

Questions from Members of the Public

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received.

<p>1. ROBIN TUCKER</p> <p>Given the evidence of consultations being ‘gamed’ by local anti-traffic reduction campaigners by facilitating responses from national groups in the past, by increasing levels of involvement of national anti-vax and climate change denial groups in Oxford’s traffic issues, and by recent evidence of well-funded manipulation of social media by anti-ULEZ campaigners – How confident are Councillors that fraudulent consultation responses (for example, false postcodes and multiple responses from a single source using multiple email addresses) are detected?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The Council takes reasonable steps to reduce the likelihood of deliberate manipulation of a consultation with single-user email registration usually turned on for surveys that are part of the most contentious consultations. However, while registration and other requirements such as requesting postcode or location can mitigate to some extent for multiple responses, they are not failsafe, and some information must be taken at face value. Evidence of bulk or repeated responses may not be malicious and may simply be because one household or community member is completing the response for others who cannot. Consultation feedback forms one part of the data that is considered before decisions are made on council business.</p>
<p>2. PETE WALLIS</p> <p>Following another summer of terrifying, off-the-scale climate events around the world that have exacerbated inequalities, cost lives and jeopardized public health, homes and livelihoods, and knowing that their frequency and severity will escalate as we burn more oil and gas, do you agree it is time to immediately and publicly commit to divest the Oxfordshire pension fund from fossil fuels, and insist that the Brunel Pool provide the necessary investment vehicles to facilitate this?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON, CHAIR OF THE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE</p> <p>This has been explored in detail by the Pension Fund on numerous occasions and is regularly subject to review. The current thinking remains that now is not the right time to impose a blanket divestment policy on fossil fuel companies (however defined), but to continue our current policy of selective divestment based on whether companies meet specific targets on which we base our engagement. The Committee has recently made the decision to switch its UK allocation from a portfolio benchmarked against the FTSE 100 to one benchmarked against</p>

SUPPLEMENTARY

In the light of this criticism of Shell and BP for rowing back on their climate commitments, what evidence is there that any of the engagement activities of the last ten years have brought about any change to their business model.

the FTSE 250 and this once implemented will directly reduce our exposure to Shell and BP. The Committee will again review its position at its meeting in December 2023.

RESPONSE

A written response will follow later.