

# PENSION COMMITTEE

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**MONDAY, 10 MARCH 2025 AT 6.30 PM**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE**

**Enquiries to:** Sola Odusina, Committee Services  
**E-Mail:** [sola.odusina@camden.gov.uk](mailto:sola.odusina@camden.gov.uk)  
**Telephone:** 020 7974 6884 (Text phone prefix 18001)

## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**Wards**

### **3. DEPUTATIONS**

Deputation requests from:-

(Pages 3 - 8)

- UNISON
- Camden Friends of Palestine

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ENDS**

Issued on: Friday 07 March 2025

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### COUNCIL MEETING – DEPUTATION/PETITION REQUEST FORM

NAME OF DEPUTATION/PETITION LEADER: Liz Wheatley	
ADDRESS: Camden UNISON Branch Office, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt St NW1 1BD	
TEL:	E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:unison@camden.gov.uk">unison@camden.gov.uk</a>
Name and contact details of other proposed attendees (maximum of 6 plus deputation leader): All can be contacted via <a href="mailto:unison@camden.gov.uk">unison@camden.gov.uk</a>	
Anisah Khwaja Jenna Litherland Brigid Falconer Jacqui Wallace Hafid Ali	
<b>Does any member of the deputation have access requirements? If so, please tell us what they are: No</b>	
<b>Have you submitted a deputation request to the Council before? If so, please give details:</b> Yes, we have done deputations to both the Pensions Committee and to full Council meetings before on a number of occasions. The most recent one was to the July 2024 Pension Committee	

**Please summarise below the key points you wish to make at the Council meeting (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):**

A summary of the main points that we will focus on in our deputation include:

- At the full Council meeting earlier this year where a petition was received by the council about pension fund investment, the response was that the matter would be referred to the Pension Committee for consideration.
- There was a commitment to prioritise engagement on conflict zones, to develop an advanced human rights policy, to look to incorporating peace, justice and strong stewardship into Camden's investment beliefs, and to engage with Camden's fund managers to ensure that they are active in managing these risks and exposures.
- These are new issues not previously raised in Pension Committee meetings
- Because we are the main stakeholder in the LGPS – we pay in to it and we receive payments out of it – we believe that we should have some say about how our money is used and so want to be part of the discussion about these future decisions

We will also highlight some of the continuing issues:

- We continue to want ethical investment of our pension fund – both that directly managed by Camden and the London CIV – and to be involved in discussions about how that can be achieved
- We want a full and transparent audit and disclosure of investments – including regular reporting of investments so that progress can be measured
- We want specific immediate divestment from:
  - a. The arms industry
  - b. Companies profiting from war and occupation
  - c. The fossil fuel industry

(see guidance notes overleaf)

**GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNCIL'S [CONSTITUTION](#) \***

**Deputations and petitions**

Anyone likely to be affected by a matter in which the authority has functions, or which affects that area of the authority, or some of it, or the inhabitants of that area, or some of them may ask that a deputation or a petition should be received by a meeting of the Council.

A deputation request should be made in writing to the Chief Executive (via the contact listed below) setting out the reason why the deputation should be received, by no later than 12noon, three working days before the meeting to which it relates.

The person making the deputation request shall indicate what the deputation is about, the number (no more than 7), names and addresses of the persons who will form the deputation, and the member of the deputation who will address the Council.

Requests to present petitions to Council will be considered in line with the Council's Petition Scheme (Part 5 of the Constitution).

The Mayor will decide whether the deputation or the petition is to be received or not, or whether the deputation or the petition should be heard by another body. In deciding whether or not to redirect a deputation or the petition to another body the Mayor will amongst other things consider whether the matter could benefit from an in-depth analysis which could not be provided at Council, whether it is of wide interest to the Borough and whether the deputation or the petition has already been aired recently at another Council body. A maximum of three deputations or petitions will be taken at each Council meeting with the Mayor deciding which to accept with an overall maximum time allocated to deputations and petitions of 30 minutes.

#### **At the meeting**

When called, the spokesperson or Petition Organiser may speak for three minutes. The Mayor will ensure that the remarks are relevant and that the speaker refrains from personal attacks.

Members may then ask questions of the deputation. Six minutes per deputation or petition is allowed for this, to include responses from the depute(e)s/petitioner(s).

After the deputation or petition has been heard the appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair may respond in a speech no longer than three minutes.

