



Report To:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date:	21 st April 2026
Subject:	Q3 Treasury Report 2025/26
Purpose:	To provide Members with an update on Treasury Management performance and activity to ensure best practice is maintained.
Key Decision:	No
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Growth
Report Of:	Russell Stone, Director of Finance (S151 Officer)
Report Author:	Sean Howsam, Treasury & Investments Manager (PSPSL)
Ward(s) Affected:	None directly
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Q3 Treasury Report on the Council's "Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy". It covers the following areas.

- An economic update for the first three quarters of the 2025/26 financial year.
- The outlook for the remainder of the financial year along with interest rate forecasts.
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators.
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2025/26.
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2025/26.
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2025/26.

This Report refers to a key element of the Council's Governance Framework and represents an important contribution to the evidence trail in support of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members of the Audit and Governance Committee receive and review the contents of the report attached at **Appendix 1**.

Reasons for Recommendations

The CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management suggests that members should be informed of Treasury Management activities at least quarterly. This report therefore ensures this Council is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's revised Code of Practice.

Other Options Considered

As this is an update report there are no other further options for consideration.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.
- 1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital programme. The capital programme provides a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending requirements. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion, any existing debt 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 risks around investments have always been managed effectively by the Council.

2. Report

- 2.1 This report provides the 2025/26 Quarter 3 update on the Council's “Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy” (**Appendix 1**).
- 2.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued the revised Code of Practice for Treasury Management in 2021.

- 2.3 The Code suggests that members should be informed of Treasury Management activities at least quarterly. This report therefore ensures this Council is embracing best practice in accordance with CIPFA's revised Code of Practice.
- 2.4 Sections 2 and 3 of **Appendix 1** provides an economic update for quarter 3 and interest rate forecasts. The expected direction of interest rates for the remainder of the financial year is for the Bank Rate to remain the same.
- 2.5 Section 4 and 5 of **Appendix 1** provides details of the Council's investments and borrowing on 31 December 2025.
- 2.6 The table below provides an analysis of the net treasury position as at Quarter 3 and the projected outturn for the year:

	2025/26 Budget Quarter 3	2025/26 Actual Quarter 3	2025/26 Variance Quarter 3	2025/26 Annual Budget	2025/26 Forecast Outturn	2025/26 Forecast Variance
<u>Treasury Investments</u>	(783,251)	(1,145,107)	(361,856)	(1,039,588)	(1,386,756)	(347,168)
Gross Interest	<u>7,534</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(7,534)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>
Brokers Fees	(775,717)	<u>0</u>	<u>(7,534)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>
Net Position		(1,145,107)	(369,390)	(1,029,588)	(1,386,756)	(357,168)
<u>Property Funds</u>						
Gross Distributions	(649,846)	(478,813)	171,033	(862,523)	(662,108)	200,415
Management Fees	<u>128,082</u>	<u>94,372</u>	<u>(33,710)</u>	<u>170,000</u>	<u>130,499</u>	<u>(39,501)</u>
Net Distributions	(521,764)	(384,441)	137,323	(692,523)	(531,609)	160,914
M&G Property Fund Liquidation Distributions (<i>to be used for MRP Contributions as the original capital purchase was unfinanced</i>)	0	(219,037)	(219,037)	0	(219,037)	(219,037)
Total Borrowing Costs	83,816	53,187	(30,629)	111,250	65,047	(46,203)
State Street Premium Allocated in Year	0	13,597	13,597	0	18,047	18,047
Overall Net Position	(1,213,665)	(1,681,801)	(468,136)	(1,610,861)	(2,054,308)	(443,447)

On 31 December 2025 there was a favourable variance of £468,136 and the forecast outturn was a favourable variance of £443,447. The liquidation distribution from M&G which is included in these figures will be used to finance a corresponding MRP charge.

- 2.7 Treasury investments achieved an average rate of 4.813% and property fund investments achieved an estimated average rate of 2.974%. The combined rate achieved on all investments was 4.166%.

- 2.8 The higher level of investment income achieved compared to the original budget is due to interest rates in the market being higher than the budgeted return for 2025/26 and balances available for investment being higher due to slippage in the capital programme.
- 2.9 Section 6 provides an update to the Council's prudential and treasury indicators for 2025/26.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 This report provides an update on treasury management performance to Members to ensure Best Practice is maintained as required by CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

None

Staffing

None

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The General Power of Competence in the Localism Act 2011 allows Councils a broad freedom in their operations.

Councils have the general power to borrow under Section 1 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The power to invest is set out in the Local Government Act 2003, Section 12, which gives the Council the power to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs.

The power that allows councils to spend for capital purposes is included in the Local Government Act 2003.

Data Protection

None

Financial

The financial implications are covered in detail in **Appendix 1** to this report and in section 2 above.

By making the investment criteria relating to financial institutions stringent, the Council receives lower rates of return. The Council therefore aims to strike a balance between risk and reward when considering its portfolio of investments. Treasury Management is a key financial consideration for the Authority especially in respect of its investment returns and Capital Programme.

Risk Management

The Code of Practice sets out the framework for controlling the risks associated with treasury management decisions for borrowing and investing. Ultimately investment and borrowing decisions are made in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. The overriding priority is that the security of a deposit takes precedence over a return on investment.

The Prudential and Treasury Indicators control the limits for investing and borrowing, to ensure that any borrowing is affordable and sustainable and long term borrowing is for capital purposes only.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

The Portfolio Holder for Finance is briefed on treasury performance on a regular basis.

Reputation

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

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None

Health and Wellbeing

None

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None

Acronyms

CPI - Consumer Price Index

CIPFA - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

MPC - Monetary Policy Committee

MUFG – External Treasury Advisors (formerly known as Link Group)

PWLB - Public Works Loan Board

q/q – quarter on quarter

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix 1 Q3 Treasury Report 2025/26

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance
and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of
Practice on Treasury Management.
BBC Treasury Management Strategy
Statement for 2025/26

Where the document can be viewed.

CIPFA Website

(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Full Council,
03/03/2025 18:30

Chronological History of this Report

Name of Body

Audit and Governance
Audit and Governance
Council
Audit and Governance

Date

Q1 Update Report – 13/10/2025
2025/26 Mid-Term Report – 17/11/2025
2025/26 Mid-Term Report – 17/11/2025
Q3 Update Report – 21/04/2026

Report Approval

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