



## Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 13 February 2018

### Report of Chief Officer (Resources)

PURPOSE OF REPORT					
This report sets out the 2018/19 treasury management framework for Cabinet's approval and referral on to Council.					
Key Decision	X	Non-Key Decision		Referral	
Date of notice of forthcoming Key Decision		15 January 2018			
This report is public.					

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That the Finance Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to agree 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 part of the Corporate Financial Monitoring report elsewhere on this agenda.
- 1.3 Over the years, the regulatory and economic environment has changed significantly and this has led the sector to consider more innovative types of investment activity. Reflecting this, Members will be aware that changes are underway regarding the capital and treasury management framework.
- 1.4 Following consultation, Cipfa have now published updated codes of practice on both Treasury Management and on the Prudential Code for Capital Finance and a very brief outline on the main changes and messages is provided at **Appendix A**.
- 1.5 Furthermore the Government has also recently consulted on changes to the statutory guidance on Local Government Investments, and on Minimum Revenue Provision. It is understood that the guidance has now been issued; some had just been received

at the time of writing this report but there has been no time to read/consider it.

- 1.6 Given the lateness of the Code updates (and the lateness and uncertainties surrounding statutory guidance), Cipfa has recognised that many authorities are unlikely to be able to implement the required changes for the start of the 2018/19 financial year.
- 1.7 Instead therefore, the Code changes can be implemented during the course of 2018/19 (and it is expected that this will apply too to the statutory guidance, subject to it being reviewed over the coming week). This fits well with the Council's budget strategy; it is already planning to undertake a mid-year review and future capital investment strategy is a fundamental part of that work.

## **2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

- 2.1 The proposed Strategy for 2018/19 to 2021/22 is set out at **Appendix B** 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 C** and the policy statement is presented at **Appendix D**.
- 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 no time available to update the framework following the January 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.

### **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.

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

- 2.4.1 Overall, the strategy put forward follows on from 2017/18 in that it is based on the Council having a comparatively low risk appetite with focus on high quality deposits. The 2018/19 strategy continues to use the same investment criteria as approved by Members in 2017/18.
- 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 MID-YEAR TREASURY MONITORING REPORT**

- 3.1 The Mid-Year Treasury Monitoring Report as at 30 September 2017 was reported to

Cabinet on 07 November 2017 and Budget and Performance Panel 14 November. It was then due to be referred on to the December meeting of Council, however due to the amount of business being considered at that meeting its reporting was delayed and therefore it will be included in the referrals to Budget Council on 28 February.

#### **4 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Officers have liaised with Link Asset Services, the Council's Treasury Advisors, in developing the proposed framework. The framework was considered by Budget and Performance Panel at its meeting on 6 February.

#### **5 OPTIONS AND OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

- 5.1 Cabinet may put forward alternative proposals or amendments to the proposed Strategy in Appendix B, 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.
- 5.2 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. There are no options available regarding other components of the overall framework, as covered in Appendices C and D.

#### **6 OFFICER PREFERRED OPTION AND JUSTIFICATION**

- 6.1 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 comparatively low risk appetite regarding the security and liquidity of investments particularly, but recognising that some flexibility should help improve returns, whilst still effectively mitigating risk. It is stressed that in terms of treasury activity, there is no risk free approach. It is felt, however, that the measures set out above provide a fit for purpose framework within which to work, pending any update during the course of next year.

<b>RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK</b>
The proposed Treasury Management framework forms part of the Council's budget and policy framework, and fits into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc)
No direct implications arising.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
The Strategy is in support of achieving the borrowing cost and investment interest estimates included in the budget.

**OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

None directly arising.

**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 Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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