

COUNTY COUNCIL – 6 FEBRUARY 2018

QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Esme Needham, Hastings, East Sussex

The World Bank has recently announced that it will stop investing in oil and gas projects from 1 April 2018. Likewise, Norway's central bank – which manages the country's \$1 trillion Sovereign Wealth Fund – has recently announced that it will be ditching its holdings in oil and gas, and New York City's five pension funds – with \$189 billion of assets – will be divesting from fossil fuels over the next five years. Given these developments, will the East Sussex Pension Fund review its current policy of “engagement” with the likes of Shell, Exxon and BP, and follow the lead being set by New York City?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The East Sussex Pension Committee reviewed its Investments Beliefs document at its last quarterly meeting, on 27 November 2017. It amended its first belief to read: 'Climate change presents a financial risk to the future investment returns from the East Sussex Fund. However, the impacts of climate change on the returns from the Fund in the future are unknown and the Fund will continue to monitor the risk associated with investment in fossil fuels'.

The Pension Committee continually keeps under review its policy on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and this is included in the Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) which will be reviewed at its next quarterly meeting on 26 February. The Fund will continue to engage with the investment fund managers, through its ownership of assets and will continue to receive support via the LAPFF

2. Question from Peter Newell, Lewes, East Sussex

Is the Pension Committee aware of the recently-launched Lofoten Declaration – signed by over 220 organisations from 55 countries – which recognises ‘the need for immediate and ambitious action to stop exploration and expansion of fossil fuel projects and manage the decline of existing production in line with what is necessary to achieve the Paris climate goals’?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The East Sussex Pension Committee welcomes the Lofoten Declaration to raise awareness of the need to manage the decline of existing production in line with what is necessary to achieve the Paris climate goals.

3. Question from Zuher Panju, Stoke Association, East Sussex

Will there be any services available for stroke survivors that are accessible to local residents and that will have a stroke focus in place of the Stroke Association if the budget proposals are agreed by the Council?

Response by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The proposed cuts by the County Council are 50% of the total funding to the current service provided by the Stroke Association's Stroke Recovery Service. The three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in East Sussex fund the other 50% of the service. This means that whilst the service may be reduced there will still be voluntary sector stroke specific services available to stroke survivors and their carers.

No final decision about the funding of this service will be made until a consultation has taken place. As part of this consultation process, which will be undertaken jointly with the CCGs, we will identify which elements of the current service have the greatest impact so that these are maintained as part of a reduced service. We are also asking stroke survivors and their carers to tell us about other services which they know about that provide stroke-specific services and this will help inform our Equality Impact Assessment.

In addition both East Sussex Healthcare Trust and Sussex Community Foundation Trust provide stroke rehabilitation services in the community. Stroke rehabilitation beds are commissioned at Bexhill Irvine Unit and Sussex Rehabilitation Centre. The County Council also, subject to eligibility, supports stroke survivors and their carers through care packages and Direct Payments.

There are also a number of commissioned and non-commissioned services for all people needing help in East Sussex that can provide information and support services to stroke survivors and their carers.

4. Question from Maria Litchfield, Stroke Association, East Sussex

What is the rationale for cutting funding to the Stroke Association service which only 1 year ago gained a new contract because it was deemed to be delivering positive outcomes for stroke survivors?

Response by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The County Council is fully committed to doing the very best it can to support and protect vulnerable people, but the hard truth is we have to do that with falling funding and rising demand. After several years of budget reductions we are therefore faced with difficult choices and have to prioritise funding for services that enable us to meet our statutory duties to those with critical and substantial care needs. As a consequence we have no alternative but to consider reductions in the funding of preventative provision, including highly valued services such as those provided by the Stroke Association.

If the County Council does agree to seek savings in this area, we will consult all those affected by the proposal before any final decision is made to make changes to these services. We will also work with the Stroke Association, if the final decision is to remove funding, to ensure the remaining NHS resources are focused on those areas which will most benefit people that need support.

