

News Release

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SOCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS ROLE DC PENSION SCHEMES HAVE IN ADVANCING UK GROWTH AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES

LONDON – 01 April 2026 Columbia Threadneedle Investments, a leading global asset management group, today underlined the vital role Pension Funds, including UK defined contribution (DC) pension schemes and Master Trusts, and other asset owners play in supporting national growth and social outcomes. The Big Issue Group Ltd independently produced the **CT UK Social Bond Fund 2025 Annual Social Performance Report**, which sets out how pension schemes can align with the Mansion House Accord’s call for institutions to “back British growth” through increased allocations to UK bonds with measurable social impact.

Now in its twelfth year, the CT UK Social Bond Fund is one of the UK’s leading public-bond strategies focused on inclusive and sustainable development, investing across 153 bonds from 102 issuers, supporting positive social outcomes in communities across all UK regions. Its investments span sectors including affordable housing, clean energy, transport links, digital infrastructure and vital public services, providing tangible benefits to households, workers and local economies while contributing to the nation’s levelling up ambitions.

As highlighted in the report, investing in and integrating solutions such as the CT UK Social Bond Fund into Pension Funds, including DC glidepaths and Master Trusts, provides access to high-quality UK social and sustainability bonds which support national growth and regional development, helping meet the ‘Just Transition’ goals and improved social outcomes. The Fund also helps to scale the UK impact

investment market and provide liquidity and daily dealing appropriate for the DC structure, with the dual objective of providing financial return and positive social impact.

With Pension Funds, including DC pension schemes and Master Trusts, increasing their focus on social impact investing, Columbia Threadneedle believes there is an opportunity to:

- Integrate UK social bonds within default strategies or self-select ranges to align growth objectives with measurable social impact.
- Partner with managers that provide robust, independent impact reporting and transparent frameworks for issuer selection, engagement, and outcomes tracking.
- Use the asset class to diversify credit exposure while supporting economically productive projects across the UK.

Tammie Tang, Portfolio Manager at Columbia Threadneedle Investments commented: “At a time when the Mansion House Accord calls for a transformational step change in the allocation of pension capital to UK growth assets, we believe that investments focused on social outcomes are not only compatible with fiduciary duty but are essential to delivering long term value for savers and society. By investing where capital is most needed, whether in affordable homes, resilient utilities or accessible transport, we strengthen the foundations of inclusive growth across the country.”

“Master Trusts have the scale to transform the reach and impact of retirement savings. Their backing can drive positive change in society while delivering outcomes for members and raising market standards through active engagement and clear outcomes reporting. We believe social-outcomes investing sits at the heart of the next phase of DC pension evolution.”

Nigel Kershaw OBE, Chair of The Big Issue Group, commented: “Through our partnership with Columbia Threadneedle, we’ve shown that investing for social good delivers both real impact and financial returns. The CT UK Social Bond Fund directs capital into the areas that matter most, including affordable housing, clean energy and financial inclusion, helping to support communities across the UK while performing for investors. The Big Issue Group independently evaluates the social impact of every bond, and with 90% of the portfolio rated High or Medium, the results are clear: purposeful investment can help build a fairer, more inclusive economy.”

“This investment approach is fully aligned with the Mansion House Accord’s ambition to channel more investment into productive UK assets. The Fund is already delivering on this vision, with over 80% of its capital invested in the UK, with a clear focus on tackling the structural challenges that hold back growth. It shows that directing capital to where it drives both social value and economic resilience isn’t just possible — it’s essential.”

The CT UK Social Bond Fund’s 2025 Annual Social Performance Report can be accessed [here](#)

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Notes to Editors

About the CT UK Social Bond Fund

Launched in 2013, the CT UK Social Bond Fund is the UK’s first mainstream impact-focused bond fund, offering institutional and retail investors the opportunity to generate financial returns while contributing to positive social outcomes. The Fund targets eight core social outcome areas aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

About Columbia Threadneedle Investments

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset manager, entrusted with US\$721bn¹ on behalf of individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world.

We have approximately 2,200 people including approximately 550 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia². We offer our clients a wide range of strategies across equities, fixed income and alternatives, as well as specialist responsible investment capabilities and a comprehensive suite of solutions.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE:AMP), a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a e large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm.

¹ Ameriprise Q4 2025 results - assets under management and advisement

² As at 31 December 2025, Columbia Threadneedle Investments

More information available [here](#)

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About Big Issue Group

2026 marks 35 years of Big Issue Group. In that time, the Group has helped over 108,000 people earn their own income by selling the magazine – generating £359 million in social value. The Group also supports and invests in other social businesses through Big Issue Invest, backing over 500 organisations to date, with 145 in our current portfolio.

Today, Big Issue Group brings together Big Issue Changing Lives working with our vendors, Big Issue Media magazine and digital journalism, Big Issue Recruit working with employers and candidates to help people facing barriers to work, social investor Big Issue Invest, and Big Issue Impact, an advisory business working with corporate clients to create better social outcomes.

Important information

Capital is at Risk

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