

Haringey Pensions Committee statement: responsible investment

July 2025

As a Pensions Committee, we recognise our duty to all former and current workers who rely on Haringey's pension scheme. However, we also believe in responsible investment, in investments that support our values.

We do not want to invest in companies that profit from human rights abuses, damage our planet or cause other forms of public harm. We do not want to fund the supply of arms to vulnerable regions of the world or invest in any occupied territories.

Over the last 6 months, we have taken the following actions:

Held sit-downs with Council staff:

- Hosted workshops and webinars with council staff to outline the current position and the aims of our responsible investment work.
- The Haringey Pension Fund currently supports more than 26,000 members, including former workers and active employees, and has total assets of around £1.9 billion.

Conducted an extensive review of investments:

- Completed an external 'deep dive' into the council pension fund to establish its exposure to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors, including arms sales.
- This is complicated as the fund does not directly invest in any individual businesses. We have had to analyse our indirect exposure within pooled 'funds' of companies managed by external fund managers.
- Reviewing our Responsible Investment Policy to create stronger guidance for fund managers (the people who make day-to-day decisions on what to invest in)

Published our current exposure to arms:

- The review has shown that 0.02% (using the 10% tolerance level) of the total Pension Fund's investments are exposed to companies with revenue generated through the defence and arms sectors.
- Due to the nature of funds, this position is fluid with exposure fluctuating based on individual company operations and market conditions (although we would not anticipate any huge change, even over an extended period of time).
- Given the very low level of exposure identified across the fund, the best way to influence long-term change is through fund and manager engagement.
- As a result, we have taken steps to work with fund managers directly to explore options to achieve further reductions to this exposure.
- We are also calling on the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV) and financial services companies to explore the creation of dedicated investment funds that prioritise positive investment in the public good and reduce and exclude those companies whose activities fall short of our expectations.

Coordinated with other councils:

- Following the outcome of the government's consultation on the Local Government Pension Scheme, we are working with other London councils on coordinated calls for clearer reporting and the creation of new funds that reduce and exclude key forms of public harm.
- This is all the more important as we move towards mandated pooling of assets with the LCIV

Haringey's Responsible Investment Policy: next steps

- Our revised draft Responsible Investment Policy has a target completion date of September and will be presented to Pensions Committee & Board (PCB) at the December meeting.
- We are also working closely with the LCIV who from 2026 will be responsible for the implementation of the council's Responsible Investment Policy following the government's changes to pension fund governance and arrangements.