5. Question from Dirk Campbell, Lewes, East Sussex

On 5 December 2017 Councillor Stogdon stated that 'there is no local authority pension fund in this country which has adopted the policy which the questioner suggests (i.e. divesting from fossil fuels) and for very good reason.' In fact both Waltham Forest and Southwark pension funds have publicly committed to divesting from fossil fuels. What is the Pension Committee's position in the light of this fact?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Pension Committee's fiduciary duty will always be to ensure that it has sufficient funds available to pay pensions when they fall due.

The East Sussex Fund is a member of LAPFF and receives regular reports and advice from them. The advice from LAPFF and also from the leading ESG policy maker within the LGPS, the Environment Agency Pension Fund, is not to divest from fossil fuel investments but to engage with companies.

The Fund does not comment on the investment decision of others

6. Question from Emma Richardson, Stroke Association East Sussex

How will you ensure that hard to reach groups/ individuals with communication difficulties are truly heard in the consultation regarding Adult Social Care savings proposals?

Response by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The stroke specific part of the consultation survey is being designed using aphasia guidelines to ensure this is as accessible as possible. The survey will be posted to all current clients of the Stroke Recovery Service and clients will be offered help to complete this by the Stroke Association. We are also encouraging individuals to submit films or other forms of media if they do not wish to complete the survey.

In addition we are holding three consultation events in East Sussex which are specifically for stroke survivors and their carers and we are working with the Stroke Association to ensure these are accessible. At these events, Stroke survivors and their carers will have the opportunity to complete the survey and there will be additional support available if required.

7. Question from Julia Hilton, Hastings, East Sussex

According to an addition to the minutes of the September 2017 Pension Committee, agreed at last November's Pension Committee meeting, the Committee agreed to 'request that Hymans Robertson provide a report on whether there is a viable low carbon equity fund that could achieve the same or better rate of return compared to other passively managed equity funds.' When will this report be presented to the Pension Committee, and, when it is, will its contents be made public?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Hymans Robertson paper on “Proposed equity allocations” was presented at the 27 November 2017 committee meeting, this included a section on low carbon equity funds, and the East Sussex Pension Fund approved the investment of a 5% allocation to UBS Climate Aware World Equity fund. The Committee has also commissioned a report to measure the Fund’s carbon footprint. The provider for this measurement service will be Trucost and they will present to the next meeting of the Committee on 26 February.

8. Question from Fran Witt, Lewes, East Sussex

In answer to a supplementary question from the public on 5 December 2017, Councillor Stogdon refused to acknowledge that, were the East Sussex Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels it ‘would not be alone in doing so’. Indeed, Cllr Stogdon replied that ‘the answer to this question is no fundamentally.’

How does Cllr Stogdon reconcile this response with the following list of institutions, all of which have made public commitments to fully divest from fossil fuels:

ALTIS, Alta Scuola Impresa e Società dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, APRA/AMCOS, Abdij OLV van Nazareth, Abracadabra Retirement Fund, Abramowitz-Silverman Fund, Access Strategies Fund, Alingsås Government, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Alleycat Super Fund, Alternative Bank Schweiz, American Ethical Union, American Public Health Association, Anderson Peters Super Fund, Anglican Church of Aotearoa, Anglican Diocese of Auckland, Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Anglican Diocese of Dunedin, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, Anglican Diocese of Montreal, Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI, Anglican Diocese of Perth, Anglican Diocese of Waiapu, Anglican Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki, Anglican Diocese of Wellington, Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, Archdiocese of Cape Town, Aria Foundation, The Arkay Foundation, Auckland Council, Australian Academy of Science, Australian Capital Territory, Australian Ethical, Australian Guild of Screen Composers, Australian Jesuit Province, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), Ballina Shire Council, Banyule City Council, Barnegat Monthly Meeting, Barnett Super Wealthy Fund, Barry Family Super Fund, Bass Coast Shire, Bathurst Street United Church, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, The Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation, Bewegungsstiftung, Bioregional, The Blumenthal Foundation, Booth Super Fund, Bordeaux, Bordeaux Métropole, Boston Church of the Covenant, MA, Both ENDS Foundation, Bournemouth University, Brevard College, Brighthelm Church and Community Centre, Brinstones Super, Bristol Quaker Area Meeting, British Medical Association, Broederlijk Delen, The Bullitt Foundation, Byron Shire Council, California Academy of Sciences, California Institute of the Arts, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Unitarian Council (national), ON, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Catherine Donnelly Foundation, Catholic Action for Animals, Catholic Welfare and Development, Cecily Dignan Superannuation Fund, Center for Action and Contemplation, The Center for Humans & Nature, Center for International Environmental Law, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Chalmers University of Technology, Chicago Medical Society, Chico State University, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Chilterns Quaker Area Meeting,

