

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Audit Committee	
MEETING DATE:	4th December 2018	
TITLE:	Treasury Management 2018-19 Quarter 2 Performance Report (Mid Year Update)	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E 3090
WARD:	All	

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

- Appendix 1** – Performance Against Prudential Indicators
- Appendix 2** – The Council's Investment Position at 30th September 2018
- Appendix 3** – Average monthly rate of return for 1st 6 months of 2018/19
- Appendix 4** – The Council's External Borrowing Position at 30th September 2018
- Appendix 5** – Arlingclose's Economic & Market Review Q2 of 2018/19
- Appendix 6** – Interest & Capital Financing Budget Monitoring 2018/19
- Appendix 7** – Summary Guide to Credit Ratings

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 In February 2012 the Council adopted the 2011 edition of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice, which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year, review performance during the year, and approve an annual report after the end of each financial year.
- 1.2 This report gives details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan 2018/19 for the first six months of 2018/19.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee agrees that:

- 2.1 The Treasury Management Report to 30th September 2018, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted
- 2.2 The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2018 are noted.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 This report is for information only.

5 THE REPORT

Summary

- 5.1 The average rate of investment return for the first six months of 2018/19 is 0.63%, which is 0.14% above the benchmark rate.
- 5.2 The Council's Prudential Indicators for 2018/19 were agreed by Council in February 2018 and performance against the key indicators is shown in **Appendix 1**. All indicators are within target levels.

Summary of Returns

- 5.3 The Council's investment position as at 30th September 2018 is given in **Appendix 2**. The balance of deposits as at 30th June 2018 and 30th September 2018 are also set out in the pie charts in this appendix.
- 5.4 Gross interest earned on investments for the first six months totalled £125k. **Appendix 3** details the investment performance, showing the average rate of interest earned over this period was 0.63%, which was 0.14% above the benchmark rate of average 7 day LIBID +0.05% (0.49%).

Summary of Borrowings

- 5.5 The Council's external borrowing as at 30th September 2018 totalled £182.8 million and is detailed in Appendix 4. A short term loan for £2.5 million matured during the quarter and new long term PWLB annuity borrowing for £10 million was arranged during the quarter to maintain appropriate cashflow balances.
- 5.6 The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31st March 2018 was £247.1 million with a projected total of £434 million by the end of 2018/19 based on the capital programme approved at February 2018 Council. This represents the Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure, and demonstrates that the borrowing taken to date relates to funding historical capital spend.
- 5.7 Following Local Government Reorganisation in 1996, Avon County Council's residual debt is administered by Bristol City Council. All successor Unitary Authorities make an annual contribution to principal and interest repayment, for which there is a provision in the Council's revenue budget. The amount of residual debt outstanding as at 31st March 2018 apportioned to Bath & North East Somerset Council is £12.3m. Since this borrowing is managed by an external body and treated in the Council's Statement of Accounts as a deferred liability, it is not included in the borrowing figures referred to in paragraph 5.5.

- 5.8 The borrowing portfolio as at 30th September 2018 is shown in **Appendix 4**.

Strategic & Tactical Decisions

- 5.9 As shown in the charts at **Appendix 2**, The Council mainly uses AAA rated Money Market funds to maintain very short term liquidity. The Council had £18.2 million

invested in Money Market Funds as at 30th September 2018. The investment portfolio also included investments with UK banks and very highly rated Foreign Banks.

- 5.10 The Council does not hold any direct investments with banks in countries within the Eurozone reflecting both on the underlying debt issues in some Eurozone countries and the low levels of interest rates. The Council's investment counterparty list does not currently include any banks from Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Spain and Italy.
- 5.11 The Council's average investment return is slightly above the budgeted level of 0.45%.

Future Strategic & Tactical Issues

- 5.12 Our treasury management advisors economic and market review for the second quarter 2018/19 is included in **Appendix 5**.
- 5.13 The rebound in quarterly GDP growth in Q2 to 0.4% appeared to overturn the weakness in Q1 which was largely due to weather-related factors. However, the detail showed much of Q2 GDP growth was attributed to an increase in inventories. Year/year GDP growth at 1.2% also remains below trend. The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) made a unanimous decision for a rate rise of 0.25% in August, taking Bank Rate to 0.75%, but maintains expectations of a slow rise in interest rates over the forecast horizon
- 5.14 The benefits of the Council's current policy of internal borrowing are monitored regularly against the likelihood that long term borrowing rates are forecast to rise in future years. The focus remains on the rate of increase and the medium-term peak.
- 5.15 The borrowing forecast to take place in 2018/19 is likely to be driven by a need to maintain an appropriate working cash balance rather than any immediate changes to interest rates.

