

MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber - County Hall, Lewes on 14 MAY 2019 at 10.00 am

Present Councillors John Barnes MBE, Matthew Beaver, Colin Belsey, Nick Bennett, Bill Bentley, Phil Boorman, Bob Bowdler, Tania Charman, Charles Clark, Martin Clarke, Godfrey Daniel, Angharad Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Deirdre Earl-Williams, Simon Elford, David Elkin (Chairman), Nigel Enever, Michael Ensor, Gerard Fox, Roy Galley, Keith Glazier, Darren Grover, Carolyn Lambert, Tom Liddiard, Laurie Loe, Carl Maynard, Ruth O'Keeffe MBE, Sarah Osborne, Peter Pragnell, Pat Rodohan, Phil Scott, Jim Sheppard (Vice Chairman), Stephen Shing, Alan Shuttleworth, Rupert Simmons, Andy Smith, Bob Standley, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, Sylvia Tidy, David Tutt, John Ungar, Steve Wallis, Trevor Webb and Francis Whetstone

1 To elect a Chairman of the County Council

Councillor Pragnell (Chairman of the County Council) in the Chair.

1.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Glazier and seconded –

‘To elect Councillor Elkin to serve as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year’.

1.2 There being no other nominations, the Chairman put the motion to the vote and declared Councillor Elkin elected as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year. Councillor Elkin made a declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

Councillor Elkin in the Chair

1.3 The Chairman thanked the Council for electing him as Chairman

1.4 The Chairman, Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders paid tribute to the way in which Councillor Pragnell had carried out his duties as Chairman of the County Council over the past year, acting as an ambassador for the County, hosting and attending a number of engagements and ensuring the work of the Council was recognised in communities within and outside East Sussex. The Chairman presented Councillor Pragnell with the past Chairman's badge.

2 To appoint a Vice Chairman of the County Council

2.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Glazier and seconded –

‘to appoint Councillor Sheppard to serve as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year’.

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2.2 There being no other nominations, the Chairman put the motion to the vote and declared Councillor Sheppard appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year. Councillor Sheppard made a declaration of acceptance of office and took his seat as Vice-Chairman.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019

3.1 RESOLVED – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the County Council held on 26 March 2019 as a correct record.

4 Apologies for absence

4.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Philip Daniel, Field, Daniel Shing and Stogdon.

5 Chairman's business

ELECTIONS

5.1 On behalf of the County Council the Chairman congratulated those in the Chamber who were elected in the recent district and borough council elections.

PRAYERS

5.2 The Chairman thanked Pastor Glenn Khan for leading the prayers before the meeting.

PETITIONS

5.3 The Chairman announced that no petitions had been presented before the meeting.

6 Declarations of Interest

6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

7 Reports

7.1 The Chairman of the County Council, having called over the reports set out in the agenda, reserved the following for discussion:

Report of the Leader - item 6

Governance Committee report paragraph 2 - Amendment to the Constitution Financial Regulations

Cabinet report - paragraph 1 (scrutiny review of the changing care market), paragraph 2 (scrutiny review of road repairs) and paragraph 3 (scrutiny review of school travel plans)

People Scrutiny Committee report - paragraph 1 (Scrutiny review of the changing care market)

Place Scrutiny Committee report – paragraph 1 (scrutiny review of road repairs) and paragraph 2 (scrutiny review of school travel plans)

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

7.2 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council ADOPTED those paragraphs in the reports that had not been reserved for discussion as follows:

Governance Committee report paragraph 1 – allocation of places on committees etc

Standards Committee report – paragraphs 1 (amendments to the Code of Conduct) and 2 (annual report)

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8 Record of Delegation of Executive Functions

8.1 In accordance with the Constitution, Councillor Glazier presented a written record to the Council of his appointments to the Cabinet, their portfolios and his delegation of executive functions. A copy of the Leader's report is attached to these minutes.

9 Report of the Governance Committee

PARAGRAPH 2 (AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS)

9.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph in the Governance Committee's report.

