Ethical investment policy

The University's Ethical Investment Policy was updated in March 2013.

Currently, the University's funds are invested in a diversified portfolio of equities, bonds and property.

The University Council noted that the University of York Pension Scheme is constituted as a separate corporate body with its own board of trustees. The scheme's funds are invested entirely separately from those of the University.

The policy

The University routinely invests funds with third party organisations through the regular investment of surplus funds and endowments. Wherever possible, the University wishes to make such investments in ways that are consistent with the mission and values of the University as expressed in the Charter and the Corporate Plan.

The University’s ethical investment policy is based on the premise that the University’s choice of where to invest should reflect the ethical values it espouses in public life.

The University will not knowingly invest in companies whose activities include practices which directly pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the mission and values of the University.

In order to give effect to its commitment to this policy the University will:

- Review on a regular basis whether any investment is contrary to the University’s value system
- Consider representation from members of the University community that the University should not invest, or should disinvest, in specific companies
- Issue guidance for fund managers responsible for the University’s investments
- Monitor the operation and effectiveness of the policy on an annual basis

March 2013