

# CPF MEMBERS FORUM

[www.cpfmembersforum.com](http://www.cpfmembersforum.com)

PRESS RELEASE 49 (March 2025)

## Investing in Fossil Fuels

Last month our [PR48 on Responsible Investing](#) queried actual investing by Cheshire Pension Fund in contrast to the ESG claims. We asked how CPF are really investing our pensions, do they invest to their value statements, or are we being “greenwashed”. ESG or “Responsible Investing” prioritises environmental, social, and corporate governance issues when investing. Most banks and funds now produce glossy brochures and website pages devoted to how they support ESG standards, primarily in relation to climate change.

We also looked at CPF pooled investments, because the [LGPS Central](#) website also lists many values and claims on ESG, responsible investing, stewardship, net zero intentions, sustainability, and TCFD. But in October 2024 LGPS Central answered our question on investing in tobacco and the impact on health, that it **“.does not make investment decisions driven by moral or ethical considerations”**.

The contradictions continue, and a new report from Carbon Majors shows clear concerns in the investments listed on the CPF website, as well as the new CPF Investment Report.

### THE CARBON MAJORS REPORT (March 2025)

[Carbon Majors have reported this month](#) that over half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions came from just 36 fossil fuel and cement producers. Sixteen of these were state owned, and the others owned by investors. The top five investor-owned companies were ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, TotalEnergies, and BP.

- **Cheshire Pension Fund invest directly in Shell and TotalEnergies.**
- **CPF invest indirectly in ALL FIVE of these companies.**

[CPF Investment holdings](#) webpage show Active and Passive latest investments. We say that CPF should be curious about investments, and conduct more due diligence on funds.

Active investments are controlled directly by CPF. Passive investments are described by CPF as owning investments in *“units of the fund and therefore it does not directly own the underlying company equities”*, but because CPF use advisers to invest in funds which then invest in companies, CPF do not know where our pensions are actually invested.

### CPF INVESTMENT REPORT (March 2025)

The Carbon Majors report contrasts with a new report on investments at [CPF Investment News Report](#). This newsletter claims to give **“an update on the positive progress the Fund is making towards achieving its new climate change targets”**.

As it is published in the same month as the analysis by Carbon Majors, we say that the ten councillors managing the Cheshire Pension Fund should be much more curious about actual investments, and query the greenwash in this new CPF newsletter.

## HOUSING

Furthermore, this CPF Investment News Report **“also provides information on the Fund's first investment into a new UK Residential Housing fund, which has been**

**established to invest in Social and Affordable Housing as well as the Private Rented Sector across the UK**'. There are no details of the scale of the investment or whether the housing will be local to Cheshire, Warrington, and Halton where CPF based.

But in 2024 our [PR40 "Why is CPF building houses in Cheltenham"](#) we showed that CPF had planning permission to build 215 houses in Cheltenham (Gloucestershire), not here in Cheshire. This attracted national media coverage including by the BBC, because it would also damage important historical sites in Cheltenham. We asked why we are not building here in Cheshire, Warrington or Halton, where surely houses are needed, and would also support companies, employment and the economy in our local communities.

## **CHESHIRE PENSION FUND & LGPS CENTRAL**

The [CPF 2023 - 2024 Annual Report](#) showed that our local government fund had a valuation of over £6.6 billion, for 114,000 members, and with 341 employers in Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Halton, and Warrington.

In 2024 in [PR42](#) we challenged the lack of evidence in the CPF Responsible Investment Policy to defend the continuing policy of "engagement", rather than "divestment".

CPF invest through other investment managers, including LGPS Central which is wholly owned by CPF and other LGPS funds (Cheshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, and Worcestershire).

LGPS Central invested 30% of our Cheshire pensions last financial year but we have questioned whether LGPS Central is effectively controlled and managed by the eight funds.

## **CPF MEMBERS FORUM**

Our CPF Members Forum are pensioners and members of Cheshire Pension Fund concerned about how and where our pensions are invested. ESG investing and UK investing are currently high profile as part of the national Pensions Investment Review.

The Local Government Pension System is a major part of this Pension Investment Review with a consultation on the 86 LGPS schemes and pools [LGPS: Fit For The Future](#). The proposals for the LGPS system look at ***“... how tackling fragmentation and inefficiency can unlock the investment potential of the scheme, including through further consolidation. This is in the best interests of members, employers, local communities and the wider UK economy”***.

Our members would like to see our £6.6 billion Cheshire fund invest for growth locally for our families and our futures, with productive investments in areas such as infrastructure, low-cost housing, IT systems, health systems, green energy companies, and home insulation. UK Investing would support growth, avoid imports, and benefit our residents.

**Our campaign also continues for better communications to members, primarily for CPF to collect and use our email addresses ..... after all it is 2025.....**

Please sign up to our campaign if you agree that local government pensions in Cheshire could be invested to higher ESG standards, and with more UK investments. We hope that councillors, pensioners and members will join us to help give us a stronger voice with CPF.

Our CPF Members Forum is free, confidential, and with no commitment.

**[www.cpfmembersforum.com](http://www.cpfmembersforum.com)**