Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2021/22

1. The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act) and supporting regulations require the Council to 'have regard to' the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice to set Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

2. The Act therefore requires the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy; this sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. There is also now the new requirement to produce a Capital Strategy – also for determination by full Council.

3. The Treasury Management strategy covers two remain areas:

   (i) Capital issues
   - the capital plans (in summarised form) and the prudential indicators;
   - the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy.

   (ii) Treasury management issues
   - the current treasury position;
   - treasury indicators which limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council;
   - prospects for interest rates;
   - the borrowing strategy;
   - policy on borrowing in advance of need;
   - debt rescheduling;
   - the investment strategy;
   - creditworthiness policy; and
   - policy on use of external service providers.

4. These elements cover the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the CIPFA Prudential Code, MHCLG MRP Guidance, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and MHCLG Investment Guidance.

5. The strategy for 2021/22 in respect of the following aspects of the treasury management function is based upon the Council officers' views on interest rates, supplemented with leading market forecasts provided by the Council's treasury advisor, Link Asset Services.

Key Changes to the Strategy

6. The key changes from the previous year's strategy are:

   i. The Council has taken on additional borrowing in the last 12 months in respect of the Capital programme. The level of borrowing has risen but is lower than forecast as a result of covid-19 and has remained within the operational and authorised boundaries.

The Capital expenditure plans of the Council are expected to involve more new borrowing again in 2021/22 and the years ahead. The borrowing limits proposed in the strategy are those previously agreed when determining the budget for 2020/21.

ii. The majority of the new borrowing in future years will be for Capital purposes, but there will inevitably continue to be a smaller requirement for loans that are revenue in nature – to cover potential short term cash deficits. Such monies cannot be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board, and will be financed from the market or where there are revenue loans made e.g. to the housing company then from existing Council reserves.

iii. The Council is required to make a Minimum Revenue Provision in respect of its borrowing – to ensure debt is repaid over an appropriate period. Where the Council is making significant investments in property, housing or other programmes the Council's MRP policy enables the Council to match the principal repayments made on loans arranged with a near equal MRP payment (an annuity methodology).

iv. Investment returns are uncertain over the next few years as the bank base rate is very low and economic environment uncertain. The overall cash returns are expected to decrease as the Council's reserves decline.

v. The Council invested some £5m of its reserves in longer period investments e.g. property Fund, Diversified Investment fund. There are no proposals to invest for longer periods given the further potential calls on reserves..

Balanced Budget

7. It is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the Council to calculate its Council Tax requirement. In particular, Section 31 requires a local authority in calculating the Council Tax requirement for each financial year to include the revenue costs that flow from capital financing decisions. Thus, any increases in costs (running costs & borrowing costs) from new capital projects must be limited to a level which is affordable within the projected income of the Council for the foreseeable future.

PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY LIMITS FOR 2021/22 TO 2023/24

The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

8. The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity.

9. The prudential code requires the local authority to identify prudential indicators that enable members, officers and the public to make a meaningful judgement on the Council's total exposure from borrowing and investment decisions. The indicators are required to cover both the Council's current position and the expected position assuming all planned investments in the forthcoming years are completed.

10. This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
- Reviewing the limits in place for borrowing activity.

Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

11. This table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure for the current and next three financial years.

	Revised 2020/21 £'000s	**2021/22 £'000s**	**2022/23 £'000s**	**2023/24 £'000s**
Gross Capital Expenditure	13,883	22,463	12,145	1,959
Net Capital Expenditure	9,272	12,781	10,306	120
Financing from own resources	4	125	216	120
Borrowing Requirement	9,268	12,656	10,090	0

In terms of **net cost**, the **2020/21** programme has been revised to £9,272,000 from £16,936,000. The **2021/22** programme amounts to £12,781,000 net of grants and contributions (£22,463,000 Gross).

Capital Expenditure – Financing

12. The table above summarises the capital expenditure plans and how these plans are being financed – either by own resources e.g. Section 106, Capital receipts or through borrowing. New Capital schemes will generally be financed by borrowing, unless Capital receipts from the sale of assets are available.