Chino Cienga Foundation, The Chorus Foundation, Christensen Foundation, Church of Sweden, Church of the Covenant, Presbytery of Boston, MA, Church of the Redeemer, Diocese of Newark, NJ, Citizens for Public Justice, City Council of Eindhoven, City of Albury, City of Amherst, MA, City of Ann Arbor, MI, City of Armadale, City of Ashland, OR, City of Ballarat, City of Bayfield, WI, City of Belfast, ME, City of Berkeley, CA, City of Berlin, City of Borås, City of Boulder, CO, City of Boxtel, City of Brisbane, CA, City of Cambridge, MA, City of Concord, MA, City of Copenhagen, City of Corvallis, OR, City of Dunedin, City of Eugene, OR, City of Framingham, MA, City of Fremantle, City of Frouzins, City of Great Barrington, MA, City of Göttingen, City of Hellemes, City of Ithaca, NY, City of Leichhardt, City of Lille, City of Lismore, City of Madison, WI, City of Malmö, City of Marrickville, City of Melbourne, City of Melville, City of Minneapolis, MN, City of Moreland, City of New London, CT, City of Newcastle, City of Northampton, MA, City of Oakland, CA, City of Odense, City of Oxford, City of Palo Alto, CA, City of Paris, City of Portland, OR, City of Provincetown, MA, City of Ravoire, City of Richmond, CA, City of San Francisco, CA, City of San Luis Obispo, CA, City of Santa Fe, NM, City of Santa Monica, CA, City of Seattle, WA, City of Stirling, City of Stockholm, City of Strömstad, City of Sudbury, MA, City of Swan, City of Sydney, City of Truro, MA, City of Uppsala, City of Venissieux, City of Vincent, City of Wodonga, City of la Rochelle, City of Örebro, City of Östersund, City of Savenay, Clean Water Action, Climate Action Network Australia, Climate Stewards, College of the Atlantic, College of the Marshall Islands, Colorado Ratnashri Sangha, Comart Foundation, Community Friends Quaker Meeting in Cincinnati, OH, Community Impact Foundation, Compton Foundation, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, The Council of Canadians, Council of Progressive Rabbis of Australia, Asia, and New Zealand, Country of Ireland, County council of Loiret, Dane County, WI, Darwin Superannuation Fund, Davara Super Fund, David Suzuki Foundation, Decco Superannuation Fund, Departmental council of Essonne, Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, Diakonia, Diocese of Assisi, Diocese of Caserta, Diocese of Gubbio, District of Columbia Retirement Board, Ditton's Super Fund, Dobra Super Fund, Doctors for the Environment Australia, Dover Friends Meeting, ESF College Foundation, Inc., Earth Super Fund, The Earth Welfare Foundation, Earthjustice, Earthsong, Eastminster United Church, Eastside Audobon Society, Ecotrust, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, The Educational Foundation of America, Edward W. Hazen Foundation, Edwards Mother Earth Foundation, English Family Foundation, Environment America, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Episcopal City Mission, Boston, Massachusetts, Episcopal Conference of Belgium, Episcopal Diocese of California, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, CA, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oregon, Federal State of Bremen, First Congregational Church in Amherst, MA, First Parish Church UU, MA, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Cambridge, MA, First Parish in Concord, UU, MA, First Parish in Hingham, Unitarian Universalist - Old Ship Church, MA, First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL, First Presbyterian Palo Alto, CA, First Religious Society of Newburyport, MA, First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, IA, First Unitarian Church of Pittsfield, ME, First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY, First Unitarian Church of Victoria, First Unitarian Church, Ottawa, ON, First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, WI, First Unitarian Toronto, ON, First district of the city of Lyon, Flame Tree Super Fund, Flou Flou Super Fund, Follen

