

**PRODUCT:** BlackRock Sterling Strategic Bond Fund (the "**Fund**")

**MANAGER:** BlackRock Fund Managers Limited (the "**Manager**")

**DATE:** 31 March 2025

**FCA PRODUCT REFERENCE NUMBER:** 190628

**This Fund does not have a UK sustainable investment label. Sustainable investment labels help investors find products that have a specific sustainability goal. The Fund does not use a sustainability label because whilst the Fund applies environmental, social or governance ("ESG") commitments within its investment process (as described below), the Fund does not have a specific sustainability goal and the investment strategy of the Fund means it is not able to meet the criteria of any sustainability label.**

**The Fund name currently disclosed in this document is effective from 2 April 2025. Prior to this date, the Fund name was "BlackRock Sustainable Sterling Strategic Bond Fund".**

## Sustainability Approach

The ESG commitments applied by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited (the "**IM**") when seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective comprises: (i) applying the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens; and (ii) seeking to reduce the carbon emission intensity score of the Fund relative to the Index (as defined below). In addition, the Investment Manager will use the PEXT/NEXT framework to identify issuers which contribute to the Fund's carbon emission reduction aim, as set out below.

### *BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens*

In respect of corporate issuers only, the Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. In applying the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, the IM will limit and/or exclude (as applicable) direct investment in corporate issuers which have exposure to, or ties with, the following sectors (in some cases subject to specific revenue thresholds): controversial weapons or nuclear weapons, firearms or small arms ammunition intended for retail to civilians, fossil fuels, tobacco, or issuers that are non-compliant with the UN Global Compact Principles. A full list of the limits and/or exclusions being applied by the IM at any time in accordance with the above BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens (including any specific threshold criteria) is available at <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf>.

### *Reduction in carbon emission intensity score*

The Fund also actively aims to achieve, in respect of only the corporate issuers (i.e. companies) in which it invests, a carbon emission intensity that is 20% lower than the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Bond Index (the "**Index**"), as calculated on a quarterly basis.

### *PEXT / NEXT framework*

In seeking to achieve the Fund's carbon emission reduction aim, the Investment Manager will employ a proprietary methodology to assess all issuers and issues based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Manager.

The Investment Manager will seek to weight the Fund's portfolio away from investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities ("**NEXT**") (for example, higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) and towards investments that are deemed to have positive externalities ("**PEXT**") (for example, issuers rapidly decarbonising, green/social bonds or other holdings with associated positive environmental and social outcomes). The PEXT/NEXT framework is applied to all investments made by the Fund (including any indirect investment in assets). However, the Fund may have exposure to investments that have negative externalities and the Investment Manager makes no commitment in relation to the extent by which it will weight the Fund's portfolio away from NEXT investments and towards PEXT investments.

## Sustainability Metrics

The following table provides information about the performance of the Fund's sustainability metrics during the reference period which is from 1 March 2024 to 31 August 2024. Unless otherwise stated below, the figures presented are based on the carbon emission intensity scores as at the end of each calendar quarter during this reference period, which are averaged to produce the single figure shown in the table below.

Sustainability Metric	Description of Metric	Fund achievement	Index achievement
<b>BlackRock EMEA baseline screens</b>	# of advertent breaches	No advertent breaches	Not applicable
<b>Carbon emission intensity score</b>	Carbon emission intensity score relative to the Index Target: 20% lower than the Index	74.00 (63% lower than the Index)	197.00

The carbon emission intensity score of the Fund's portfolio will be calculated by aggregating the weighted carbon emission intensity scores attributed only to the corporate issuers in which the Fund invests. Securities issued by non-corporate issuers in which the Fund invests such as fixed income securities issued by governments, government agencies and supranationals, which may (in aggregate) represent a material portion of the Fund's total assets, are not included. The calculation includes Scope 1 greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions and Scope 2 GHG emissions but excludes Scope 3 GHG emissions and is based on reported sales.

#### Additional Information

**Pre-contractual disclosure:** Please see the Fund's prospectus, which is available by searching the name of the Fund on the following website: [www.blackrock.com/uk/education/library](http://www.blackrock.com/uk/education/library).

**Product-level sustainability report:** Not currently available.

**Sustainability entity report:** Not currently available.

**Other non-sustainability related information:** Please see the Fund's key investor information document, which is available by searching the name of the Fund on the following website: <https://www.blackrock.com/uk/solutions/library/gls-library-uk?materialType=kiid>.