13. The larger schemes in the capital programme which are expected to require financing in **2021/22** from borrowing are:-

- Castleham Industrial Units – roofing (£140k)
- Cornwallis Street Development (£6.946m in 21/22 or 22/23)
- Churchfields Business centre (£4.369m in 21/22)
- Buckshole Reservoir (£160k in 21/22)
- Energy projects (£484k in 21/22)
- Harold Place at £1.2m
- Lacuna Place (£188k)

- York Buildings (£179k)

Impact on the prudential indicators

14. The treasury indicators for borrowing activity are the **Authorised Limit** and the **Operational Boundary** for external debt.

    The **Authorised Limit**, which is a limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, needs to be set or revised by the full Council; it is a statutory duty under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003 and supporting regulations. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements.

Authorised Limit	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Debt	95,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Other long term liabilities	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	100,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000

15. The **Operational Boundary** is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed.

Operational Boundary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Debt	85,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000
Other long term liabilities	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	90,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000

16. Essentially the Council is required to ensure that total capital investment remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, that the impact upon its future Council Tax levels is ‘acceptable’.

17. Whilst termed an "Affordable Borrowing Limit", the capital plans to be considered for inclusion in the Capital programme incorporate financing by both external borrowing as well as other forms of liability e.g. Credit arrangements (such as leases).

18. The Authorised Limit and operational boundary are to be set, on a rolling basis, for the forthcoming financial year and two successive financial years by full Council as part of this strategy.

19. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all councils’ plans, or those of a specific council, although this power has not yet been exercised.

20. There are no recommendations to change thye limits for 2021/22 given the current Capital programme.

PROSPECTS FOR INTEREST RATES

21. The Council has appointed Link Asset Services as treasury advisor to the Council and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates.

The following table provides an overview (please also see Appendix 2).

Interest Rate Forecasts								
Bank Rate	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22
Link	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
Cap Econ	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
5Y PWLB RATE								
Link	0.80%	0.80%	0.80%	0.80%	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%
Cap Econ	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%
10Y PWLB RATE								
Link	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.20%	1.20%	1.30%	1.30%
Cap Econ	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%
25Y PWLB RATE								
Link	1.50%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%
Cap Econ	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%
50Y PWLB RATE								
Link	1.30%	1.40%	1.40%	1.40%	1.40%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Cap Econ	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%

22. Economic and interest rate forecasting remains difficult with so many external influences weighing on the UK. The above forecasts, (and MPC decisions), will be liable to further amendment depending on how economic data and developments in financial markets transpire over the next year. Geopolitical developments could also have a major impact. Forecasts for average investment earnings beyond the three-year time horizon will be heavily dependent on economic and political developments.

23. Whilst substantial growth is expected in the economy in at least the latter parts of 2021/22 this is from the low comparative base of 2020/21 and it will take some years potentially for the economy to recover to pre-covid levels. Unemployment levels of 4.9% (for the 3 months to October 2020) are expected to increase substantially, estimates vary from between 7.5% and 9%) should the furlough scheme end in April 2021.

    An economic review from the Council's treasury advisors is included in Appendix 3. Such forecasts are being kept under regular review.

BORROWING STRATEGY

24. The capital expenditure plans set out in the budget provide details of the service activity of the Council. The treasury management function ensures that the Council's cash is organised in accordance with the relevant professional codes, so that sufficient cash is available to meet this service activity. This will involve both the organisation of the cash flow and, where capital plans require, the organisation of appropriate borrowing facilities.

Current Portfolio Position

25. The Council's forecast debt position for 31 March 2021, if no further borrowing is taken for the rest of the financial year, as at 4 January 2021, amounted to £64.69m (See Table below).

