

COVID, Committee on Climate Change, a Resilient Recovery

Our CPF Members Forum welcomes the May 2020 letter from the Committee on Climate Change to the government for a resilient and sustainable economic recovery after COVID

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/2020/05/06/take-urgent-action-on-six-key-principles-for-a-resilient-recovery/>

The CCC letter points out that :

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change should be integral to any recovery package. These remain scientific, economic and social imperatives and will only be delivered if ambitious steps are taken during this Parliament. There are clear economic, social, and environmental benefits from immediate expansion of the following measures:

- *Investments in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure.*
- *Supporting reskilling, retraining and research for a net-zero, well-adapted economy.*
- *Upgrades to our homes ensuring they are fit for the future.*
- *Making it easy for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely.*
- *Tree planting, peatland restoration, green spaces and other green infrastructure*

Our Members Forum has always shared such investment aims and the benefits.

All of our past suggestions to CPF align with the views in the CCC letter, for green energy, housing, and IT infrastructure in the Cheshire area. Now perhaps we should also include more UK investments in health, vaccines, pharmaceutical, biomedical and PPE.

We hope that the power of our Cheshire Pension Fund will be used to help re-build the economic future, even more necessary for the economic recovery after COVID.

Climate Emergencies were declared last year by every one of the four major councils within the Cheshire Pension Fund (CWAC, Cheshire East, Warrington, and Halton).

Our members argue for a clearer, more urgent approach to get to Net Zero, and divestment and re-investments for Cheshire families, residents, and businesses. A recent 2020 consultation by CPF on Responsible Investing, attracted 8 responses.

But without an AGM, or recognition by CPF for our Forum, or any member discussion pages on the CPF website, we say that CPF fund managers do not really know what their 100,000 members think.

We have asked all local councillors on the Committee of our local government fund to support our Forum, and the move into green, sustainable, climate resilient investing.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

CCC Committee on Climate Change, May 2020 – A Resilient Recovery

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/2020/05/06/take-urgent-action-on-six-key-principles-for-a-resilient-recovery/>

The Committee on Climate Change letters to the Prime Minister sets out six key principles to rebuild the nation following the COVID-19 pandemic whilst delivering a stronger, cleaner and more resilient economy.

The Committee says that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change are integral to the UK's recovery package,

CPF MEMBERS FORUM www.cpfmembersforum.com

In 2018 a group of local government pensioners from Cheshire Pension Fund formed their own CPF Members Forum totally independent from CPF.

- We believe that our pension fund (for local government employees in Cheshire) should invest in a more socially responsible, resilient, and sustainable manner for the future.
- We campaign for recognition, for an AGM for members, and for CPF web pages to allow members of the fund to share their views in discussion pages.
- We would like to see more openness by our fund, and investing in Cheshire.

Cheshire Pension Fund www.cheshirepensionfund.org has nearly 100,000 members, from 300 councils and organisations in the four councils of Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Warrington, Halton, as well as local housing associations, academies, parish councils, police staff, and school staff.

Every resident pays part of their Council Tax as the Employers Contribution.

We query why CPF still have investments in areas such as fracking, oil and gas, properties mostly in the rest of England, payday loan companies, tobacco, gambling, gaming, and the “Big Six” companies that avoid UK Corporation Tax by clever accounting practices.

We have welcomed new pension regulations on the wider roles of Pension Trustees for ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) values in investing decisions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pension-trustees-clarifying-and-strengthening-investment-duties>

To give us a stronger voice with the fund, we ask all pensioners of Cheshire Pension Fund, as well as all current employees paying in to the fund for their own future pensions, to join our independent CPF Members Forum. It is free, confidential, and has no commitment,

Dave Plunkett 07974 112628 or David Challen 01244 671163

www.cpfmembersforum.com