

Treasury Management Policy Statement

The council's financial regulations require it to maintain a treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury activities, forming a cornerstone of its effective treasury management.

Definition

The council defines its treasury management activities as:

- the management of investments and cash flows,
- 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.

Risk Appetite

The council's appetite for risk within its treasury management activities is low. A premium is placed on the security of capital and credit risk management and on the maintenance of financial stability in terms of managing inflation and interest rate risk, their effects on the council's reserves and balances and on the cost of borrowing.

Risk management

The council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on how the actions taken and the financial instruments entered into result in reduced risk exposure.

Value for money

The council acknowledges that effective treasury management provides support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

Borrowing policy

The council aims to fund its capital expenditure in a cost effective manner. This will involve using short term and variable rate loans when these are seen as being the most beneficial strategy. However consideration will be given to long term funding needs and the stability to budgets that fixed interest loans provide. The council will also periodically evaluate debt restructuring opportunities of the existing portfolio.

The council will set an affordable borrowing limit each year in compliance with the *Local Government Act 2003*, and will have regard to the *CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2011* when setting that limit. It will also set limits on its exposure to changes in interest rates and limits on the maturity structure of its borrowing in the treasury management strategy report each year. The council also has regard to other relevant CIPFA publications such as the *Treasury Risk Toolkit for Local Authorities 2012* and *Using Financial Instruments to Manage Risk 2013*.

Cash Backing of Reserves

The council is committed to the prudent management of its finances. In pursuit of this objective it should ensure that it holds investment balances sufficient to meet the value of those balance sheet items such as reserves and provisions which will be drawn down as cash. These investment balances will have due regard to the anticipated timing for the drawdown of the cash backed reserves and provisions. In particular the planned use of reserves in the council's revenue budget will impact on the level of investments held.

Investment policy

The council's primary objectives for the investment of its surplus funds are to protect the principal sums invested from loss, through either credit events or loss of value by inflation erosion or interest rate changes, and to ensure adequate liquidity so that funds are available for expenditure when needed. The generation of investment income to support the provision of the council's services is an important, but secondary, objective.

The council will have regard to the Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Government Investments and will approve an investment strategy each year as part of the treasury management strategy. The strategy will set criteria to determine suitable organisations with which cash may be invested, limits on the maximum duration of such investments and limits on the amount of cash that may be invested with any one organisation.