Debt	1 April 2020 Principal	Start Date	Maturity Date	31 March 2021 Principal	Rate
PWLB	£7,500,000	25/05/2007	01/02/2033	£7,500,000	4.80%
PWLB	£909,027	04/09/2014	02/09/2044	£909,027	3.78%
PWLB (Optivo)	£1,788,235	04/09/2014	02/09/2044	£1,788,235	3.78%
PWLB (FT) (Annuity)	£185,915	21/03/2016	20/03/2026	£156,196	1.66%
PWLB	£1,000,000	11/05/2016	11/05/2056	£1,000,000	2.92%
PWLB	£1,000,000	11/05/2016	11/05/2046	£1,000,000	3.08%
PWLB	£1,000,000	11/05/2016	09/05/2036	£1,000,000	3.01%
PWLB	£1,000,000	11/05/2016	11/05/2026	£1,000,000	2.30%
PWLB	£2,000,000	24/06/2016	24/06/2054	£2,000,000	2.80%
PWLB	£1,000,000	24/06/2016	23/06/2028	£1,000,000	2.42%
PWLB	£2,000,000	21/03/2017	21/03/2057	£2,000,000	2.53%
PWLB	£2,000,000	21/03/2017	19/09/2059	£2,000,000	2.50%
PWLB	£2,000,000	23/03/2017	23/03/2060	£2,000,000	2.48%
PWLB (Annuity)	£7,002,787	01/06/2017	01/06/2057	£6,889,020	2.53%
PWLB (Annuity)	£8,111,852	22/11/2017	22/11/2057	£7,987,864	2.72%
PWLB	£2,000,000	12/12/2018	12/06/2028	£2,000,000	1.98%
PWLB (Annuity)	£3,941,522	13/12/2018	13/12/2058	£3,881,544	2.55%
PWLB (Annuity)	£2,463,534	31/01/2019	31/01/2059	£2,426,128	2.56%
PWLB (Annuity)	£4,365,748	31/01/2019	31/01/2069	£4,320,356	2.56%
PWLB (Annuity)	£9,262,267	20/03/2019	20/03/2059	£9,121,014	2.54%
PWLB (Annuity)	£4,770,452	02/09/2019	02/09/2069	£4,710,543	1.83%
Total Debt	**£65,301,339**			**£64,689,926**	**2.83%**

26. The Council has loaned money to other organisations. As at 31 December 2020 three longer term loans are outstanding. Namely:

Table 2 – Loans to Other Organisations

3rd Party Organisations	Rate/ Return (%)	Start Date	End Date	Principal Outstanding £	Term
Amicus /Optivo	3.78%	04/09/2014	02/09/2044	£1,788,235	Fixed
The Foreshore Trust	1.66%	21/03/2016	20/03/2026	£156,196	Annuity
The Source	2.43%	17/12/2015	16/12/2024	£13,254	Annuity
			Total	**£1,957,685**	

27. Borrowing from the PWLB was taken to fund the Amicus Horizon (now Optivo) loan (£1,788,235 - maturity loan) and the loan to the Foreshore Trust (£300,000 originally borrowed – annuity loan); these correspond to PWLB loans in Table 1 above. The

£25,000 loan to the Source is repayable over a 10 year period and is financed from HBC reserves.

28. The above table excludes the loan to the Hastings Housing Company. As at 31 December 2020 the Capital loan was £5,489,398. The company has fully repaid the revenue loan.

Borrowing Limit – Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

29. The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that borrowing will only be for a capital purpose. The CFR (Capital Financing Requirement) is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure which has not been funded from grants, revenue, reserves or capital receipts will increase the CFR.

30. The Council has at the time of writing some £64.69m of PWLB debt. To borrow for the remainder of the 2020/21 capital programme i.e. up to the projected level of the CFR (£74.1m) it would need to borrow a further £ 9.4m by the end of March 2021. The Capital Financing Requirement has increased significantly over the last few years. It is expected to reach some £93.3m by 2022/23 (based on the capital programme).

31. As a key indicator the Council needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2020/21 and the following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years but ensures that borrowing is not undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.

32. The Council's underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision – MRP, to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the borrowing need. This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

33. The total CFR can also be reduced by:

    (i) the application of additional capital financing resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or

    (ii) charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

34. The Council had achieved a near fully funded position at the start of this year which put the Council in a good position when the pandemic hit. This means that the capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement), has been fully funded with loan debt. Previously cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and flow has been used as a temporary measure to fund the Capital expenditure. This

strategy had been considered prudent as borrowing costs had been increasing. However, there is a cost of doing this as investment returns are low compared to borrowing costs and counterparty risk is still an issue that needs to be considered.