9.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate

10 Appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees

10.1 Councillor Bowdler moved, and it was seconded, that appointments be made to the Committees and Sub-Committees, listed in item 8 of the agenda, in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

10.2 The motion was CARRIED.

11 Appointment of Members to other Committees and Panels

11.1 Councillor Bowdler moved, and it was seconded, that members be appointed to serve on the Committees and Panels listed in item 9 of the agenda, in accordance with the political balance provisions and the list of nominations from political groups that was circulated in the Council Chamber.

11.2 The motion was CARRIED

12 Confirmation of the continuation of other bodies

12.1 Councillor Bowdler moved, and it was seconded, that the bodies listed in agenda item 10 be continued, that the political balance provisions shall not apply to these Panels and that members be appointed by the Chief Executive as the need arises.

12.2 The motion was CARRIED (with no member voting against)

13 Appointment to the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel

13.1 Councillor Bowdler moved, and it was seconded, that the political balance provisions would not apply to the membership of the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel and that members be appointed in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

13.2 The motion was CARRIED (with no member voting against).

14 Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs

14.1 The following motion, moved by Councillor Bowdler and seconded, was CARRIED

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'To appoint the following members to positions listed below':

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Regulatory	Stogdon	
Audit Committee	Swansborough	Fox
People Scrutiny Committee	Davies	Ungar
Place Scrutiny Committee	Bowdler	Godfrey Daniel
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Belsey	Pragnell
Governance Committee	Glazier	
Planning Committee	Stogdon	Taylor
Pension Committee	Fox	
Standards Committee	Stogdon	

15 Questions from members of the public

15.1 Copies of questions from Janet Blackman from Seaford, Lottie Rodger from Lewes, Hugh Dunkerley from Brighton, Viki Hall from Forest Row, Ann Link from Lewes, Emily O'Brien from Newhaven and Arnold Simanowitz from Lewes and the answers from Councillor Glazier (Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development), Councillor Fox (Chair of the Pension Committee) and Councillor Simmons (Lead Member for Economy) are attached to these minutes. Supplementary questions were asked and responded to.

16 Cabinet's priorities for the forthcoming year

16.1 Councillor Glazier outlined the Cabinet's priorities for the forthcoming year. The other Group Leaders commented on these, following which there was a debate.

17 Report of the Cabinet

17.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report with the report of the People Scrutiny Committee and paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Cabinet report with the report of the Place Scrutiny Committee.

18 Report of the People Scrutiny Committee

PARAGRAPH 1 – SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE CHANGING CARE MARKET

18.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report.

18.2 Councillor Davies moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

18.3 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate.

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18.4 The motion to adopt paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

19 Report of the Place Scrutiny Committee

PARAGRAPH 1 – SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ROAD REPAIRS

19.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 2 of the Cabinet report.

19.2 Councillor Bowdler moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

19.3 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 2 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate.

19.4 The motion to adopt paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

PARAGRAPH 2 – SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS

19.5 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 2 of this report with paragraph 3 of the Cabinet report.

19.6 Councillor Bowdler moved the adoption of paragraph 2 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

19.7 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 3 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate.

19.8 The motion to adopt paragraph 2 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

20 Questions from County Councillors

20.1 The following members asked questions of the Cabinet Members indicated and they responded:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Swansborough	Councillor Glazier	Analysis of the impact of closing Firwood House and Warwick House
Councillor Rodohan	Councillor Claire Dowling	Update regarding progress of possible improvements to the A27 between Polegate and Beddingham
Councillor Ungar	Councillor Tidy	Action being taken by the County Council to tackle the issue of children living in poverty
Councillor Scott	Councillor Tidy	Lessons to be learnt from the recent Ofsted report regarding children's social care in West Sussex

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Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Godfrey Daniel	Councillor Glazier	The establishment of a Town Council for Bexhill
Councillor Beaver	Councillor Bennett	Ability to influence the design of new housebuilding to ensure environmental issues are considered
Councillor Stephen Shing	Councillor Claire Dowling	Whether the introduction of charging for certain items at HWRS has resulted in a decrease in such waste being received at the sites and the income that has been generated as a result of charging
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Bennett	County Council responsibility in relation to ash dieback

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

22.2 There were no written questions from councillors.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.33 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

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Delegations approved by the Leader of the Council – 14 May 2019

