

CABINET MEETING

13TH SEPTEMBER 2021

ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2020-21

1. Introduction

The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2020-21 was approved by Council on 3rd March 2020. Section B 1.1(2) stated that a year end annual report would be produced.

This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code) and outlines the Treasury Management activities in 2020-21 financial year.

2. Investments

One of the primary activities of the Treasury Management operation is the investment of surplus cash for which the Authority is responsible. As well as the Authority's own cash the County Council invests School Funds, Trust Funds and other Funds, with any interest derived from these investments being passed over to the relevant Fund.

All surplus money is invested daily with the approved counterparties either via brokers on the Money Markets or direct. The security of the investments is the main priority, appropriate liquidity should be maintained and returns on the investments a final consideration. It continues to be difficult to invest these funds as the market continues to be insecure and as a consequence appropriate counterparties are limited.

For 2020-21 investments to individual counterparties were limited to:

	Maximum to Lend £m
Upper Limit Any one British Bank and Building Society with a credit rating of at least F1, P-1 or A-1 short term or AA-, Aa3 or AA- long term	10
Middle Limit Any one British Bank and Building Society with a credit rating of at least F1, P-1 or A-1 short term	7
UK Banks Part Nationalised Included as investment counterparties, as long as they continue to have appropriate UK Government support	7
Any one Local Authority	5
Any one AAA Rated Money Market Fund	5
Debt Management Office	70

The DMADF (DMO) limit was increased in April 2020 to £70m from £40m by the Director of Corporate Services (under Emergency powers) following approval by the Executive Board Member for Resources and Chief Executive.

The total investments at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021 are shown in the following table:

Investments	01.04.20				31.03.21			
	Call and notice	Fixed Term	Total		Call and notice	Fixed Term	Total	
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	£m	%
Banks and 100% Wholly Owned Subsidiaries	19.0	0.53	19.53	27	34.50	7.53	42.03	36
Building Societies	0.00	3.00	3.00	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Money Market Funds	12.00	0.00	12.00	16	25.00	0.00	25.00	22
DMADF (DMO)	0.00	18.00	18.00	24	0.00	36.50	36.50	31
Local Authorities	0.00	21.00	21.00	29	0.00	13.00	13.00	11
TOTAL	31.00	42.53	73.53	100	59.50	57.03	116.53	100

The total investment figure of £116.53m at 31st March 2021 includes £42.80m Swansea Bay City Deal money.

An analysis of the daily cash schedules indicates that the minimum balance lent over the twelve month period was £99.53m and the maximum balance lent was £165.53m. The average balance for the year was £136.50m.

The total investments made by the Council and repaid to the Council (the turnover) amounted to £2,440.00m. This averaged approximately £46.79m per week or £6.68m per day. A summary of the turnover is shown below:

	£m
Total Investments 1st April 2020	73.53
Investments made during the year	1,241.50
Sub Total	1,315.03
Investments Repaid during the year	(1,198.50)
Total Investments 31st March 2021	116.53

The main aim of the Treasury Management Strategy is to manage the cash flows of the Council and the risks associated with this activity. Lending on the money market secures an optimum rate of return, allows for diversification of investments and consequently reduction of risk, which is of paramount importance in today's financial markets.

The benchmark return for the money market is the "7 day LIBID rate". For 2020-21 the Council has compared its performance against this "7 day LIBID rate". The average "7 day LIBID rate" was -0.07% whereas the actual rate the Council earned was 0.18%, an out performance of 0.25%.

This outperformance can be quantified as £351k additional interest earned compared to the "7 day LIBID rate".

The gross interest earned on investments for 2020-21 amounted to £0.258m, which was more than the estimated figure of £0.200m. There were no changes to the Bank of England Official rate during the year.

The income from investments is used by the Authority to reduce the net overall costs to the Council taxpayer.

3. Update on the investments with Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF)

The latest position with the Council's investments with KSF was reported in the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Reports to Executive Board during the year.

One dividend of £5.2k was received in 2020-21, equating to 0.13p in the £.

As at 31st March 2021 the sum of £3.47m principal and £213k interest had been received from the Administrators, which equates to 86.80% of the claim submitted. Further dividends are expected to be paid in 2021-22. The Administrators estimate total dividends payable to non-preferential creditors at 86.90%.

4. Security, Liquidity and Yield (SLY)

Within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020-21, the Council's investment priorities are:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity and
- Yield

The Council aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is still considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow requirements.

Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of the individual investments (excluding the £0.53m in KSF) held as at the 31st March 2021 together with their credit ratings, historic risk of default and the risk weighting attached to each investment.

5. Borrowing

As Members are aware the Authority has a capital investment programme. For 2020-21 actual capital expenditure was £84.82m. This was financed from:

	£m
Borrowing	17.95
Grants and Contributions	51.02
Usable Capital Receipts Applied	0.51
Revenue and Reserves	15.34
Total	84.82

Under the Treasury Management Strategy it was resolved:

- To borrow to meet the funding requirements of the Authority, after allowing for capital grants, capital receipts and capital contributions, and to stay within the Prudential Indicators to ensure affordability, prudence and sustainability.
- To borrow when interest rates are at their most advantageous, after considering cash flow requirements.