35. To finance the future Capital programme will require substantial new borrowing by the Council. The key considerations are when to borrow and the level of internal borrowing. Given the historically low interest rates and the ability of the Council to look at other investment opportunities which are providing higher returns than the cost of borrowing e.g. property acquisitions or property funds, there has been a strong case for minimising the level of internal funding now in order to ensure a lower level of borrowing risk in the future. However, interest rates look set to remain low for a period of time and thus there is a stronger case now to not borrow externally until we really have to i.e. temporarily use existing resources. This was the strategy that was proposed for 2020/21 (as far as practical) and has saved on borrowing costs and assisted the Council's revenue account. There is however only a limited ability to do this given the depletion of Council reserves, and funds already invested for longer periods.

The table below provides an estimate of the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for the current and next 3 years. Please note the table below excludes the impact of leases (which have minimal impact at present <£10k).

CFR	2019/20 (Actual)	2020/21 (Rev Est)	2021/22 (Est)	2022/23 (Est)	2023/24 (Est)
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
CFR-Opening	58,094	66,373	74,142	85,075	93,292
Less MRP	(£1,176)	(£1,499)	(£1,723)	(£1,873)	(£2,533)
Plus, New Borrowing	9,455	9,268	12,656	10,090	0
CFR Closing	66,373	74,142	85,075	93,292	90,759

(Table excludes leasing element – which is very small)

36. The table below highlights the Council's projected gross borrowing position against the CFR (showing the level that is financed from internal borrowing).

Table: Council's Projected Gross Borrowing Position Against The CFR

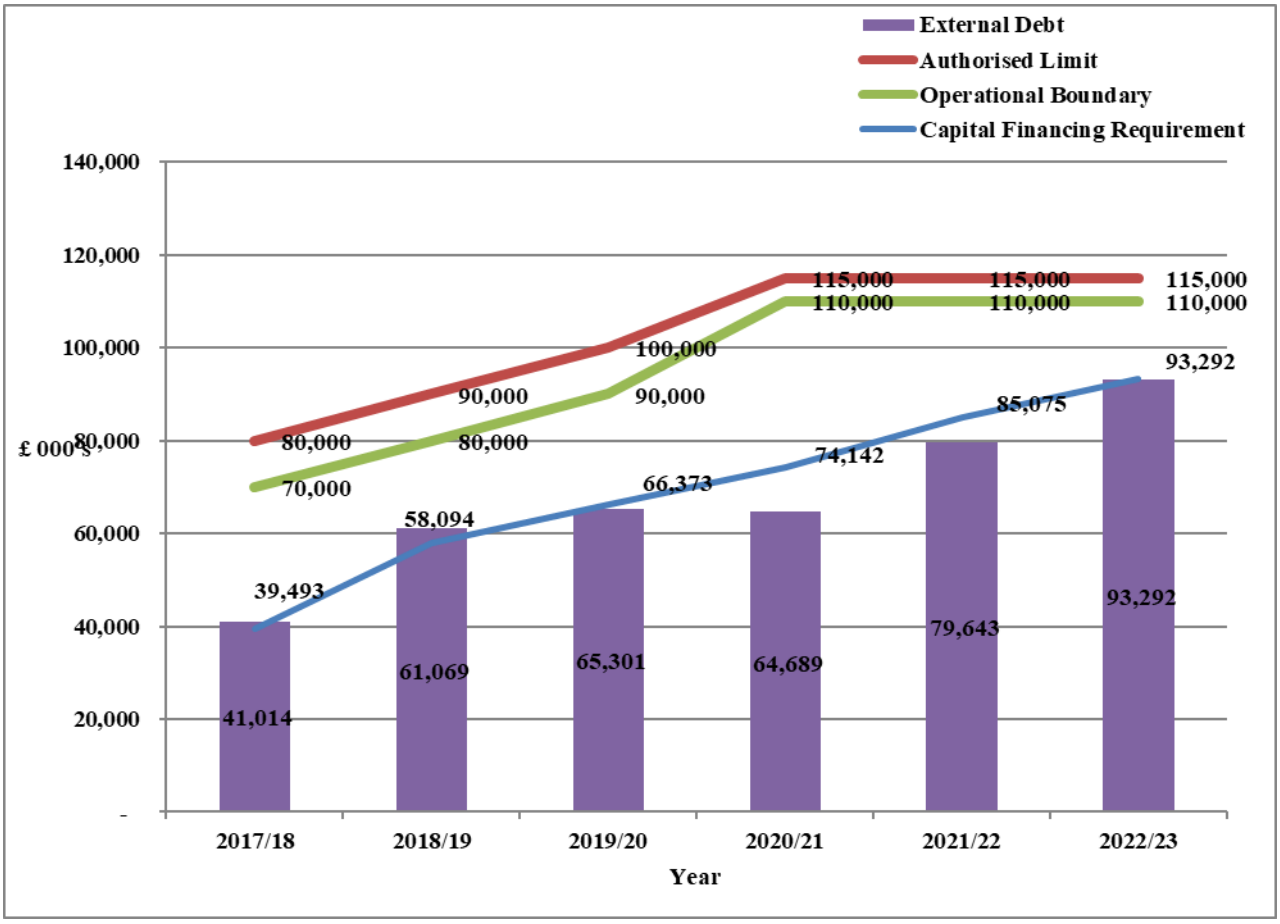
Internal Borrowing	**2019/20 Actual £000's**	**2020/21 Estimate £000's**	**2021/22 Estimate £000's**	**2022/23 Estimate £000's**
Capital Financing Requirement	66,373	74,142	85,075	93,292
External Borrowing	65,301	64,689	79,643	93,292
Net Internal Borrowing	**1,072**	**9,453**	**5,432**	**0**