(a) *names of the County Councillors appointed to the Cabinet*

The Cabinet comprises the following members

Portfolio	Appointment
Strategic Management and Economic Development	Councillor Keith Glazier
Resources	Councillor Nick Bennett
Communities and Safety	Councillor Bill Bentley
Economy	Councillor Rupert Simmons
Transport and Environment	Councillor Claire Dowling
Adult Social Care and Health	Councillor Carl Maynard
Children and Families (designated statutory Lead Member for Children's Services)	Councillor Sylvia Tidy
Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Councillor Bob Standley

(b) *the extent of any authority delegated to cabinet members individually as portfolio holders will remain as set out in the Constitution of the County Council eastsussex.gov.uk/constitution or alternatively hard copies are available at County Hall, Lewes (please contact Andy Cottell – 01273 481955) and below.*

In overall terms the areas of responsibility for each portfolio holder includes the following (subject to any subsequent amendment by the Leader at his discretion) principal services to be interpreted broadly. In accordance with the wishes of the Leader, principal services are not to be construed restrictively. In the event of any doubt in connection to a decision made by a Lead Member, the Leader confirms that he has delegated full executive authority to that decision maker:

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Portfolio	Scope
Strategic Management and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairing and managing the executive and its work • Any executive function including overall strategy and policy for the Council • Principal service area responsibilities: Communications Local Enterprise Partnership Policy and Performance East Sussex Better Together/Health and Wellbeing Board Equalities South East Seven Partnership Transport for South East (SNTB) Democratic Services all ancillary activities
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any executive function including strategy and policy for all corporate resources matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Financial Management Property asset management Risk management Procurement Internal audit ICT Personnel and Training Legal Orbis all ancillary activities
Communities and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any executive function including strategy and policy for all Communities and Community Safety matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Archives and records Community Safety Coroner services Customer Services Emergency Planning Gypsies and travellers Libraries Registration Services Road Safety Trading Standards Voluntary Sector all ancillary activities

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Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any executive function including strategy and policy for all economic development and regeneration and all ancillary activities • Principal service area responsibilities Economic Development Culture Skills (shared with Education) all ancillary activities
Transport and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any executive function including strategy and policy for all Transport and Environmental matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Operational services Planning and developmental control Transport strategy Environmental and waste strategy all ancillary activities
Adult Social Care and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any executive function including strategy and policy for all Adult Social Care and Public Health matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Services for vulnerable adults including older people, learning disability, physical disability, mental health, public health and all ancillary activities
Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any executive function including overall strategy and policy for all Children's Services (social care) matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Child protection and family support Fostering and adoption for children Residential care for children Other aspects of social care for children Youth justice Youth service all ancillary activities

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Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any executive function including strategy and policy for all Children's Services (education) matters• Principal service area responsibilities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quality and standards in educational establishmentsSpecial educational needsSchool admissions and transportEarly years and childcareSchool organisation and place planningSkills (shared with Economy)all ancillary activities
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(c) *appointment to the position of Deputy Leader*

Councillor Bennett to be appointed Deputy Leader of the County Council

(d) *the terms of reference and constitution of the Cabinet and any executive committees together with the names of cabinet members appointed to them*

The terms of reference and constitution of the Cabinet and any executive committees will remain as currently set out in the Constitution of the Council

(e) *the nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to local committees*

There is no delegation of executive functions to local committees

(f) *the nature and extent of any delegation to officers*

The delegations of executive functions to Officers will be as set out in the Constitution. The delegations to Officers can be viewed via the following link:

[Constitution - Delegations to Officers](#)

or alternatively hard copies are available at County Hall, Lewes (please contact Andy Cottell – 01273 481955)

Urgent Executive Decisions

The following executive decision was taken during 2018/19 where the making of the decision was agreed in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012: approval for the repayment of two Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans

Councillor Keith Glazier
Leader of the Council

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QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Janet Blackman, Seaford, East Sussex (on behalf of Lewes Women Against State Pension Injustice)

Lewes WASPI (Women Against State Pension Injustice) Group are part of a national campaign movement who are fighting for justice for 1950s-born. Can you please advise me what action East Sussex County Council has taken to provide either free travel passes or concessionary passes similar to the senior rail card, or 60+ cards to the women who have been affected by two increases in their state pension age (SPA)?

