



Investment Policy

This investment policy has been prepared in relation to the funds of The Polehampton Charity (the Charity). The origin of the funds was from a gift by Mr Edward Polehampton which was intended to support the people resident in the parishes of St Mary's, Twyford and St James, Ruscombe, in times of hardship or for educational needs.

The Charity, as established by the Charity Commission and reinforced by the Charity's own Articles, is required to apply the whole of its income and property towards the promotion of its objects.

The investment portfolio was to serve two main purposes:

- To generate sufficient return to be able to cover the costs of maintaining the property owned by the Charity; and
- To be able to award grants to applicants in need.

Delegation of Investment Management

The Board of Trustees delegates the management of the investment portfolio to a Financial Expert who is appointed and reviewed on an annual basis. Their role is to manage and safeguard the investment portfolio on behalf of the Charity.

The Board of Trustees receives quarterly Investment performance reports which are reviewed by the Board at each Trustee Board Meeting.

Review of Investment Manager

On an annual basis the Finance & Governance Sub-Committee will meet with the Investment Management Expert to review the portfolio's performance and to review the investment objectives and returns of the portfolio. They will also discuss the agreement for the upcoming year and any fee proposals.

Once the Finance & Governance Sub-Committee has met with the Expert, the Sub-Committee will share their recommendation with the Board of Trustees at the next Trustee Board Meeting and ask Trustees to consider. Upon seeking approval from the Board, the Finance & Governance Sub-Committee shall communicate accordingly.

The Charity will seek alternative quotations from other Investment management experts for consideration every five years for best practice.

Fees for Investment Manager

An annual fee for the management of the portfolio is calculated on an annual basis and is deducted from the portfolio.

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Risk

The Charity is a charity who distributes grants to those in need. It is recognised that over time the assets will be used for charitable benefit and therefore within the risk spectrum the investment strategy as agreed by the Board of Trustees is to maintain a medium level of risk. This risk level is reviewed annually as part of the Investment manager review.

Ethical Investment

The Charity Commission has provided guidance for charity trustees around when it is acceptable to apply ethical restrictions to investments – this is given in their publication [Charities and Investment Matters: a Guide for Trustees](#).

Ethical investment means investing in a way that reflects the Charity's values and ethos and does not run counter to its aim.

The Charity Trustees made a decision to exclude specific companies and sectors from the investment portfolio. These are:

- Alcohol
- Arms
- Gambling
- Tobacco

The Finance & Governance Sub-Committee will review, as and when necessary if there are additional exclusions that they wish to make.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

The Charity elected to follow an ESG approach for its investments that will not inhibit the portfolio's growth and therefore prevent their ability to support more people in the community.

The Charity believes that it must do all that it can, within its powers, to protect the planet for future generations.

The Charity's investment strategy is not to invest in companies that may negatively impact the environment, its social values and its governance.

Asset Classes

The investment policy is to have a broad spread of assets across different asset classes. The Trustees agreed the following with the Investment Manager:

All asset classes can be considered and invested in where appropriate, to retain appropriate diversification across asset classes, as well as maintain a medium risk approach.

Monitoring and review of this policy

This policy is to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees using the annual monitoring and review cycle.

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