37. The Council is now (4 January 2021) maintaining an under-borrowed position.

38. Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators particularly the CFR, and by the authorised limit. The Council's long term borrowing must only be for a capital

purpose. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

Table: External Debt, Authorised limits and CFR Projections



39. **Borrowing – Overall Limits**

In determining what is a prudent level of borrowing, the Council needs to ensure that it would still be able to provide core services if its investments or income generating initiatives failed – at least in part. As a guide each £1m of new borrowing, financing an asset with a life of 40 years would currently cost the Council some 5% p.a. (based on a maturity loan with a 2.5% interest rate) i.e. £50,000 p.a.

40. In taking on significant levels of additional debt the Council has to ensure that it can afford to do so. It also needs to ensure that it has an affordable exit strategy in the event that expected returns are not realised. Where property is concerned there is normally an asset to dispose of and such schemes are not therefore at the higher end of the risk spectrum. It is considered that the Council currently has sufficient reserves to ensure that it could dispose of assets in a reasonable period and not be forced into an immediate fire sale. In the event that property values fell by say 20% the Council would not be forced to sell assets providing the rental streams were secure.

41. **Borrowing – Certainty Rate**

The Council again registered for the PWLB certainty rate earlier in the year which has given a 20 basis point reduction in the average rate of borrowing. The Council will look to do so again for 2021/22 and thereafter – for as long as it remains available.

42. **Borrowing – Change of Sentiment**

In normal circumstances the main sensitivities of the forecast are likely to be the two scenarios noted below. The Chief Finance Officer, in conjunction with the treasury advisors, will continually monitor both the prevailing interest rates and the market forecasts, adopting the following responses to a change of sentiment:

a. if it were felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in long and short term rates, e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation, then long term borrowings will be postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term borrowing will be considered

b. if it were felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than that currently forecast, perhaps arising from a greater than expected increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position will be re-appraised with the likely action that fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are still relatively cheap.

43. **Borrowing – Timing**

The general aim of this treasury management strategy is to minimise the costs of borrowing in both the short and longer term. In the short term it can consider avoiding new borrowing and using cash balances to finance new borrowing. However, to minimise longer term costs it needs to borrow when rates are at historically low levels. The timing of new borrowing is therefore important to minimise the overall costs to the Council.

44. Given that rates do not look set to increase it is recommended that new borrowing is only taken when necessary and internal balances are used to temporarily finance long life assets. If rates decrease, then opportunities to borrow may be taken. Given that the Council is increasingly using its reserves these need to be readily available and not subjected to unnecessary risk or exposure.

Summary

45. New borrowing has been taken over the last 30 months, to not only take advantage of the historically low rates, but to ensure that the Council's own reserves are cash backed - a balanced view will continue to be taken. This strategy served the Council well given the unexpected 1% increase in PWLB rates in October 2019, and the need to have cash reserves during the pandemic (and not be forced to borrow at a time of high rates).