No new loans were borrowed during 2020-21.

The total loans outstanding at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021 were:

Loans	Balance at 01.04.20 £m	Balance at 31.03.21 £m	Net Increase/ (Net Decrease) £m
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	425.42	403.38	(22.04)
Market Loan	3.00	3.00	0.00
Salix, Invest-to-Save, HILS & TCL	4.11	7.46	3.35
Total	432.53	413.84	(18.69)

The total external interest paid in 2020-21 amounted to £17.33m, which compares favourably with the budget of £20.27m. The savings have arisen due to under borrowing on the capital programme and borrowing at lower than anticipated interest rates.

6. Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

Under the requirements of the Prudential Code of Practice for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the Council are required to set a number of treasury management prudential indicators for the year 2020-21. The indicators set and the performance against those indicators is shown below:

6.1 The estimated and actual interest exposure limits as at 31st March 2021 were:

	Estimate 31.03.21 £m			Actual 31.03.21 £m		
	Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Total	Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Total
Borrowed	445.00	3.00	448.00	410.84	3.00	413.84
Invested	(20.00)	(30.00)	(50.00)	(57.03)	(59.50)	(116.53)
Net	425.00	(27.00)	398.00	353.81	(56.50)	297.31
Proportion of Total Net Borrowing	107%	(7%)	100%	119%	(19%)	100%
Limit	125%	5%				

6.2 Maximum principal sums invested > 365 days

	2020-2021 Limit £m	2020-2021 Actual £m
Maximum principal sums invested > 365 days	10	NIL

6.3 Interest rate exposure limits

	2020-21 Limit £m	2020-21 Actual £m
Limits on fixed interest rates based on net debt	510.00	353.81
Limits on variable interest rates based on net debt	51.00	(56.50)

6.4 The upper and lower limits set for the maturity structure of borrowing along with the actual maturity structure as at 31st March 2021.

	Estimated Upper Limit 2020-2021 %	Estimated Lower Limit 2020-2021 %	Actual 31.03.21 %
Under 12 months	15	0	3.84
12 months to 2 years	15	0	2.71
2 years to 5 years	50	0	6.57
5 years to 10 years	50	0	9.36
10 years to 20 years	50	0	19.60
20 years to 30 years	50	0	20.15
30 years to 40 years	50	0	23.03
40 years and above	50	0	14.74
Total			100.00

Details of the above maturity structure are shown below:

Loan Maturities	PWLB Debt £m	Average Interest Rate %	Market Loans/ Invest to Save/Salix/ HILS/TCL £m	Average Interest Rate %	Total Debt Outstanding £m
Before 1st April 2022	15.77	4.70	0.13	0	15.90
1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	11.00	4.83	0.21	0	11.21
1st April 2023 to 31st March 2026	26.58	4.86	0.62	0	27.20
1st April 2026 to 31st March 2031	35.22	4.21	3.50	0	38.72
1st April 2031 to 31st March 2041	78.11	4.30	3.00	0	81.11
1st April 2041 to 31st March 2051	83.40	4.06	0	0	83.40
1st April 2051 to 31st March 2061	92.30	5.09	3.00	4.72	95.30
After March 2061	61.00	2.41	0	0	61.00
Total as at 31.03.21	403.38		10.46		413.84

7. Prudential Indicators

7.1 Affordability

7.1.1 Actual and estimated ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream		
	2020-2021 Estimate	2020-2021 Actual
	%	%
Non-HRA	4.74	4.69
HRA	33.93	32.73

The indicator shows the proportion of income taken up by capital financing costs.

7.2 Prudence

7.2.1 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

	31.03.19 Estimate	31.03.19 Actual
	£m	£m
Non-HRA	271	266
HRA	142	144
HRAS	74	74
Total	487	484

The Capital Financing Requirement reflects the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes.

7.2.2 Gross Borrowing against the Capital Finance Requirement indicator.

To ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council's external borrowing must only be for a capital purpose. Gross borrowing must not exceed the CFR for 2020-21 plus the expected changes to the CFR over 2021-22 and 2022-23 but can in the short term due to cash flows. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

£m	2020-2021 Estimate	2020-2021 Actual
Debt at 1 st April 2020	433	433
Expected Change in Debt	37	(19)
Gross debt at 31st March 2021	470	414
CFR	529	504
Under / (Over) borrowing	59	90

The Section 151 Officer reports that the authority had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2020-21.

7.2.3 The Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary.

The Authorised Limit is the “Affordable Borrowing Limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2020-21 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its Authorised Limit.

The Operational Boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the Boundary is acceptable subject to the Authorised Limit not being breached.

The actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

	2020-2021 £m
Authorised Limit	569.00
Gross borrowing	413.84
Operational Boundary	517.00
Average gross borrowing position	423.89
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	7.63%

8. Leasing

No finance leases were negotiated during the year.

9. Rescheduling

No rescheduling was undertaken during the year.

10. Conclusion

This report demonstrates compliance with the reporting requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

11. Recommendations

It is recommended that this report be received by the Cabinet.