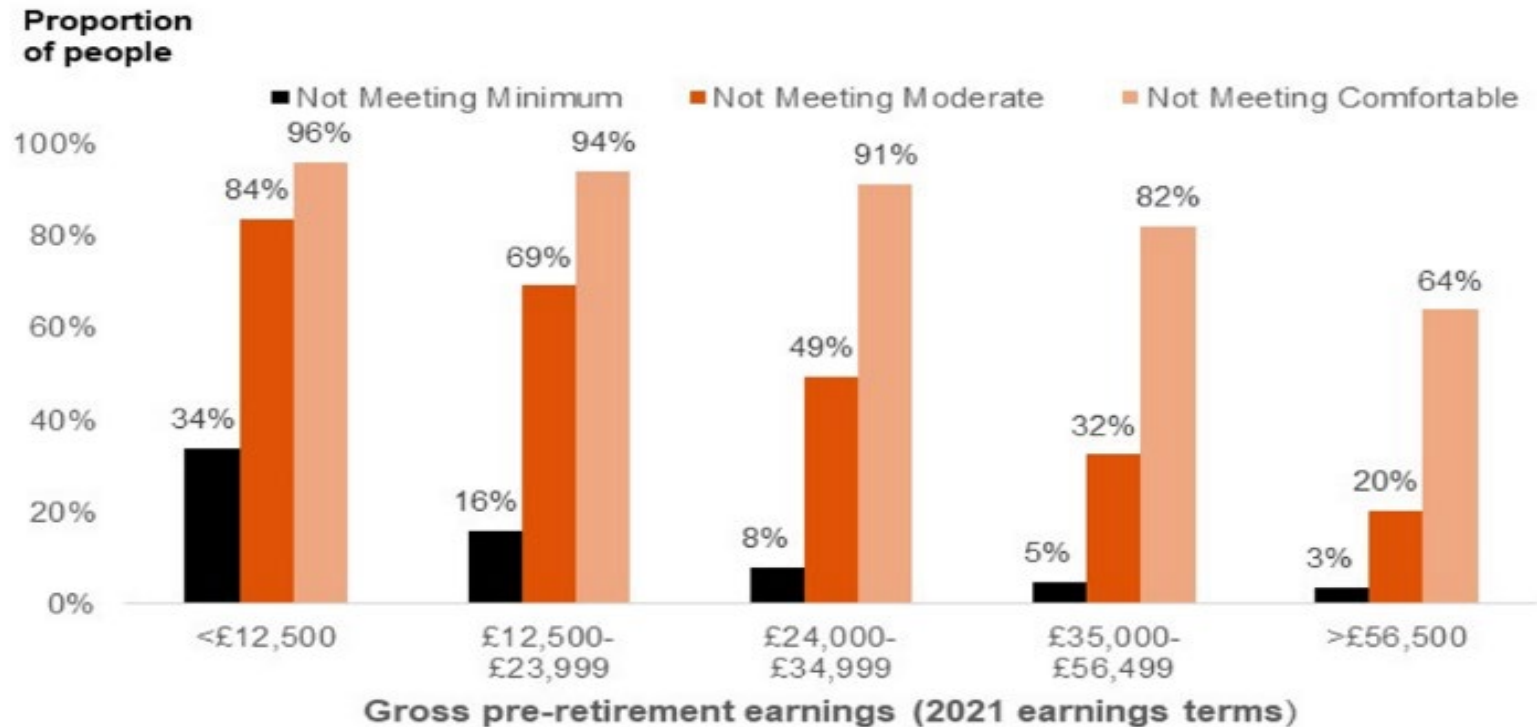


Sources – *Broadridge Navigator 2022, TPR, PPF, LGPS

IMPACT OF AUTO-ENROLMENT



ADEQUACY: PROPORTION OF WORKING AGE PROJECTED NOT TO MEET PLSA RETIREMENT LIVING STANDARDS



The median value among those aged 50–59 with a DC pension was £33,500 in 2018–20, compared with around £220,500 for the estimated value of the DB pension promise

PLSA ACTIVITIES

Welcome to the PLSA member area

Access member-only resources and community discussions.



James Walsh





It's time to pay your pension some attention!

