# How do ESG factors influence our investment decisions?

#### David Nicholls, CFA East Capital





# ESG is not just a buzzword

- 1. Important because it impacts the valuations of companies
  - Both risks and opportunities
- 2. Improving ESG in companies is not only a **right** but a **responsibility** of investors





## How do we approach ESG?

	Red Flags (out of ten)		0
		Score	Weighting
1	Governance	100.0%	75.0%
a	Capital Allocation	100.0%	30.0%
b	Owners / Board / Management	100.0%	22.5%
c	Transparency	100.0%	22.5%
2	Environmental	100.0%	12.5%
3	Social	100.0%	12.5%

Overall Score (out of 100) 100.0





## How are the scores used?

Score	Conviction	Engagement
<b>Strong</b> , >80%	<b>High</b> , comfortable with significant overweight position	Feedback on positive results, highlight areas for improvement
<b>Good</b> , >60%	Medium, careful consideration of risks	Engagement on specific issues raised by scorecard
Laggard, <60%	Highly <b>case specific</b> , i.e. liquidity reasons	Highlighting realistic areas of improvement





## **Example questions - governance**

Is capital allocated in an efficient, transparent way most beneficial to shareholders?

Are at least 33% of directors truly independent (i.e. in spirit as well as by definition)?



1

5



#### **Example question – environment**

Does the company's understanding of how environmental risks and
opportunities may change their business in the mid to long term appear to be better than or in line with peers?