

COUNCIL MEETING 12 OCTOBER 2022

AMENDMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLES TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAY

Amendment to be moved as follows:

“Peterborough City Council recognises that fossil fuels have played a central role in the past 150 years of social and technological development but that their continued use poses a serious risk to the stability of the climate upon which our well-being and economy depends. Climate change endangers the health of local residents in Peterborough, directly through impacts such as heatwaves and floods, like we have seen this year, and indirectly through impacts on food systems and global security. Research demonstrates that 80% or more of the world’s fossil fuel reserves will have to remain unburnt if we are to meet targets for climate change mitigation. A rapid large-scale shift away from fossil fuels towards energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy is needed to avert catastrophic climate change. This will soon render investments in fossil fuel reserves ‘stranded assets’, representing substantial risk for investors and pensioners. Research also shows that divestment actually reduces carbon emissions. Therefore, having declared a climate emergency in 2019, Peterborough City Council, should fully support this shift to a zero-carbon economy, which also presents significant opportunities for Peterborough in its mission to become Environment Capital.

In response to this Peterborough City Council pledges:

- to develop and implement an ethical investment policy, including a commitment to not knowingly invest directly in businesses whose activities and practices pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the Council’s mission and values. ~~This will include avoiding investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies. It may also include other companies associated with environmentally or socially harmful activities.~~
- ~~Call on the~~ Support Cambridgeshire County Council’s Pension Fund “Just Transition” approach with is consistent with the Paris agreement and provides a policy of engagement with businesses who are actively transitioning away from fossil fuels. Recognise that the fund expects each of its investment managers to appropriately manage environmental, social and governance risks alongside financial risks, and constructively engage with investee companies on any issues identified. Should these issues not be addressed satisfactorily, we recognise that selling or divesting from the individual stock remains an appropriate option for the fund.

~~to divest from fossil fuels by requesting its representative(s) on the Pension Fund Committee to call for the development and adoption of responsible investment policies which:~~

1. ~~Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies.~~
2. ~~Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years.~~
3. ~~Set out an approach to quantify and address climate change risks affecting all other investments.~~
4. ~~Actively seek to invest in companies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise climate risk.~~

- ~~to instruct the chief executive to write to the Leaders and Chief Executives of all other councils that use the Cambridgeshire County Council Pension Fund outlining this Council's position and asking for their support to adopt the same policies.~~
- ~~with respect to its indirect investments, to work with a ratings agency to develop a workable ethical policy aligned with the above mission and values with the aim of achieving full divestment within 5 years.~~
- to work with local businesses and community groups to support further positive investment in local companies and projects, including community energy schemes, which are hastening a rapid shift to a zero-carbon economy.
- to undertake the above pledges in the context of a city-wide energy descent plan and energy security policy which will be developed with local business and community groups.
- ~~to call on the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund to adopt a similar ethical investment policy and divest from fossil fuels.~~
- to call on the national U.K. government to support the principle of a just transition from fossil fuels ~~divestment, to stop subsidising the fossil fuel industry~~ and to advocate for all other countries to commit to this in the wake of the Paris Agreement, which was reaffirmed at the 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit.”