



REPORT TO:	Audit and Governance Committee Full Council – 4 March 2024
DATE:	29 January 2024
SUBJECT:	Treasury Management Policy and Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 To provide pre-decision scrutiny to the strategy being proposed.
PURPOSE:	
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Sandeep Ghosh
REPORT OF:	Christine Marshall – Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) & S151
REPORT AUTHOR:	Sean Howsam (Interim Treasury & Investments Manager PSPSL)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	None directly
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report is the Treasury Management Policy and Draft Strategy Statement for the 2024/25 financial year and is included as part of the Budget Setting Report that is submitted to Council for approval.

As the report is a treasury report it is being submitted to Audit and Governance Committee for scrutiny prior to submission to Cabinet and Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Audit and Governance Committee scrutinise the Treasury Management Policy (**Appendix A**) and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 (**Appendix B**) and make any comments and

suggestions for consideration by Cabinet on 21 February 2024 and Council on 4 March 2024 when they consider these documents as part of the budget report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Members have the option of making comments to Cabinet in respect of the proposed strategy or alternatively making no comments.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.
- 1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 1.3 Accordingly treasury management is defined as:

"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks".
- 1.4 The CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to prepare a capital strategy report which will provide the following risks around investments have always been managed effectively by the Council.
 - a high-level long term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services
 - an overview of how the associated risk is managed
 - the implications for future financial sustainability

The aim of this capital strategy is to ensure that all elected members on the full council fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting capital strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite. The capital strategy is being reported separately.

2. REPORT

2.1 There are no proposed changes to the Treasury Management Policy Statement in **Appendix A** and it is attached for completeness.

2.2 The Council is required to set out its Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year. These outline the Council's strategy for borrowing and its policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. Our strategy statements for 2024/25 are attached at **Appendix B**. The strategy statements cover:

- reporting requirements
- capital prudential indicators 2023/24 to 2028/29
- the borrowing requirement
- the MRP policy
- the use of the Council's resources and the investment position
- prudential and treasury indicators
- treasury limits in force which will limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council
- prospects for interest rates
- the borrowing strategy
- policy on borrowing in advance of need
- debt rescheduling
- the investment policy
- creditworthiness policy
- country limits
- investment strategy

2.3 The strategy document presented to Audit and Governance for scrutiny is currently at draft stage. This is because the future Capital Programme has yet to be finalised and approved by Council. Once this is known the tables within the strategy document shown at **Appendix B** will be amended and considered by Cabinet prior to submission to Council for approval before the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year.

2.4 The Council's strategy statement has been prepared in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code and will require approval by Full Council. In addition there will be Quarterly and Mid-Year Treasury Reports and an Annual Report submitted to Governance and Audit Committee. The aim of these reporting arrangements is to ensure that those with ultimate responsibility for the treasury management function appreciate fully the implications of treasury management policies and activities, and that those implementing policies and executing transactions have properly fulfilled their responsibilities with regard to delegation and reporting.

- 2.5 The rules in relation to accounting for leases is changing from 1 April 2024. The new rules require leases to be brought onto the balance sheet and will increase the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). Work will be carried out over the next few months to assess the likely impact on the Council's CFR and where changes are required to the treasury and prudential indicators, a separate report will be brought to the Committee for scrutiny prior to submission to Council for approval.
- 2.6 The Government has recently released amended Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance which is currently out to consultation and likely to be effective from the 2024/25 financial year. The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement will be reviewed prior to submission to Full Council.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 This report has been produced based on information available from the budget setting process. As this process is ongoing the information is subject to amendment prior to its final submission to Council.

4 EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 None

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

- 5.1.1 None

5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.2.1 None

5.3 STAFFING

- 5.3.1 None

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.4.1 This Council is required to produce a Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy before the commencement of each financial year to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

- 5.5.1 None

5.6 FINANCIAL

- 5.6.1 Adoption of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy will ensure sound financial controls associated with the management of the authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions and safeguard these assets.

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 The Strategy will put in place measures for the effective control of the risks associated with Treasury Management and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. The Council's priority is the security of its investments.

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

5.8.1 This report is being submitted for pre decision scrutiny prior to submission to Cabinet and Council.

5.8.2 Link Group, who are external treasury advisors to the Council, have been consulted in relation to the compilation of this report

5.8.3 The Portfolio Holder for Finance is briefed on treasury performance on a regular basis as part of the monthly portfolio meetings.

5.9 REPUTATION

5.9.1 The security of investments is the Council's main priority when investing surplus cash.

5.10 CONTRACTS

5.10.1 None

5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER

5.11.1 None

5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

5.12.1 None

5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

5.13.1 None

5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.14.1 None directly from the report. The Council is currently liaising with external treasury advisors to establish how these issues can be taken into considering when assessing the suitability of financial institution for investment purposes.

5.15 LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

5.15.1 None

6. ACRONYMS

- 6.1 bps – basis points
CDS - Credit Default Swap
CFO – Chief Financial Officer
CFR – Capital Financing Requirement
CIPFA - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
CPI - Consumer Price Index

DLUHC - Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
 DMADF – Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility
 GDP – Gross Domestic Product
 LA – Local Authority
 LB – Liability Benchmark
 LOBO – Lender Option Borrower Option
 MHCLG - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
 MPC - Monetary Policy Committee
 MRP – Minimum Revenue Provision
 PFI – Public Finance Initiative
 PSPSL – Public Sector Partnership Services Ltd
 PWLB - Public Works Loan Board
 QT – Quantitative Techniques
 S&P – Standard and Poors
 SONIA - Sterling Overnight Index Average
 VRP – Voluntary Revenue Provision

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	Treasury Management Policy Statement 2024/25
APPENDIX B	Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Plan 2024/25

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management.	CIPFA website
CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT	
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body for the 2024/25 financial year.	

REPORT APPROVAL	
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