Community Church UU, MA, Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer, Foothill-De Anza Community College, Forsythia Foundation, Franciscan Sisters of Mary, Frederick Mulder Foundation, Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends of the Earth, Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine, Future Super, GLS Treuhand, Garfield Foundation, Gasthuuszusters Augustinessen van Leuven, General Service Foundation, Gibson and McGregor Super Fund, Gironde department, Gloucester Shire Council, Goldman Environmental Foundation, Good Vibrations Super, Graeme Wood Foundation, Granary Foundation, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Green Mountain College, Greenaccord onlus, Gross and Watts Super Fund, Guardian Media Group, H Green Superannuation Fund, HCF, Hampshire College, The Hanley Foundation, Haverford Friends Meeting, Haydon Family Super Fun Pension Fund, Health Care Without Harm, Hidden Leaf Foundation, High Street Baptist Church, Tring, Huddersfield Quakers, Hull Family Foundation, The Hunt Foundation, Hunter Hall Investment Management, Ian Somerhalder Foundation, Il Dialogo, Ipswich and Diss Chilterns Area Meeting, Island Institute, The JJ Charitable Trust, JMG Foundation, The Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation, Jacobs Robinson Super Fund, Jalana Super Fund, Jamaica Plain Unitarian Universalist, NY, Janelia Foundation, Jenifer Altman Foundation, Jennie Di Blasi Super Fund, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Jim and Patty Rouse Foundation, The Joffe Charitable Trust, John & Marcia Goldman Foundation, John Merck Fund, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Jubitz Family Foundation, KL Felicitas Foundation, KR Foundation, Kansas City, MO, Kendal and Sedbergh Quaker Area Meeting, Kerr Ratcliffe Super, Kestrelman Trust, Kommunal Landspensjonskasse (KLP), Kuhn's Gold Super, La Trobe University, Laird Norton Family Foundation, Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church, WI, Lancashire Central and North Quaker Area Meeting, Lansdowne Monthly Meeting, Laughing Gull Foundation, Laval University, Le Mans city, League of Conservation Voters, Leeds Quaker Area Meeting, Lega Consumatori, Legambiente Reggio Emilia, Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting, Leicester Quaker Area Meeting, Lemelson Foundation, The Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund, The Libra Foundation, London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund, Lookout Foundation, Lutheran World Federation, Lydia B. Stokes Foundation, M & N West Pension Fund, MASCI, MASCI Umbria, MGR Foundation, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Madden Sainsbury Foundation, Madiriny Foundation, Maine Council of Churches, ME, Malbird Super Fund, Manchester Metropolitan University, Maree Kordonsky Super, Marist Sisters Australia, The Mark Leonard Trust, Mary Babcock Foundation, Massachusetts United Church of Christ, McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, McKinnon Family Fund, McKinnon Super Fund, Medford Friends Meeting, Medibank, Melbourne Unitarian Church, Mennen Foundation, Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, Merck Family Fund, Metropolitan New York Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Meyer Family Enterprises, Miami Monthly Friends (Quaker), Miami Quarterly Friends (Quaker), Mid Somerset Quaker Area Meeting, Mid Thames Quaker Area Meeting, Millamac Super Fund, Missionarissen van Scheut, Mize Family Foundation, Montreal Quakers, Montreuil, Moomintroll Super Fund, Morning Star Foundation, Mount Alexander Shire Council, Mount Holly, New Jersey, Mullum Trust, Multnomah County, OR, NUI Gallway, Naropa University, National Ethical Service, National Peace Corps Association, National Synod of Scotland, National Tertiary Education Union, National University of Ireland Galway, Natural Resources Defense Council, Neranie Super Fund, Netwerk Rechtvaardigheid en Vrede - Ecokerk, Nevada Super Fund, New England Biolabs Foundation, New Priorities

