

Council

16 February 2021

Notice of Motion

Proposer – Cllr J. Collins
Seconder – Cllr D. Lomax

Council notes that:

In October 2019, this Council passed a motion to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to influence others to do the same. This is an ambitious target and action needs to be taken now, including on investments.

Changes in the way the Council manages its investments can not only reduce the Council's indirect carbon emissions, but could contribute to its meeting its fiduciary duty to its taxpayers. However, High Peak's Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 does not mention climate change.

It is accepted – for example in recent plans from the UK government – that fossil fuel companies contribute greatly to climate change. As action is taken on climate change and countries switch to renewable energy, there is a real risk of investments in some types of companies, in particular fossil fuel companies, becoming worthless. Failure by Councils to act on these investments risks breaching their fiduciary duty, so urgent action is required.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Cease investing in companies involved directly or indirectly with the fossil fuel industry.
- Add a clear statement to their published strategy, at the next review date, regarding their approach to investments at risk from climate change, including those at risk due to the actions of other investors and governments.
- Draw up a plan to replace HPBC's investment funds which include environmentally harmful investments with investment funds that have positive societal and environmental benefits, by September 2021
- Replace HPBC's environmentally harmful investments and funds which include them with investments that have positive societal and environmental benefits, towards achieving a portfolio of assets with net zero carbon emissions by 2025
- Explore non-financial investments, such as in renewable energy generation
- Include risks associated with specific types of investment, such as in extractive industries, in its risk assessments
- Include progress on Environmental, Social and Governance investing in regular reports to the Audit and Regulatory Committee.
- Write to the Derbyshire Pensions and Investment Committee requesting that they divest pension funds from investment funds that include fossil fuels by 2025