These women received little or no notice of an increase to their SPA of up to 6 years. Many had given up work to care for grandchildren or elderly relatives in the expectation that they would receive their pensions at 60 years of age only to find out they had another 6 years to wait. A loss of potential pension income of up to £45,000 with no time to mitigate this loss, has been a devastating blow to these women and their families. Women who are single, divorced, separated or widowed have been hit particularly hard by these changes and in many cases, it has led to a deterioration in their mental health.

Many women born in the 1950s started work at 15 – 16 years of age, and they are still having to work. They have paid approximately 45 years in National Insurance Contributions. Some are continuing to pay National Insurance as their state pension age has increased by up to 6 years so will potentially be paying for up to 50 years even though only 35 years National Insurance contributions are required to receive a full pension. Many women, who had previously given up their jobs in the expectation of receiving their state pension at 60 years, have had to return to work and those that have been able to find jobs are generally working in low paid employment and are really struggling to pay their bills. Often they have a choice of whether to turn on their heating (they are not entitled to the Winter Fuel Allowance until they have reached their SPA) or pay for food.

1950s-born women cannot afford to travel on busses or trains to see friends, family, or go to on outings because they cannot afford the fare. The cost of the fares is so high when compared to their actual employment income and is only exacerbating their situation. This leads to isolation and seclusion and consequently a decline in mental health. Other councils have recognised the need for concessionary fares for this group of women, and they have recognised the extreme financial impact these changes have had on this specific group. Indeed they are available in London to women from the age of 60 years for bus, overground, underground and main line trains services. Scotland, Wales, Manchester, the West Midlands and Liverpool also provide concessionary fares for ages 60 plus.

Response by the Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

I am very well aware that for some women born in the 1950s the changes to the state pension arrangements have had a really detrimental effect and I have previously written on behalf of the Council asking that the Secretary of State make transitional arrangements for these women.

With respect to concessionary fares for older people, we operate the national scheme which gives free travel to people of state pension age. Unfortunately the existing

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scheme is not fully funded by the Government and if we were to broaden its scope we would need to make more savings in other services to pay for it. The County Council made very difficult choices when we set the budget in February. One of the things I am determined that we should be is open and honest so I want to be clear that I think, given the financial and demand pressures we already face having to reconcile, it is very unlikely that we will be able to identify additional funding for this purpose. I am willing to lobby again on behalf of this unfairly treated women group when the opportunity arises.

2. Question from Lottie Rodger, Lewes, East Sussex

In his response to my question at 26 March 2019 Full Council meeting, Councillor Fox appeared to be claiming that there was little that he could do, as a member of the Pension Committee, about the threat posed by global warming. Action on climate change, he claimed, would have to 'come from politicians ... not from pension funds.'

Last year Goldman Sachs judged that the 'growing number of investors and financial institutions [that] have announced bans or restrictions on coal investments, particularly from 2013 ... [had] been a driver of the sector de-rating over the past five years'. In a similar vein, in its 2018 Annual Report Shell noted that 'some groups are pressuring certain investors to divest their investments in fossil fuel companies. If this were to continue, it could have a material adverse effect on the price of our securities and our ability to access equity capital markets.'

How does the Pension Committee square these assessments – by Goldman Sachs and by Shell – with Councillor Fox's assertion that the Pension Committee is powerless to take effective action on climate change?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Pension Committee does not believe it is the role of the Fund to govern global climate change and believe this role should be undertaken by National Governments.

The Fund does have a role in ensuring that its investments are protected by any impacts of climate change. By increasing pressure on fossil fuel companies, through active shareholder engagement, we can get companies to improve their corporate behaviour. Improvements made by these engagements lead to an increase in the long term value of the Fund's investments. This ensures that the companies are considering the impacts of climate change (including those driven by legislation) in their business models.

The Fund's approach to engagement recognises the importance of working in partnership to magnify the voice and maximise the influence of investors as owners. The Fund appreciates that to gain the attention of companies in addressing governance concerns it needs to join with other investors sharing similar concerns. Along with its investment into the Climate Aware Fund, this provides an incentive to companies to move towards limiting climate change.

