

## **Sheffield Hallam University Ethical Investment Policy**

The University has developed an Ethical Investment Policy to reflect the values and objectives of the University and its stakeholders.

Effective acknowledgement and management of the risks associated with social, environmental and ethical matters has the potential to enhance our long term financial stability.

As such, the University will consider the ethical standards and attitudes towards the environment of the companies in which it invests when making investment decisions, at the same time seeking to maximise financial return and ensure the University's assets are secure.

Although the University only has cash deposits, this policy has been implemented so that any future investment in companies will consider the principles set out in this policy.

Wherever possible and in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines, the University wishes to make investments that are consistent with the mission and values of the University. The University will strive to invest in companies whose activities are, on ethical grounds, consistent with the educational and/or research objectives of the University, even where this may reduce returns. The University will take into account both the published guidance of the Charity Commission on ethical and socially responsible investment of charitable funds and the University's statement of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Where necessary the University will seek advice on how best to achieve compliant investments. Where appropriate, the University will act in conjunction with others with similar principles to achieve our aims.

The University will only consider it appropriate to disengage with a company where that company's activities or methods of operation present a serious cause for concern or financial instability under the University's investment principles and the University could not reasonably expect to influence these factors through a process of collaboration.

This policy will be published on the University's website to help ensure transparency and assist in the monitoring of implementation of the policy.

The Finance Directorate will be responsible for taking appropriate action to ensure that the policy is implemented effectively.

The Finance Directorate will report annually to the Finance and Employment Committee, stating whether investments are compliant with the policy.

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Finance Directorate and any proposed amendments will be submitted for approval by the Finance and Employment Committee.

This policy was approved by the Finance and Employment Committee at their meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011.