
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	18 February 2021
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	SL/ /LP/015/21
Contact Officer:	Sharon Lang	Contact No:	01475 712112
Subject:	Strathclyde Pension Fund – Notice of Motion by Councillor J McEleny		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor J McEleny, countersigned by Councillor Crowther, relative to Strathclyde Pension Fund submitted in terms of Standing Order 22.
- 1.2 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor J McEleny.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

Notice of Motion to full council, seconded by Councillor John Crowther:

The Strathclyde Pension Fund (SPF) is known to hold shares in 11 of the world's 20 biggest arms manufacturers, including some involved in the production or maintenance of nuclear weapons or their delivery systems. Any investments in nuclear weapons producers are at odds with the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Council calls on Strathclyde Pension Fund to work towards eliminating current and future financial exposure to companies that are involved in arms manufacturing, giving due regard to fiduciary duty.

Background:

Strathclyde Pension Fund

Strathclyde Pension Fund manages the pension contributions of employees of the following councils: Argyll and Bute, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire.

The Fund held shares worth over £107 million in 15 nuclear weapons companies as at March 2019. Eight of these companies are involved in Britain's Trident nuclear weapons programme.

At least four are involved in developing new types of nuclear weapons, like the US's Long Range Stand Off Weapon, and are thus playing a key role in the dangerous new international nuclear arms race.

Council pension funds in Scotland have investments worth nearly £130 million in arms firms linked to Yemen's conflict, a war that has led to the deaths of an estimated 70,000 people.

The local authority funds have shareholdings in five arms companies who are key suppliers to Saudi Arabia, which leads a coalition of Arab states accused of multiple war crimes including the bombing of school bus when 40 children were killed.

Source: Strathclyde Pension Fund's Complete List of Assets as at 31 May 2019:

<https://www.spfo.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=45269&p=0>

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination. It was adopted on 7 July 2017, opened for signature on 20 September 2017, and will enter into force on 22 January 2021.

For those nations that are party to it, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities. For nuclear armed states joining the treaty, it provides for a time-bound framework for negotiations leading to the verified and irreversible elimination of its nuclear weapons programme.