3. Question from Hugh Dunkerley, Brighton

At the 17 October 2017 Full Council meeting, Cllr Stogdon asserted that: 'The Fund believes that collaborative engagement is more productive than acting alone and works together with other LGPS funds through its membership of LAPFF. Company engagement is an important element, encouraging development of low carbon – aligned business models, and it is in the best interest of the Fund to get the entire oil industry to put itself on a pathway of “managed decline”.'

In its 2016 report 'Engaging for a Low Carbon Transition', the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) noted that:

"Most oil companies follow an 'invest-to-grow' business model aiming to grow production steadily. In most cases, this model has failed to deliver top-line growth. Even more concerning for shareholders, it has generated deteriorating returns. The current model has clearly not delivered. A managed decline business model – investing to match a 450 demand scenario – would likely lower business risks, boost returns and avoid destroying shareholder value. This would involve investing less and returning more capital to shareholders."

What success has LAPFF had in the last 2½ years in persuading oil and gas companies to drop 'growth models' and instead return cash to shareholders? For example, how many AGM resolutions have they put forward calling for this?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

As indicated in the LAPFF report, a 'managed decline business model' is orientated around investing to match a 450 demand scenario. This describes an energy pathway consistent with the goal of limiting the average global temperature increase to 2°C as set out by the Paris agreement.

LAPFF has engaged with a number of oil and gas companies over this period. Long-term engagement with BP, now continued under the umbrella of the Climate Action 100+ investor initiative, has led to the co-filing of a second shareholder resolution to the company. The resolution to the 2019 BP AGM, co-filed by ten LAPFF member funds, includes a request to the company to set out 'how the Company evaluates the consistency of each new material capex investment, including in the exploration, acquisition or development of oil and gas resources and reserves and other energy sources and technologies, with ... the Paris Goals'. As with the previous resolution in 2015, continued engagement has led to the board recommending support of the resolution.

In 2017, Shell set the ambition of reducing the Net Carbon Footprint of its energy products by around half by 2050, and by around 20% by 2035, in step with society's drive to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Continued collaborative engagement has focused on linking associated shorter-term targets to its executive remuneration policy, which have been brought forward by one year for approval at the 2019 AGM. The company is focusing on value over volume and dividends and repurchases are now delivering a more than 10 percent cash return yield to shareholders.

Similar examples can be found in engagement with US companies. A voting alert issued to members for the Anadarko 2019 AGM (postponed owing to a bidding process)

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pressed the company to issue a report describing its plans to reduce its total contribution to climate change and align its operations and investments with the Paris Agreement's goal of maintaining global temperatures well below 2 degrees.

Continued engagement with Exxon led to at least one LAPFF member fund co-filing a resolution to the 2019 AGM, asking the company to disclose short, medium and long-term targets for GHG emissions. The resolution was rejected by the SEC after lobbying by the company. However, member funds will shortly receive voting advice aimed at pressing the company for increased disclosure on capital expenditure to enable shareholders to better consider whether the company is operating within the spirit of the Paris Accord.

4. Question from Viki Hall, Forest Row, East Sussex

The East Sussex Pension Fund's Responsible Investment Policy states that 'The Fund will incorporate climate risk assessment as part of the annual investment strategy review (considering the Fund's investment strategy under a range of climate change scenarios, including a 2°C scenario).'

Which climate change scenarios will this year's annual investment strategy review consider, and when will the latter be made available to the public? Will any 1.5°C scenarios be included?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Pension Committee has an annual strategy review which looks at all the investment risks that the East Sussex Pension Fund is facing. The agenda for the Strategy day has not been finalised, but it will include but not limited to Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) and Responsible investment strategies.

The strategy day is neither a public meeting nor a formal decision making meeting of the Committee, but an opportunity to review the Fund's current investment strategy and to set the future investment priorities for the fund.

5. Question from Ann Link, Lewes, East Sussex

In a recent (15 April 2019) speech Sarah Breeden, the Bank of England's Executive Director of International Banks Supervision noted that: 'Climate change poses significant risks to the economy and to the financial system, and while these risks may seem abstract and far away, they are in fact very real, fast approaching, and in need of action today.'