Budget Implications

- 5.16 A breakdown of the revenue budget showing interest and capital financing and the forecast year end position based on the period April to September is included in **Appendix 6**. The current forecast is for an underspend of £495k, mainly related to the re-phasing of capital spend, as reported in the 2017/18 outturn report, leading to lower than forecast borrowing costs and minimum revenue provision (MRP) requirement. This is partly offset by lower internal income related to service charges for funding debt costs in relation to the re-phased capital projects.
- 5.17 This position will be kept under review during the remainder of the year, taking into account the Council's cash-flow position and the timing of any new borrowing required.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The Prudential Code and CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires regular monitoring and reporting of Treasury Management activities.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None.

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 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 and Borrowing advice is provided by our Treasury Management consultants Arlingclose.

9.2 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.

9.3 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	<i>2018/19 Treasury Management & Investment Strategy</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

APPENDIX 1

Performance against Treasury Management Indicators agreed in Treasury Management Strategy Statement

1. Authorised limit for external debt

These limits include current commitments and proposals in the budget report for capital expenditure, plus additional headroom over & above the operational limit for unusual cash movements.

	2018/19 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 30th September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	434,000	182,762
Other long term liabilities	2,000	0
Cumulative Total	436,000	182,762

2. Operational limit for external debt

The operational boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but without the additional headroom for unusual cash movements.

	2018/19 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 30th September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	403,000	182,762
Other long term liabilities	2,000	0
Cumulative Total	405,000	182,762

3. Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure

This is the maximum amount of total borrowing which can be at fixed interest rate, less any investments for a period greater than 12 months which has a fixed interest rate.

	2018/19 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 30th September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Fixed interest rate exposure	403,000	162,762*

* The £20m of LOBO's are quoted as variable rate in this analysis as the Lender has the option to change the rate at 6 monthly intervals (the Council has the option to repay the loan should the Lender exercise this option to increase the rate).

4. Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure

While fixed rate borrowing contributes significantly to reducing uncertainty surrounding interest rate changes, the pursuit of optimum performance levels may justify keeping flexibility through the use of variable interest rates. This is the maximum amount of total borrowing which can be at variable interest rates.

	2018/19 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 30th September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Variable interest rate exposure	246,000	20,000

5. Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days

This is the maximum amount of total investments which can be over 364 days. The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments.

	2018/19 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 30th September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Investments over 364 days	50,000	0

6. Maturity Structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk.

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual as at 30th September 2018
	%	%	%
Under 12 months	50	Nil	10.9*
12 months and within 24 months	75	Nil	5.5
24 months and within 5 years	75	Nil	0
5 years and within 10 years	100	Nil	0
10 years and above	100	Nil	83.6

* The CIPFA Treasury management Code now requires the prudential indicator relating to Maturity of Fixed Rate Borrowing to reference the maturity of LOBO loans to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment, i.e. the next call date (which are at 6 monthly intervals for the £20m of LOBO's). However, the Council would only consider repaying these loans if the Lenders exercised their options to alter the interest rate.

7. Average Credit Rating

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. A summary guide to credit ratings is set out at **Appendix 7**.

	2018/19 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 30th September 2018
	Rating	Rating
Minimum Portfolio Average Credit Rating	A-	AA

APPENDIX 2

The Council's Investment position at 30th September 2018

The term of investments is as follows:

Term Remaining as at 30th June 2018	Balance at 30th September 2018
	£'000's
Notice (instant access funds)	18,200
Up to 1 month	10,000
1 month to 3 months	0
Over 3 months	10,000
Total	38,200

The investment figure of £33.9 million is made up as follows:

	Balance at 30th September 2018
	£'000's
B&NES Council	32,961
Schools	5,239
Total	38,200

The Council had a total average net positive balance of £39.8m during the period April 2018 to September 2018.