46. The capital expenditure plans require further substantial new borrowing by the Council. The plans play a large part in the consideration as to when to borrow and

the level of internal borrowing. The Council has taken advantage of other investment opportunities which are providing higher returns than the cost of borrowing e.g. property funds. To date the Council has reduced the level of internal funding in order to ensure a lower level of borrowing risk in the future.

47. For the remainder of 2020/21 and 2021/22 the cheapest borrowing will be internal borrowing by running down cash balances and foregoing interest earned at historically low rates. However, the Council may not have sufficient balances to temporarily finance all the Capital expenditure in 20/21 and may need to borrow before March 2021. In view of the overall forecast for long term borrowing rates to increase in the medium term, consideration has been given to weighing the short term advantage of internal borrowing against the potential increase in long term costs as rates rise. As such additional new borrowing will continue to be taken when good opportunities arise in the interest of minimising the costs of debt over the long term.

48. The use of PWLB variable rate loans for up to 10 years will still be considered as they can be repaid early without early redemption premiums. They can also be converted into longer dated fixed rate debt should it be considered prudent to do so.

49. The use of fixed rate market loans will also be considered should rates be below PWLB rates for the equivalent maturity period. The use of either PWLB maturity or annuity loans will be considered in order to minimise annual borrowing costs.

Policy on borrowing in advance of need

50. The Council will not borrow more than, or in advance of, its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be considered carefully to ensure value for money can be demonstrated and that the Council can ensure the security of such funds.

51. In determining whether borrowing will be undertaken in advance the Council will:

    a. ensure that there is a clear link between the capital programme and maturity profile of the existing debt portfolio which supports the need to take funding in advance.

    b. ensure the ongoing revenue liabilities created, and the implications for the future plans and budgets have been considered.

    c. evaluate the economic and market factors that might influence the manner and timing of any decision to borrow.

    d. consider the merits and demerits of alternative forms of funding.

    e. consider the appropriate funding period.

    f. consider the impact of borrowing in advance on temporarily (until required to finance capital expenditure) increasing investment cash balances and the consequent increase in exposure to counterparty risk, and the level of such risks given the controls in place to minimise them.

Debt Rescheduling

52. The introduction by the PWLB in 2007 of a spread between the rates applied to new borrowing and repayment of debt, which has now been compounded since 20 October 2010 by a considerable further widening of the difference between new borrowing and repayment rates, has meant that PWLB to PWLB debt restructuring is now much less attractive than it was before both of these events. In particular, consideration would have to be given to the large premiums which would be incurred by prematurely repaying existing PWLB loans and it is very unlikely that these could be justified on value for money grounds if using replacement PWLB refinancing.

53. The Council also keeps under review the potential for making premature debt repayments in order to reduce borrowing costs as well as reducing counterparty risk by reducing investment balances. However, the cost of the early repayment premiums that would be incurred and the increase in risk exposure to significantly higher interest rates for new borrowing, continue to make this option unattractive. When last reviewed on the 27 September 2017 the early repayment cost of the £7.5m PWLB loan, maturing in 2033, would amount to £3,177,343. No debt rescheduling is being contemplated at present.

54. The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:

    a. the generation of cash savings and / or discounted cash flow savings,

    b. helping to fulfil the strategy outlined above

    c. enhancing the balance of the portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

55. Appendix 1 of this report provides the detail on what the MRP is and the basis of the calculation. Basically, authorities are required each year to set aside some of their revenues as provision for debt repayment. Unlike depreciation which is reversed out of the accounts, this provision has a direct impact on the Council Tax requirement. The provision is in respect of capital expenditure that is financed by borrowing or credit arrangements e.g. leases.

56. The Council is required to make a “Prudent Provision” which basically ensures that revenue monies are set aside to repay the debt over the useful life of the asset acquired i.e. the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This can be achieved by equal annual instalments (current practice) or an annuity method – annual payments gradually increasing over the life of the asset. Where an annuity loan is taken, the Council’s policy (Appendix 1) was amended last year to reflect the matching, as far as possible, of the MRP with the actual principal repaid (within each debt repayment).

57. The MRP for 2021/22 is estimated at £1,722,911 (the statutory charge to revenue that remains within the accounts).

ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Investment Policy

58. The Council's investment policy has regard to the MHCLG's Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance") and the CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes 2017 ("the CIPFA TM Code"). The Council's investment priorities will be security first, portfolio liquidity second, and then return.

