

# CABINET

## Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 16 February 2016

### Report of Chief Officer (Resources)

| PURPOSE OF REPORT   |                                     |                  |                          |          |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| This report sets out the 2016/17 treasury management framework for Cabinet's approval and referral on to Council. |                                     |                  |                          |          |
| Key Decision  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Non-Key Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | Referral |
| Date of notice of forthcoming Key Decision  | 18 January 2016.                    |                  |                          |          |
| This report is public.  |                                     |                  |                          |          |

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That Cabinet approve in principle the policy change to increase the period to 60 years over which the Minimum Revenue Provision is charged, for expenditure incurred prior to 2008.
- 2) That the Finance Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to finalise the Treasury Management Framework, as updated for Cabinet's final budget proposals, for referral on to Council.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code") requires that a strategy outlining the expected Treasury activity for the forthcoming 3 years be adopted, but that it be reviewed at least annually. It needs to reflect treasury policy and cover various forecasts and activities, in order to integrate the Council's spending and income plans with decisions about investing and borrowing.
- 1.2 To give context, and for information, the Quarter 3 monitoring report for the current year is included as Appendix C to the Corporate Performance and Financial Monitoring report elsewhere on this agenda.

#### 2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The proposed Strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20 is set out at **Appendix A** for Cabinet's consideration. The document contains the necessary details to comply with both the Code and Government investment guidance. Responsibilities for treasury management are set out at **Appendix B** and the policy statement is presented at **Appendix C**.

2.2 Key elements and assumptions feeding into the proposals are outlined below. These take account of Cabinet's existing budget proposals as far as possible at this stage, but there has been only limited time available to update the framework following the last Council meeting. Should there be any changes to the budget, then the treasury framework would need to be updated accordingly before being referred on to Budget Council. For these reasons, delegated arrangements are being sought for finalising the framework, prior to it being referred on to Budget Council.

### **2.3 Borrowing Aspects of the Strategy**

2.3.1 Based on the draft budget, for now the physical borrowing position of the Council is projected to remain fairly constant over the next three years, allowing for scheduled repayments. It is also projected that the HRA capital programme will not require any additional borrowing.

2.3.2 There is one key policy change proposed in respect of the Minimum Revenue Provision, whereby the Capital Financing Requirement (the underlying need to borrow) in connection with capital expenditure incurred prior to 2008 is now proposed to be spread over 60 years instead of 20 years. This is in line with latest Government guidance, and allows the Council to spread the cost of that capital investment being charged to the revenue budget over a longer period of time. It reflects Savings Item number 30 of Cabinet's budget proposals, included elsewhere on the agenda.

### **2.4 Investment Aspects of the Strategy**

2.4.1 Overall, the strategy put forward follows on from 2015/16 in that it is based on the Council having a comparatively low risk appetite with focus on high quality deposits. The 2016/17 strategy continues to use the same investment criteria as approved by Members in 2015/16, with the only change being to increase the money limits to provide greater flexibility whilst cash balances are high.

2.4.2 The proposed Investment Strategy continues to provide for investing with other local authorities given that these, in effect, are as secure as investing with the Government but they offer greater returns and from an Officer perspective, it makes sense to keep the benefits of such temporary cash investing/borrowing wholly within the local authority family.

## **3 CONSULTATION**

3.1 Officers have liaised with Capita Asset Services, the Council's Treasury Advisors, in developing the proposed framework. The framework is being considered by Budget and Performance Panel at its meeting on 23 February.

## **4 OPTIONS AND OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

4.1 Cabinet may put forward alternative proposals or amendments to the proposed Strategy in Appendix A, but these would have to be considered in light of legislative, professional and economic factors, and importantly, any alternative views regarding the Council's risk appetite. As such no further options analysis is available at this time.

4.2 Furthermore, the Strategy must fit with other aspects of Cabinet's budget proposals, such as investment interest estimates and underlying prudential borrowing assumptions, feeding into Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators.

## 5 OFFICER PREFERRED OPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

5.1 To approve the framework as attached, allowing for any amendments being made under delegated authority prior to referral to Council. This is based on the Council continuing to have a low risk appetite regarding the security and liquidity of investments particularly, but recognising that more flexibility should help improve returns, whilst still effectively mitigating risk. It is stressed in terms of treasury activity, there is no risk free approach. It is felt though that the measures set out above provide a better, more flexible framework within which to work over the coming year.

### RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The proposed Treasury Management framework forms part of the Council's budget and policy framework, and fits into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

### CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc)

No direct implications arising.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Strategy is in support of achieving the borrowing cost and investment interest estimates included in the budget.

### SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

This report is in the name of the s151 Officer (as Chief Officer (Resources)). Her comments and advice are reflected in the report.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments.

### MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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