Chart 1: Council Investments as at 30th September 2018 (£38.2m)

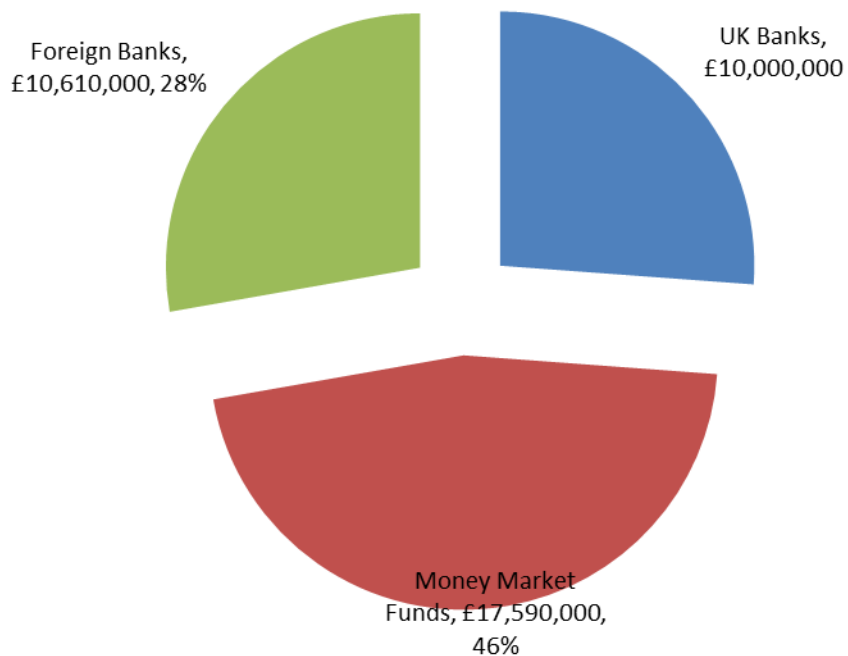


Chart 2: Council Investments as at 30th June 2018 (£33.9m)

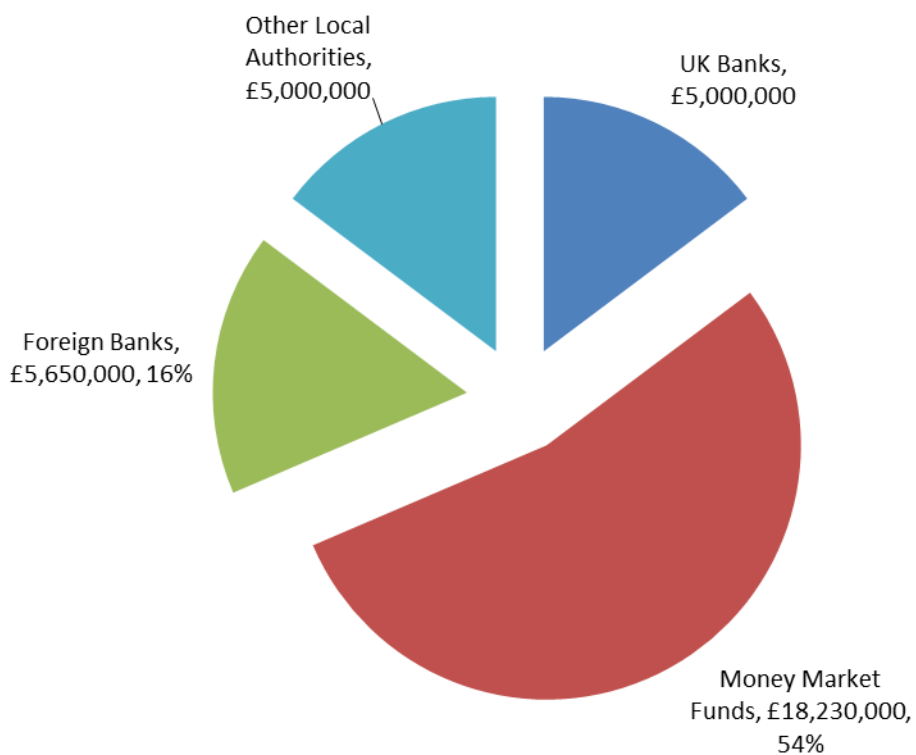


Chart 3: Council Investments per lowest equivalent Long Term credit rating (£38.2m) 30th September 2018