Foundation, New York City Employees Retirement System, New York Conference of The United Methodist Church, New York Quarterly Meeting, Newcastle University, Newman University, Newtown Monthly Quaker Meeting, PA, Nia Community Fund, Norfolk and Waveney Quaker Area Meeting, Norman Foundation, North Star Fund, Northeast Wilderness Trust, Northern Yearly Meeting – Quakers in the Upper Midwest, Northland College, Norway Unitarian Universalist Church Maine, Nottingham Trent University, Noya Fields Family Charitable Funds, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Society of Friends (Quakers), OH, Oikocredit Belgium, Old Haverford Monthly Meeting, Oregon Metro, Oregon State University, The Overbrook Foundation, Oxford Brookes University, Pace Foundation, Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, Pacific School of Religion, The Palette Fund, Panahpur, Park Foundation, NY, Pax Christi Vlaanderen, Pax Fund, Peralta Community College District, Perpetual Ocean Super Fund, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Pi Investments, Pig Shed Trust, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Pitzer College, Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation, Portsmouth South Church Unitarian Universalist, NH, Practice Greenhealth, Prentice Foundation, Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, NY, Presentation Sisters, North East Province, Presentation Sisters, Queensland, Presentation Sisters, South West Unit, Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga, Protestant Church Hessen-Nassau, Provincial of The Passionists – Holy Spirit Province Australia, NZ, PNG, Put Your Money Where Your Meaning Is Community (Pymwymic), Quakers Religious Society of Friends, Quakers in Britain, Queen Margaret University, Queen Mary University London, Queens University Belfast, Queensland University of Technology, Quixote Foundation, ROS Super Fund, RS Group, Randwick City Council, Reading Borough Council, Red Argentina de Laicos (RELAI), Regional Council Ile de France, Regional Council Rhône Alpes, Regional council Burgundy, Regional council of Champagne-Ardenne, Regional council of Poitou-Charente, Rennes, Rete Interdiocesana Nuovi Stili di Vita, Rhode Island School of Design, Richmond Valley Council, Riverside Church, Robert Treat Paine Association, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, Roskilde Municipality, Ross Knowles Super Fund, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Rubblestone Foundation, Rusbourne Private Superannuation Fund, Russell Family Foundation, SOAS, University of London, SUJAY Superannuation Fund, The SWF Immersion Foundation, Sacred Convent of Assisi, Sainsbury Ashden Trust, Saint Paul Area Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Salvatorianen of Belgium, Samuel Rubin Foundation, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Santa Fe Art Institute, Scarboro Missions, ON, Schmidt Family Foundation, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Schott Fund, Scott Trust, Scottish United Reformed & Congregational College, ScouseMouse Super Fund, Seraphic Institute, Serve All Trust, Shalom Center, Shared Earth Foundation, Shire of Goomalling, Western Australia, Shugar Magic Foundation, Sierra Club, Sierra Club Foundation, Sierra Leone Young Christian Student movement, Siloe Monastic Community, Singing Field Foundation, Sisters of Loretto, Society for Community Work, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, CA, Society of Friends, Canberra Regional Meeting, Society of the Sacred Heart, Sojourners, Solidago Foundation, Sollentuna Government, St Chad's Sutton Coldfield (Church of England), St Joseph's Province of the Congregation of the Passion, St Patrick's Missionary Society, Staples Trust, State College, PA, Sterling College, Stiftung Abendrot, Stockholm University, Strasbourg, Student Christian Movement, Students' Society of McGill University, SunCommon, Super Three Super Fund, Swedish University of

