**Are you a member of the Derbyshire Pension Fund?**

**Please take action now**

The use of fossil fuels is driving a global climate crisis. The Derbyshire Pension Fund has around £146 million invested in fossil fuel companies? This is also a risk for your pension.

Please write to the Chair of the Pension Fund, Councillor David Wilson, and urge his Committee to show moral leadership and commit to full divestment (dis-investment) from fossil fuel companies. We have included some suggested wording for an email to Councillor Wilson below.

For more information about why divesting from fossil fuels is a good idea please see our briefing here: <http://transitionchesterfield.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Divest-Derbyshire-Briefing-200216.pdf>

**Suggested text for email to send to Councillor Wilson (please amend as you wish)**

Dear Councillor Wilson

I'm writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Derbyshire Pension Committee to ask that you fully divest from all fossil fuel companies in which the fund is currently invested.

This summer we have all witnessed devastating fires, floods and droughts around the world, as a result of the warming of the climate brought on by the use of fossil fuels. The climate crisis is close to the tipping point that could make life unsustainable on our planet for billions of people. There is very little time to stop climate catastrophe.

By investing in fossil fuels, our pension money is helping to create this crisis. It is also a financial risk to invest in fossil fuel companies, when we see world governments beginning to take the problem more seriously, and we are moving into a transition period towards sustainable energy.

I do not want my pension money to be invested in fossil fuels. Our pension money should be invested in green and sustainable developments.

Several Local Authority Pension Funds, including Southwark, Islington, Lambeth and Waltham Forest have all committed to full divestment from coal, oil and gas. Other local-authority pension schemes have made partial divestment commitments, including the Environmental Agency Pension Fund, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Oxfordshire, Hackney and Haringey.

A number of pension funds internationally have also committed to divest from fossil fuels including the Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund and Canada's second biggest pension fund.

If Derbyshire Pension Fund was to divest from fossil fuels, it could invest in the growing number of ‘green’ and fossil free investment options available for investors. For example:

* The Southwark Pension Fund plans to invest £65m into two new renewable energy funds.
* The Avon Pension Fund has committed £115m or 2.5% of its assets to Renewable Infrastructure funds.
* The Teeside Pension Fund has committed £5m to a housing company that provides homes to people on low incomes or at risk of homelessness in the local area

Please show the leadership to commit to divesting from all fossil fuel companies within the next 2 years. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

**Send to:**

Councillor David Wilson

Chair of the Derbyshire Pension Committee

Derbyshire County Council

County Hall

Matlock DE4 3AG

Email: David.Wilson@derbyshire.gov.uk

and please cc. pensions@derbyshire.gov.uk to ensure that the Pension officers also receive a copy.