Ellie Carric in Member Community about 5 hours ago

Discussion

Today marks the launch of the third Pension Attention campaign, with reality TV star

Quick Links

-  Annual Conference 2024
-  Made Simple Guides

CONFERENCES 2025 – A LOOK AHEAD



Investment Conference
Edinburgh
11-13 March

❓ **Local Authority Conference**
Wyboston Lakes,
16-18 June

❓ **Annual Conference**
Manchester
14-16 October

POLICY INSIGHTS WEBINARS

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2024 | POLICY INSIGHTS WEBINAR
THE BUDGET AND PENSIONS REVIEW

A PLSA update

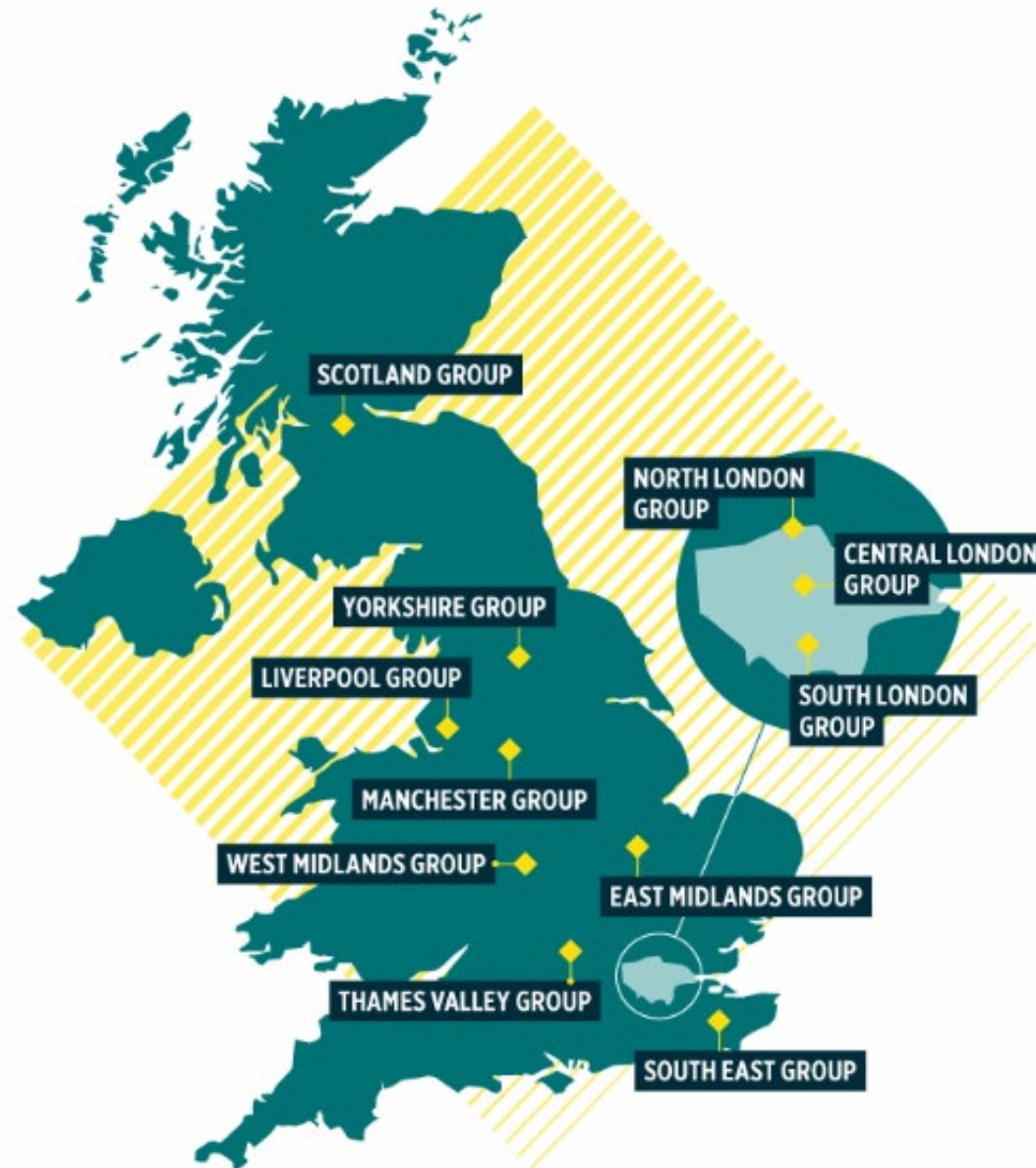
BOOK NOW

**The Budget and
Pension Review**
6 November

2025 Look ahead
5 December



LOCAL GROUPS





Face Forward campaign summary

The Pension Attention campaign is a coordinated annual industry campaign led by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) to boost pensions awareness and engagement.

This year, we're calling on the industry to help us achieve our greatest impact to date by rallying together around one shared mission: to inspire the nation to engage with their pension. We're doing this by targeting consumers with a simple and clear educational message that guides them towards greater knowledge and greater action, **with three simple steps:**



Creative resources

The campaign offers a range of assets for supporters to use, including:

Social media static assets



Poster artwork for employer comms



Logos, files, formats and usage guidelines





[Find your lost pension pots >](#)

QUESTIONS?

Thank you

Please join us for lunch here until 13:30

**PENSIONS AND
LIFETIME SAVINGS
ASSOCIATION**
SOUTH EAST