



Brasenose College

Policy on Socially Responsible Investment

Approved at Governing Body November 2016

The College is committed to ensuring that it makes investment decisions responsibly and with integrity, always mindful of the principle “that the College’s power of investment has to be used to further the purposes of the College, and that those purposes will normally be best served by seeking the maximum return consistent with commercial prudence” (as stated by the Charity Commission in Legal Underpinning note to CC14: Charities and Investment Matters (2011) para 4.5).

The College believes that by engaging in the broad set of extra-financial considerations – including environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues – the long-term financial performance of the portfolio as well as the alignment between the objectives of the College endowment and society at large can be improved. These issues will inform investment decisions where practicable, but the extent of the impact of these issues is limited because of the way the College manages its endowment.

In the main, the College invests in funds rather than directly investing in companies, as the College does not have the expertise or resources to manage the risks of selecting individual stocks. Active funds are chosen because it is believed that the particular characteristics of the assets and the fund manager will contribute to the overall performance of the portfolio. The College typically owns only a very small portion of each fund, so is not in a position to influence investment policy. However, the College monitors the environmental, social and governance (ESG) policy of the fund and whether the fund conforms with UN Principles of Responsible Investment. The college includes review of ESG policies within the due diligence carried out before investing in new funds.

The College also invests in passive or tracker funds, and secondary private equity funds, in which the future investments cannot be known at the point of commitment.

Approved by Governing Body on 9th November 2016