Agricultural Sciences, Swift Foundation, Switzer Foundation, Sydney Buddhist Centre, Syracuse University, Taikura Super Fund, Teachers Retirement System of the City of New York, Tedworth Charitable Trust, Tellus Mater Foundation, The City of Capetown, The Diocese of Pescara, The Foundation of the University of Maine Presque Isle, The Grantham Foundation, The Italian Jesuits, The Mission Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit, The New School, The New Zealand Tertiary, The Roddick Foundation, The Tin Dog Super, The Unitarian Church of Vancouver, The Welders, The Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, VA, Threshold Foundation, Town (City) of Fredericia, Town of Allonnes, Town of Ambérieu en Bugey, Town of Bassendean, Town of Cherbourg, Town of Colombes, Town of East Fremantle, Town of Pierrefitte sur Seine, Town of Saint Denis, Town of Saint Herblain, Town of Saint Maur des Fosse, Trenton Meeting, Trinitarian Congregational United Church of Christ, Warwick, Massachusetts, Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin, Trust Africa, Tubmanburg City Cooperation, Tweeps Super Fund, UNIFOR, UU Church of Boulder, CO, UU Congregation of Binghamton, NY, UUEstrie, Umeå University, Unfolding Futures Pty Ltd Superannuation Fund, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, Union of Concerned Scientists, Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Generalate, Unitarian Church of Calgary, Unitarian Church of Montreal, Unitarian Church of South Australia, Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto, Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence, MA, Unitarian Universalist Association, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, CA, Unitarian Universalist Church, First Parish, Sherborn, Massachusetts, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine, Maine, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County, RI, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, OR, Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst, MA, Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor, Maine, Unitarian congregation of Niagara, United Church of Canada, United Church of Christ, Minnesota Conference, United Reformed Church of Scotland, Uniting Church of Australia Assembly, Uniting Church, New South Wales & ACT, Australia, Unity College, Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, IL, Univeristy of Oregon Foundation, University of Abertay Dundee, University of Arts Bournemouth, University of Bedfordshire, University of Copenhagen, University of Dayton, University of East Anglia, University of Glasgow, University of Hawaii, University of Kent, University of Lincoln, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts Foundation, University of Otago Foundation Trust, University of Sheffield, University of Southampton, University of St. Andrews, University of Surrey, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, University of Warwick, University of Worcester, University of the Arts London, Urban community of Cherbourg, Urban community of Hénin-Carvin, V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation, Vicariaat Vlaams-Brabant en Mechelen, Victoria University of Wellington, Vincent Wildlife Trust, WWF-UK, Wahcumba Super Fund, Wallace Global Fund, Waltham Forest Pension Fund, Warren Wilson College, Water Dragon Foundation, Waterloo Foundation, Welzijnszorg, Wermuth Family Office, Western Australian Local Government Association, Westtown Monthly Meeting, Westwood Unitarian Congregation, The Wilderness Society, Wimbledon Congregational Church, The Winslow Foundation, Wombat Super, Woodward Charitable Trust, World Council of Churches, World Medical Association, Zusters van Maria, Zusters van de Bermhertigheid, Östergötland Region?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Pension Committee's fiduciary duty will always be to ensure that it has sufficient funds available to pay pensions when they fall due.

The East Sussex Fund is a member of LAPFF and receives regular reports and advice from them. The advice from LAPFF and also from the leading ESG policy maker within the LGPS, the Environment Agency Pension Fund, is not to divest from fossil fuel investments but to engage with companies.

The Fund does not comment on the investment decision of others.

