Pension Fund Committee

24 June 2025

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Paul Kimber

There is a great deal of concern from our constituents across Dorset regarding our Dorset Pension fund that has investment which includes arms manufacturers. Each day we hear the number of children being killed in Gaza.

Can we Disinvest from companies that produce arms manufacturing?

Response from Cllr Andy Canning

I also thank you for taking the time to speak to this committee today on such an important and emotive subject. As said in previous responses, I am sure all members of the committee deplore the loss of life resulting from this conflict and all the many other conflicts currently happening around the world.

This topic will be covered in more detail later in the meeting as part of the response to the deputation contained within today's agenda. It should be noted that the companies identified in the deputation are also suppliers to the UK, NATO and/or other allies, including Ukraine.

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr Jon Orrell

Money has become the measure of all things. Mammon is enthroned on high. The bottom line is the only one that counts apparently. Pension investment being a cold non moral calculation that risks being amoral or immoral. Should it be this way? Are there counterbalancing weights to the scales of values? I would like to suggest there is a triple bottom line. The missing two being people and planet. People are being killed directly by weapons used on innocent children in Gaza. Should we profit from this business? The planet is destabilised into climate chaos by spewing forth outdated fossil fuels. Should we profit from this business?

Will the council divest from fossil fuels and weapons firms that are used on civilians in Gaza?

Response from Cllr Andy Canning

I also thank you for taking the time to speak to this committee today on such an important and emotive subject. As said in previous responses, I am sure all members of the committee deplore the loss of life resulting from this conflict and all the many other conflicts currently happening around the world.

The pension fund's response to the events in Gaza will be considered in more detail by the Committee later in the meeting.

As set out in earlier responses, in September 2020 the Committee agreed a strategy of decarbonisation rather than divestment which seeks to influence the demand for fossil fuels, not just their supply.