She went on to note that:

'Studies have focused on the impact from the transition on the financial system through 'stranded assets' that turn out to be worth less than expected, probably zero in the case of unburnable carbon. The estimated losses are large –\$1tn-\$4tn when considering fossil fuels alone, or up to \$20tn when looking at a broader range of sectors. Even at the bottom ends of these ranges, losses represent a material share of global financial assets. A climate Minsky moment, where asset prices adjust quickly with negative feedback loops to growth, seems possible. That underlines why the financial system needs an early and orderly transition. And why we need to change course now.'

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We are currently seeing an ever-increasing gap between the current emissions pathway and a technically achievable pathway to 1.5°C.

Does the Pension Committee accept that the growth of this gap is increasing the risk of a sudden and disorderly transition of the kind that Sarah Breeden is warning about, as closing this gap will inevitably require increasingly heavy-handed intervention?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Pension Committee is keen to avoid a disorderly transition and believes that this outcome can be mitigated by increasing pressure on fossil fuel companies, through active shareholder engagement.

Getting companies to improve their corporate behaviour lessens the chances of a disorderly transition and leads to an increase in the long term value of the Fund's investments. This ensures that the companies are considering the impacts of climate change in their business models.

The Fund's approach to engagement recognises the importance of working in partnership to magnify the voice and maximise the influence of investors as owners. The Fund appreciates that to gain the attention of companies in addressing governance concerns it needs to join with other investors sharing similar concerns. Along with its investment into the Climate Aware Fund, this provides an incentive to companies to move towards limiting climate change.

6. Question from Emily O'Brien, Newhaven, East Sussex (on behalf of Community Action Newhaven)

I note that East Sussex County Council has merrily started construction of the Newhaven Port Access Road, using £23 million of public money.

However neither the required Marine Licence, nor the planning permission for the necessary link roads to the Port are in place.

Please could you clarify the timescales for obtaining both of these, and what ESCC plans to do should either of these applications be unsuccessful?

Response by the Lead Member for Economy

An application has been made by the Newhaven Port Access Road (NPAR) contractor to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for the marine licence that is required for the construction of a temporary causeway across the creek. This is a temporary construction to enable access to construct the bridge pier in between the creek and the railway line. The MMO has consulted with key stakeholders in connection with this application and we anticipate a licence being issued by the end of the month. The NPAR contractor is a competent civil engineering contractor who has experience of working in marine environments and is confident any conditions applied by the MMO can be satisfied.

With regard to the planning application for the roads connecting the NPAR into the port, this is a matter for Newhaven Port Authority who are due to submit a planning application to Lewes District Council (LDC). The question of timescales and alternative

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plans should be directed to the port authority and/or the determining planning authority LDC.

7. Question from Arnold Simanowitz, Lewes, East Sussex

A recent analysis comparing data from the IPCC's climate models with forecasts from industry analysts Rystad Energy ('Overexposed: The IPCC's report on 1.5°C and the risks of overinvestment in oil and gas', 23 April 2019, <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/oil-gas-and-mining/overexposed/>), found that over the next decade:

- any production from new oil and gas fields, beyond those already in production or development, is incompatible with limiting warming to 1.5°C;
- all of the \$4.9 trillion forecast capex in new oil and gas fields is incompatible with limiting warming to 1.5°C; and,
- 9% of oil and 6% of gas production forecast from existing fields is incompatible with limiting warming to 1.5°C.

Do the East Sussex Pension Fund's fund managers and investment consultants accept these findings and if so, what actions will they be taking in the light of these findings?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Fund's investment managers and consultants are constantly revising their views based on the best available data. This information will inform their investments on behalf of and advice provided to the Fund.

The Pension Committee believes by increasing pressure on fossil fuel companies, through active shareholder engagement, we can get companies to improve their corporate behaviour. Improvements made by these engagements lead to an increase in the long term value of the Fund's investments.

The Fund's approach to engagement recognises the importance of working in partnership to magnify the voice and maximise the influence of investors as owners. The Fund appreciates that to gain the attention of companies in addressing governance concerns it needs to join with other investors sharing similar concerns. Along with its investment into the Climate Aware Fund, this provides an incentive to companies to move towards limiting climate change.