59. In accordance with the above guidance from the MHCLG and CIPFA, and in order to minimise the risk to investments, the Council applies minimum acceptable credit criteria in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties which also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the Short Term and Long Term ratings.

60. Ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To achieve this consideration the Council will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as "credit default swaps" and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings.

61. Other information sources used will include the financial press, share price and other such information pertaining to the banking sector in order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.

62. Investment instruments identified for use in the financial year are listed in an attached Appendix under the 'specified' and 'non-specified' investments categories. Counterparty limits will be as set through the Council's treasury management practices – schedules.

63. The borrowing of monies purely to invest or on-lend and make a return is unlawful and this Council will not engage in such activity.

64. In accordance with guidance from the MHCLG and CIPFA, and in order to minimise the risk to investments, the Council has below clearly stipulated the minimum acceptable credit quality of counterparties for inclusion on the lending list. The creditworthiness methodology used to create the counterparty list fully accounts for the ratings, watches and outlooks published by all three ratings agencies with a full understanding of what these reflect in the eyes of each agency.

Creditworthiness Policy

65. This Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services - the potential counterparty ratings are monitored on a real time basis with knowledge of any changes notified electronically as the agencies notify modifications. This service has been progressively enhanced over the last couple of years and now uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating

agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays: -

- credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies
- Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries

66. This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches and credit outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads for which the end product is a series of colour code bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are also used by the Council to determine the duration for investments and are therefore referred to as durational bands. This is a service which the Council would not be able to replicate using in-house resources.

67. The selection of counterparties with a high level of creditworthiness will be achieved by selection of institutions down to a minimum durational band within Link Asset service's weekly credit list of worldwide potential counterparties. The Council will therefore use counterparties within the following durational bands: -

- Purple 2 years (but HBC will only invest for up to 1 year – except Property Fund and Diversified Income Fund)
- Blue 1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks)
- Orange 1 year
- Red 6 months
- Green 100 days
- No Colour not to be used

68. The Link Asset Services' creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information other than just primary ratings. Furthermore, by using a risk weighted scoring system, it does not give undue preponderance to just one agency's ratings.

69. Typically, the minimum credit ratings criteria the Council use will be a Short Term rating (Fitch or equivalents) of F1 and a Long Term rating of A-. There may be occasions when the counterparty ratings from one rating agency are marginally lower than these ratings but may still be used. In these instances, consideration will be given to the whole range of ratings available, or other topical market information, to support their use.

70. This Council will not use the approach suggested by CIPFA of using the lowest rating from all three rating agencies to determine creditworthy counterparties as Moody's tend to be more aggressive in giving low ratings than the other two agencies. This would therefore be unworkable and leave the Council with few banks on its approved lending list. The Link creditworthiness service does though, use

ratings from all three agencies, but by using a risk based scoring system, does not give undue weighting to just one agency's ratings.

71. The Council is alerted to the changes to credit ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Link creditworthiness service. These are monitored on a daily basis with lists updated weekly by Link Asset Services.

72. Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition, this Council will also use market data and market information, information on government support for banks and the credit ratings of that government support.

73. The Council only use approved counterparties from countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch Ratings (or equivalent from other agencies if Fitch does not provide). The list of countries that qualify using this credit criteria as at the date of this report are shown in Appendix 6. This list will be added to, or deducted from, by officers should ratings change in accordance with this policy. The maximum investment in any non UK country is not to exceed £10m.

Investment Strategy

74. The level of investments can fluctuate significantly on a day to day basis, given the level of funding received, precept payments, grants payable and receivable, salaries and wages, etc.

75. As at 31 December 2020 the Council had balances amounting to £36,105,188. The monies held are significantly higher than would normally be expected and include monies that the Council is holding in respect of a number of grant schemes – some £6m of which is due to be repaid to government shortly.

76. Priority is given to security and liquidity of investments in order to reduce counterparty risk to the maximum possible extent. To this end at the start of the Covid-19 crisis special arrangements were made with the Council's bankers to be able to accommodate larger than normal balances and daily transaction amounts associated with the government's business grant schemes. The Council is again in the position to ensure that its cash balances are spread across numerous counterparties.

