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Appendix 1 - Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19
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1 THE ISSUE

1.1 In February 2012, the Council adopted the revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public services Code of Practice 2011 Edition, which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year and for this to be scrutinised by an individual / group of individuals or committee.

1.2 In addition, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) issued revised guidance on local authority investments in March 2010 that requires the Council to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year.

1.3 This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the *Local Government Act 2003* to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the CLG Guidance.

1.4 CIPFA issued an updated Treasury Management in Public Services: Code of Practice in late December 2017 and the code will be effective for the 2018/19 Financial Year. In accordance with Arlingclose advice we have continued to seek approval of our Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) under the requirements of the 2011 Codes, not least because the new code does not recommend any changes to the format or content of the TMS. CIPFA is currently planning to publish updated guidance notes on the changes to the code later in 2018 and if any changes to this strategy are required they will be reported in future treasury management reports and further approvals will be sought at full council.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees to;

2.1 Recommend the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Appendix 1) to February Council.

2.2 Recommend the Investment Strategy as detailed in Appendix 2 to February Council.

The Cabinet is also asked to:

2.3 Note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 and delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 13th February 2018 to the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the Budget Report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

2.4 Note that any comments made by the Corporate Audit Committee at their meeting on the 8th February 2018 will be reported to Full Council on the 13th February 2018.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The resource implications are included in the report and appendices.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 This report is a statutory requirement.

5 THE REPORT

Background

5.1 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to 'have regard to' the Prudential Code and to set Treasury Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

5.2 The Act therefore requires the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Investment Strategy; this sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

5.3 The suggested strategy for 2018/19 in respect of the following aspects of the treasury management function is based on the Treasury Officers' views on interest rates, supplemented with leading market forecasts provided by the Council's treasury advisor, Arlingclose.

The strategy covers:

•	Treasury limits in force which will limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council;
•	Treasury Management Indicators;
•	The current treasury position;

•	The borrowing requirement;
•	Prospects for interest rates;
•	The borrowing strategy;
•	The investment strategy.

5.4 It is a statutory requirement under Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the Council to produce a balanced budget. In particular, Section 32 requires a local authority to calculate its budget requirement for each financial year to include the revenue costs that flow from capital financing decisions. This, therefore, means that increases in capital expenditure (which includes investments expected to produce revenue savings and generate new income) must be limited to a level whereby the net impact on the revenue budget from: -

1. increases in interest charges caused by increased borrowing to finance additional capital expenditure, and
2. any net increases in running costs from new capital projects , and
3. increases in the Minimum Revenue Provision for capital expenditure

Increases are limited to a level which is affordable within the overall projected income of the Council for the foreseeable future.

5.5 The revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public services Code of Practice 2011 Edition, adopted by Council in February 2012, requires the Treasury Management Strategy and policies to be scrutinised by an individual / group of individuals or committee, and the Corporate Audit Committee have been nominated by Council to carry out this function, and the report is on the agenda for the 8th February 2018 meeting.

2018/19 Treasury Management & Investment Strategy

5.6 The Strategy Statement for 2017/18 set Treasury Indicators for 2017/18 – 2019/20, which included a total borrowing requirement at the end of 2017/18 of £308 million. At the end of December 2017, external borrowing was at £176.9 million, which may increase before the end of the 2017/18 financial year should a review of the Council's cashflow and capital investment decisions highlight additional borrowing is required. The level of borrowing is in line with the policy of utilising internal cash to reduce net borrowing costs and investment counterparty risk.

5.7 The proposed Treasury Management Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 and includes the Treasury Management Indicators required by the Treasury Management Code.

5.8 Although the indicators provide for a maximum level of total borrowing, this should by no means be taken as a recommended level of borrowing as each year affordability needs to be taken into account together with other changes in circumstances, for example revenue pressures, levels and timing of capital receipts, changes to capital projects spend profiles, and levels of internal cash balances.

5.9 The budget report, which is also on the agenda, includes appropriate provision for the revenue costs of the capital programme in accordance with this Treasury Management Strategy.

5.10 Appendix 1 also details the Council's current portfolio position as at 31st December 2017, which shows after the netting off of the £29.3 million investments, the Council's net debt position was £147.6 million.

5.11 The 2018/19 Investment Strategy is attached at Appendix 2. This sets 'outer limits' for treasury management operations. While the strategy uses credit ratings in a "mechanistic" way to rule out counterparties, in operating within the policy Officers complement this with the use of other financial information when making investment decisions, for example Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices, Individual Ratings, and the financial press. This has been the case in previous years, which has protected the Council against losses of investment, for example in Icelandic banks.

5.12 The Counterparty listing in Appendix 3 includes credit ratings from three agencies, as well as a sovereign rating for each country. Counterparties who now meet the minimum criteria as recommended in Appendix 2 as at 31st December 2017 are included in the listing in Appendix 3.

5.13 Interest rate forecasts from the Council's Treasury advisors are included in Appendix 1.

5.14 The Council has met the conditions to opt up to MiFID II professional status and intends for this to continue in 2018/19 in order to continue to have access to products including money market funds, pooled funds, treasury bills, bonds, shares and to continue to receive the same level of support from our treasury management advisors.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 This report is a statutory requirement.

6.2 In accordance with the CLG Guidance, the Council will be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement should the assumptions on which this report is based change significantly. Such circumstances would include, for example, a large unexpected change in interest rates, or in the Authority's capital programme or in the level of its investment balance.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, having consulted the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are the table below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest

		costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency, Section 151 Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.

8.2 Consultation was carried out via e-mail.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

9.2 The Council's lending & borrowing list is regularly reviewed during the financial year and credit ratings are monitored throughout the year. All lending/borrowing transactions are within approved limits and with approved institutions. Investment & Borrowing advice is provided by our Treasury Management consultants Arlingclose.

9.3 The 2011 edition of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice requires the Council nominate a committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies. The Corporate Audit Committee carries out this scrutiny.

9.4 In addition, the Council maintain a risk register for Treasury Management activities, which is regularly reviewed and updated where applicable during the year.

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Background papers	*2017/18 Treasury Management & Investment Strategy.*
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	