9. Question from Gabriel Carlyle, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex

At 5 December 2017 Full Council meeting, the following facts were drawn to Councillor Stogdon's attention:

- 1) that, according to two recent reports by ShareAction, there is little or no evidence that Shell's board 'has grasped the growing pace of the low-carbon transition [or] its implications given directors' duties to protect shareholders' capital', and that Shell is 'not committed to a credible ... strategy' in line with a 2 degrees Celsius scenario;
- 2) that Shell's CEO has described the international community's commitment to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with an ambition for 1.5 degrees Celsius, as being in the "realm of the fantastic"; and
- 3) that Shell continues to be a member of several trade bodies that have taken obstructive positions on climate and energy policies (indeed, in 2016 it was estimated that Shell was spending at least \$22m a year on delaying and obstructing climate legislation – see <https://influencemap.org/report/Climate-Lobbying-by-the-Fossil-Fuel-Sector>)

Asked whether these facts actually made Shell 'a prime candidate for divestment', Cllr Stogdon replied, in toto, 'Chair the answer is no.'

Given the above realities, and the fact that, according to the best available analysis (http://2degreeseperation.com/reports/2D-of-separation_PRI-CTI_Summary-report.pdf), approximately 30 – 40% of Shell's upstream capex expenditure will be unneeded – and therefore unprofitable – in a 2 degrees Celsius scenario, why does the Pension Committee not believe Shell to be a prime candidate for divestment?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The East Sussex Pension Committee agrees with the need to manage the decline of existing production in line with what is necessary to achieve the Paris climate goals'.

The Pension Committee's fiduciary duty will always be to ensure that it has sufficient funds available to pay pensions when they fall due.

The Committee believes that the best way to achieve this is to engage with companies and as a member of LAPFF the committee receives regular reports and advice from them. The advice from LAPFF and also from the leading ESG policy maker within the LGPS, the Environment Agency Pension Fund, is not to divest from fossil fuel investments but to engage with companies.

10. Question from Kim Golding, Stroke Association, East Sussex

The meeting papers state: *A high level Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the revenue savings proposals has been undertaken and is set out in Appendix 7. Further EqIAs will be undertaken where appropriate before individual proposals are implemented* – What Equality impact assessment has been undertaken for stroke survivors in East Sussex in relation to the proposed funding reduction to the Stroke Association?

Response by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

If the County Council does agree to seek savings in this area, we will consult all those affected by the proposal before any final decision is made to make changes to these services. We will also undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment on the proposal. The outcome of the consultation and the Equalities Impact Assessment will then be considered as part of the decision making process.

11. Question from Patricia Patterson-Vanegas, Forest Row, East Sussex

I hear Councillor Stogdon asking for patience in his responses to the questions related to divestment from fossil fuels. I hear urgency in the questions asked to the County Council about divestment, given the fact that carbon contains financial risk and pensioners will pay the cost of any problems arising if the environmental lobby continues to gain momentum. I am always looking for ways forward.

Would it be possible for the ESCC to make a commitment to divestment by allocating a percentage of the fund to divestment as Southwark has done*? It might even be possible to develop a view to increasing this percentage over a period of time in order to reduce the risk to pension holders.

* As a first step Southwark will move £150 million (10% of the total fund) into a [Blackrock Low Carbon Target Equity Fund](#). Southwark might be making this move in partnership with Hackney to help reduce management fees. Southwark is also looking at positive investment in Sustainable Infrastructure funds, including the Global Renewable Power Fund II (also by Blackrock) and Sustainable Opportunities (by Mercer).

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Hymans Robertson paper on “Proposed equity allocations” presented at the 27 November 2017 committee meeting, included a section on low carbon equity funds, and the East Sussex Pension Fund approved the investment of a 5% allocation to UBS Climate Aware World Equity fund. The Committee has also commissioned a

report to measure the Fund's carbon footprint. The provider for this measurement service will be Trucost and they will present to the next meeting of the Committee on 26 February.