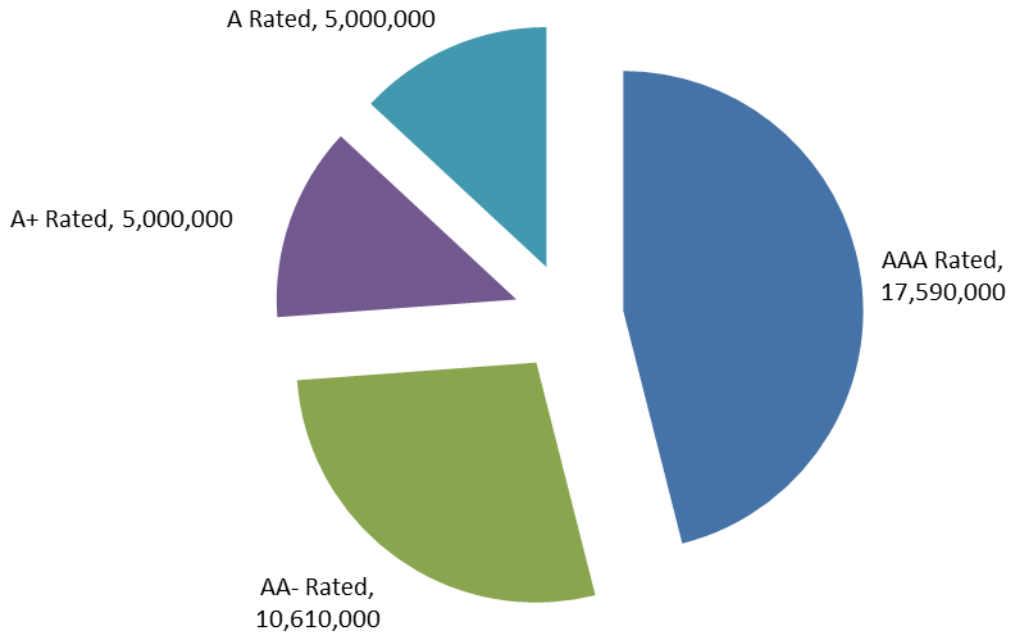
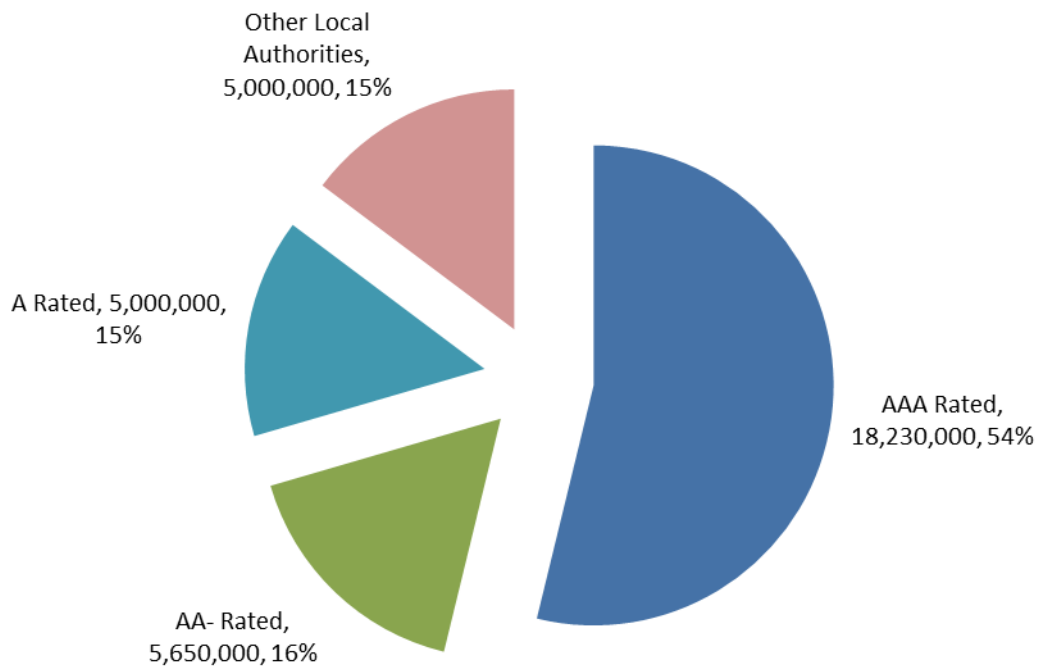


Chart 4: Council Investments per lowest equivalent Long Term credit rating (£33.9m) 30th June 2018