No deputation or petition may appear before the Council again within the next three months on the same or a similar subject.

#### **Data Protection - What will we do with the information that you have provided to us?**

The Council has a legal duty to allow public access to its formal meetings (except in limited circumstances where the press and public may be excluded) and we are processing the data that you have provided in order to deal with your request to make a submission to one of those meetings. We will only process the information provided to us for the purpose for which you have provided it.

Your name and address may appear in the papers of the council, committee or sub-committee meeting that you have requested a submission to. These papers are freely available on the Council's website and in hard copy from the Council's offices.

We will not transfer your personal data outside of the EU/EEA.

Full the full privacy notice, please visit <https://www.camden.gov.uk/deputations>

Please return this form by email to [vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk) / [donna.alexander-morrison@camden.gov.uk](mailto:donna.alexander-morrison@camden.gov.uk) or by post to:-

**Vicky Wemyss-Cooke/Donna Alexander-Morrison**

**Committee Services**

**London Borough of Camden**

**Town Hall**

**Judd Street**

**London, WC1H 9JE**

**Enquires: 020 7974 5726/5319**

\* Part 4 of Camden's Constitution, 'Procedure Rules and Standing Orders'

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**Camden Friends of Palestine**  
**Deputation to the Pensions Committee on 10 March 2025**

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1. Camden Friends of Palestine (CFoP) is a network of local groups and activists, and concerned Camden residents, who have come together to call for urgent and effective action by Camden’s democratic institutions and representatives with a view to ending the decades-long apartheid in Israel/Palestine.
2. We make this deputation request in relation to agenda item 7.
3. The Committee will recall that this agenda item concerns the referral from the Full Council of a petition submitted by CFOP, signed by over 4000 Camden residents, concerning the pension fund’s investment in companies complicit in international criminality – including in Gaza.
4. As we understand it, the Committee at this meeting will address the details of that proposal, and the broader issue of responsible investment. All of that is to be welcome, especially the commitment confirmed in the report to adopt MDG16 on international peace and justice.
5. However, as the organisation and the residents who placed this issue on the agenda in the first place, we consider it essential to be heard at the Pension Committee’s meeting on Monday.
6. In particular we are concerned that:
  - a. There is no clear timetable for a full audit of the pension funds to identify those companies in which the fund is invested (whether held directly or indirectly) which are complicit in international criminality – including in Gaza;
  - b. The absence of any criteria for determining what companies will be excluded, and what consultation will be conducted a part of the formulation of any such criteria, and over what timeframe;
  - c. We are concerned in particular that “Action 1” appears to be restricted to “defence companies” – but (as explained in our petition to the full council) that represents only a small proportion of those companies which are complicit in international criminality, and any audit focusing only on those companies would leave much of concern out of account. This highlights the importance of deciding, with stakeholder contribution, what criteria for exclusion is to be used;
  - d. The reference to the “member support criteria” is welcome (and of course, legally required) but the report contains no detail of how such criteria will be assessed and utilising what consultation process and over what timeframe;
  - e. As the advice received by Nigel Giffen KC makes clear, there is no realistic prospect that the release of the “Fit for the Future” report will materially alter the nature of decisions available to the Council in respect of ESG considerations such as the avoidance of international criminality; and the pending nature of that report cannot be used as a justification for delay;

- f. We, and the people of Camden, would like to know more about the “Conflict Zone Exposure Policy” mentioned at Action 4, including what role stakeholders like us will have in contributing to that policy, and the timeframe within which we can expect this to happen;
7. Most fundamentally, the people of Camden still lack, even at the highest level of principle, an indication from their democratic representatives that – if legally achievable – the Council would prefer to avoid to be invested in companies complicit in international criminality. That commitment, at a level of high principle (if nothing more) could and should be given now.
8. Finally, we note the amendments made (yesterday) to the constitution, designed it seems to preclude concerned residents of Camden from raising deeply held issues of global concern. This is not the forum to respond to those concerning developments, principally because they do not concern the content of this deputation.
9. This deputation concerns, and only concerns, the proper management of the pension funds in which Camden Council is invested. Those concerns relate directly to the whole borough, concern many if not all residents of the borough, and are of their very essence the sorts of matters in which engagement with the local community and other stakeholders is both proper, lawful, and necessary in terms of democratic accountability.

Camden Friends of Palestine  
5 March 2025