12. Question from Sarah Bray, Southdown Housing Association, Lewes, East Sussex

How does the proposal to cut the funding for the Home Works service fit with the Council's responsibility under the Care Act to provide services that prevent, reduce and delay people's care needs becoming more serious, and does the Council fully appreciate the impact these cuts will have in terms of the number of safeguarding issues that will escalate without Home Works involvement, and how reducing the number of vulnerable people who are helped to secure stable housing and better manage their health and wellbeing will increase the number of people rough sleeping?

Response by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The County Council is fully committed to doing the very best it can to support and protect vulnerable people, but the hard truth is we have to do that with falling funding and rising demand. After several years of budget reductions we are therefore faced with difficult choices and have to prioritise funding for services that enable us to meet our statutory duties to those with critical and substantial care needs. As a consequence we have no alternative but to consider reductions in the funding of preventative provision, including highly valued services such as those provided by Southdown Housing Association.

If the County Council does agree to seek savings in this area, we will consult all those affected by the proposal before any final decision is made to make changes to these services. As part of this work we will consider how the remaining Supporting People funding can best be used to ensure the Council's Care Act responsibilities are met, risks of safeguarding concerns are minimised and resources are focused on those areas which will most benefit people that need support.

13. Question from Richard Pike, Forest Row, East Sussex

When a financial centre and city the size of New York, following the lead of Paris, Berlin, Sydney and Stockholm and, it is predicted, further US cities to follow, decides it cannot continue to invest its pension funds in the fossil fuel industry, can the ESCC pension committee really justify continuing with an investment policy from a bygone age?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Pension Committee's fiduciary duty will always be to ensure that it has sufficient funds available to pay pensions when they fall due.

The Fund does not comment on the investment decision of others

14. Question from Nicholas Swift, Forest Row, East Sussex

In light of the recent announcement by Lloyds of London, the world's oldest insurance market, that it will start to exclude coal from its investment strategy from 1 April 2018, and the fact that the East Sussex Pension Fund currently holds less than 0.09% of its current equity exposure in coal companies, will the East Sussex Pension Fund follow suit and make a commitment to excluding coal from its investment strategy from 1 April 2018?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The East Sussex Pension Committee agrees with the need to manage the decline of existing production in line with what is necessary to achieve the Paris climate goals'.

The Pension Committee's fiduciary duty will always be to ensure that it has sufficient funds available to pay pensions when they fall due.

The Committee believes that the best way to achieve this is to engage with companies and as a member of LAPFF the committee receives regular reports and advice from them. The advice from LAPFF and also from the leading ESG policy maker within the LGPS, the Environment Agency Pension Fund, is not to divest from fossil fuel investments but to engage with companies.

15. Question from Tara Galloway, Stroke Association, East Sussex

The Stroke Association's exercise programme sees patients independently walking by the end of its 10 week stroke specific course. In the absence of this course how will you ensure increased mobility for stroke survivors and prevention advice for further strokes?

Response by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The proposed cuts by ESCC are 50% of the total funding to the current service provided by the Stroke Association's Stroke Recovery Service. The three Clinical Commissioning Groups in East Sussex fund the other 50% of the service.

No final decision about the funding of this service will be made until a consultation has taken place. As part of this consultation process which will be undertaken jointly with the CCGs, we will identify which elements of the current service have the greatest impact so that these are maintained as part of a reduced service. This will include specific questions in relation to the Stroke Association's exercise programme and the impact this has had on individuals. Until we have received all of those responses we are not able to re-model the future service and therefore cannot decide whether the exercise programme will continue in the future.

The Equality Impact Assessment will look at all elements of the service and assess what mitigations may be in place if elements of the service no longer exist.

We are also currently exploring the piloting of exercise classes for people with long term conditions. If the pilot goes ahead these classes would be accessible and available for stroke survivors.

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