APPENDIX 3**Average rate of return on investments for 2018/19.**

	April %	May %	June %	July %	Aug %	Sep %	Average for Period
Average rate of interest earned	0.50%	0.60%	0.61%	0.60%	0.71%	0.74%	0.63%
Benchmark = Average 7 Day LIBID rate +0.05% (source: Arlingclose)	0.41%	0.41%	0.41%	0.41%	0.63%	0.64%	0.49%
Performance against Benchmark %	+ 0.09%	+ 0.19%	+ 0.20%	+ 0.19%	+ 0.08%	+ 0.10	+ 0.14%

APPENDIX 4**Councils External Borrowing at 30th September 2018**

Borrowing	Amount (£)	Start	Maturity DaBte	Interest Rate
LONG TERM				
PWLB	10,000,000	15/10/04	15/10/34	4.75%
PWLB	5,000,000	12/05/10	15/08/35	4.55%
PWLB	5,000,000	12/05/10	15/02/60	4.53%
PWLB	5,000,000	05/08/11	15/02/31	4.86%
PWLB	10,000,000	05/08/11	15/08/29	4.80%
PWLB	15,000,000	05/08/11	15/02/61	4.96%
PWLB	5,300,000	29/01/15	08/04/34	2.62%
PWLB	5,000,000	29/01/15	08/10/64	2.92%
PWLB	18,795,590	20/06/16	20/06/41	2.36%
PWLB	9,480,184	24/02/17	16/02/40	2.28%
PWLB	9,545,227	04/04/17	16/02/43	2.26%
PWLB	8,112,949	08/05/17	15/02/42	2.25%
PWLB	6,931,389	10/08/17	10/04/67	2.64%
PWLB	9,851,890	13/12/17	10/10/42	2.35%
PWLB	9,855,212	06/03/18	10/10/42	2.52%
PWLB	9,889,305	06/03/18	10/10/47	2.62%
PWLB	10,000,000	10/09/18	20/06/43	2.42%
KBC Bank N.V*	5,000,000	08/10/04	08/10/54	4.50%
KBC Bank N.V*	5,000,000	08/10/04	08/10/54	4.50%
Eurohypo Bank*	10,000,000	27/04/05	27/04/55	4.50%
Gloucestershire C C	5,000,000	25/11/14	19/12/19	2.05%
Gloucestershire C C	5,000,000	19/12/14	19/12/19	2.05%
Overall Total	182,761,746			

*All LOBO's (Lender Option / Borrower Option) have reached the end of their fixed interest period and have reverted to the variable rate of 4.50%. The lender has the option to change the interest rate at 6 monthly intervals. Should the lender use the option to change the rate, then at this point the borrower has the option to repay the loan without penalty.

APPENDIX 5

Economic and market review for April to September 2018

Economic background: Oil prices rose by 23% over the six months to around \$82/barrel. UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) for August rose to 2.7% year/year, above the consensus forecast and that of the Bank of England's in its August Inflation Report, as the effects of sterling's large depreciation in 2016 began to fade. The most recent labour market data for July 2018 showed the unemployment rate at 4%, its lowest since 1975. The 3-month average annual growth rate for regular pay, i.e. excluding bonuses, was 2.9% providing some evidence that a shortage of workers is providing support to wages. However real wages (i.e. adjusted for inflation) grew only by 0.2%, a marginal increase unlikely to have had much effect on households.

The rebound in quarterly GDP growth in Q2 to 0.4% appeared to overturn the weakness in Q1 which was largely due to weather-related factors. However, the detail showed much of Q2 GDP growth was attributed to an increase in inventories. Year/year GDP growth at 1.2% also remains below trend. The Bank of England made no change to monetary policy at its meetings in May and June, however hawkish minutes and a 6-3 vote to maintain rates was followed by a unanimous decision for a rate rise of 0.25% in August, taking Bank Rate to 0.75%.

Having raised rates in March, the US Federal Reserve again increased its target range of official interest rates in each of June and September by 0.25% to the current 2%-2.25%. Markets now expect one further rise in 2018.

The escalating trade war between the US and China as tariffs announced by the Trump administration appeared to become an entrenched dispute, damaging not just to China but also other Asian economies in the supply chain. The fallout, combined with tighter monetary policy, risks contributing to a slowdown in global economic activity and growth in 2019.

The EU Withdrawal Bill, which repeals the European Communities Act 1972 that took the UK into the EU and enables EU law to be transferred into UK law, narrowly made it through Parliament. With just six months to go when Article 50 expires on 29th March 2019, neither the Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU which will be legally binding on separation issues and the financial settlement, nor its annex which will outline the shape of their future relationship, have been finalised, extending the period of economic uncertainty.

Financial markets: Gilt yields displayed marked volatility during the period, particularly following Italy's political crisis in late May when government bond yields saw sharp moves akin to those at the height of the European financial crisis with falls in yield in safe-haven UK, German and US government bonds. Over the period, despite the volatility, the net change in gilt yields was small. The 5-year benchmark gilt only rose marginally from 1.13% to 1.16%. There was a larger increase in 10-year gilt yields from 1.37% to 1.57% and in the 20-year gilt yield from 1.74% to 1.89%. The increase in Bank Rate resulted in higher money market rates. 1-month, 3-month and 12-month LIBID rates averaged 0.56%, 0.70% and 0.95% respectively over the period.

Credit background: Reflecting its perceived higher risk, the Credit Default Swap (CDS) spread for non-ringfenced bank NatWest Markets plc rose relatively sharply over the

period to around 96bps. The CDS for the ringfenced entity, National Westminster Bank plc, has held steady below 40bps. Although the CDS of other UK banks rose marginally over the period, they continue to remain low compared to historic averages.

The ringfencing of the big four UK banks - Barclays, Bank of Scotland/Lloyds, HSBC and RBS/Natwest Bank plc – is complete, the transfer of their business lines into retail (ringfenced) and investment banking (non-ringfenced) is progressing and will need to be completed by the end of 2018.

There were a few credit rating changes during the period. Moody's downgraded Barclays Bank plc's long-term rating to A2 from A1 and NatWest Markets plc to Baa2 from A3 on its view of the credit metrics of the entities post ringfencing. Upgrades to long-term ratings included those for Royal Bank of Scotland plc, NatWest Bank and Ulster Bank to A2 from A3 by Moody's and to A- from BBB+ by both Fitch and Standard & Poor's (S&P). Lloyds Bank plc and Bank of Scotland plc were upgraded to A+ from A by S&P and to Aa3 from A1 by Moody's.

Our treasury advisor Arlingclose will henceforth provide ratings which are specific to wholesale deposits including certificates of deposit, rather than provide general issuer credit ratings. Non-preferred senior unsecured debt and senior bonds are at higher risk of bail-in than deposit products, either through contractual terms, national law, or resolution authorities' flexibility during bail-in. Arlingclose's creditworthiness advice will continue to include unsecured bank deposits and CDs but not senior unsecured bonds issued by commercial banks.

Technical Update Following consultation in 2017, CIPFA published new versions of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code) and the Treasury Management Code of Practice but has yet to publish the local authority specific Guidance Notes to the latter. In England, MHCLG published its revised Investment Guidance which came into effect from April 2018. The updated Prudential Code includes a new requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, which is to be a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Authority will be producing its Capital Strategy later in 2018/19 for approval by full Council.

APPENDIX 6

Interest & Capital Financing Costs – Budget Monitoring 2018/19 (Apr to September)

April to September 2018	YEAR END FORECAST			ADV/FAV
	Budgeted Spend or (Income) £'000	Forecast Spend or (Income) £'000	Forecast over or (under) spend £'000	
Interest & Capital Financing				
- Debt Costs	7,647	7,167	(480)	FAV
- Internal Repayment of Loan Charges	(9,245)	(8,295)	950	ADV
- Ex Avon Debt Costs	1,140	1,140	0	
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	6,230	5,270	(960)	FAV
- Interest on Balances	(304)	(309)	(5)	FAV
Sub Total - Capital Financing	5,468	4,973	(495)	FAV

APPENDIX 7

Summary Guide to Credit Ratings

Rating	Details
AAA	Highest credit quality – lowest expectation of default, which is unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
AA	Very high credit quality - expectation of very low default risk, which is not likely to be significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
A	High credit quality - expectations of low default risk which may be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
BBB	Good credit quality - expectations of default risk are currently low but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
BB	Speculative - indicates an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time.
B	Highly speculative - indicates that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.
CCC	Substantial credit risk - default is a real possibility.
CC	Very high levels of credit risk - default of some kind appears probable.
C	Exceptionally high levels of credit risk - default is imminent or inevitable.
RD	Restricted default - indicates an issuer that has experienced payment default on a bond, loan or other material financial obligation but which has not entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, and which has not otherwise ceased operating.
D	Default - indicates an issuer that has entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, or which has otherwise ceased business.