77. The Council has had various investment limits depending upon the credit rating e.g. £5m with any one institution with a minimum short term rating of F+, and a long term rating of A+ or above, supported by a red (6 month) rating by Link Treasury Services. The £5m limit generally represents a level of up to 25% of the investment portfolio with any one institution or group at any one time. It is also necessary, at times, to invest sums of this size in order to attract the larger institutions which have the higher credit ratings.

78. The Eurozone and Brexit led to a number of downgrades to banks' credit ratings, making it increasingly difficult to spread investments across a number of institutions. The Chief Finance Officer has the authority to amend the limits on a daily basis if necessary, to ensure that monies can be placed with appropriate institutions. The use of Money Market funds was anticipated but the higher returns that were on offer are no longer there.

79. The pandemic has impacted on countries around the world and in turn on credit ratings. The Council follows the Credit ratings of Link Treasury services and the ratings now enable the Council to invest £5m with any one institution with a minimum short term rating of F (rather than F+), and a long term rating of A+ and above (Unchanged), supported by a red (6 month) rating. The changes are reflected in the updated Treasury Management Practices (updated as at 7 January 2021).

Investment Strategy – Property Fund

80. It was agreed in February 2017 that the option for diversification of some of the investments into a property fund be undertaken with CCLA in the sum of £2m. The investment being in respect of the Council's reserves that are not required for a period of at least 5 years in order that any fall in values and entry costs into such funds can be covered. The £2m was invested in April 2017 and the performance is detailed below:

Table: CCLA – LA's Property Prices and Dividend yields

End of	Dec-20	Aug-20	Apr-20	Dec-19	Dec-18	Dec-17	Apr-17
Offer Price p	306.91	301.67	310.33	322.7	329.35	319.44	307.19
Net Asset Value p	287.5	282.6	290.71	302.3	308.53	299.24	287.77
Bid Price p	283.05	278.22	286.2	297.61	303.75	294.60	283.31
Dividend* on XD Date p	3.1	0	0	3.21	3.32	3.38	
Dividend* - Last 12 Months p	12.26	12.72	13.06	13.12	12.98	13.71	13.19
Dividend Yield on NAV %	4.27	4.5	4.49	4.34	4.21	4.58	4.58
Fund Size £m	1172.6	1152.4	1185.5	1200.1	1,099.0	930.8	710.2

81. The dividend yield is around 4.45% p.a. on the net asset value. Dividends for the first 3 quarters of 2020/21 amount to £62,789 (£63,783 at the same point last year). Full year dividends for 2020/21 are estimated at around £82,000 and a similar return is anticipated for 2021/22.

Table: CCLA - Property Fund Capital Value

Units (651,063)	Dec-20	Aug-20	Apr-20	Dec-19	Dec-18	Dec-17	Apr-17
Mid Market Price(£)	1,871,806.13	1,839,904	1,892,705	1,968,163	2,008,724.67	1,948,240.92	1,873,564.00
Bid Price (£)	1,842,833.82	1,811,387	1,863,342	1,937,629	1,977,603.86	1,918,031.60	1,844,526.59

82. The Capital value is similar to that of April 2017 when the original investment was made and continues to recover from the low point experienced in August 2020 following the impact of Covid-19. It is important that this is continued to be viewed as a longer term investment (5 years plus) if the original Capital value is to be recovered.

Diversified Income Fund

83. It was agreed in February 2019 that a sum of £3m would be made available for further diversification of the Council's investments. £1m was invested on 26 July

2019 and a further £2m investment was made on 24 September 2019 into the CCLA Diversified Income Fund. Anticipated returns were around 3% with the added advantage of much higher liquidity than the property fund.

The capital value had recovered from the initial investment where charges are effectively deducted and was valued at £3,012,479 at the end of December 2019. In March 2020 the market value had fallen to £2.62m but continues to recover and is currently valued at £2.863m (95.45% of its original value). Dividend yield on price is 3.36% for December 2020 (3.15% December 2019). Dividends payable for the first 3 quarters of 2020/21 amount to £73,632. It should be remembered that this is a long term investment and prices can go up and down.

Investment Strategy – View on Interest Rates

84. Investment returns look set to stay flat for many months. However thereafter they could begin to increase if the economy shows signs of growth. The Council at this time needs access to its cash reserves and as such cannot afford to invest further longer term – until it achieves a balanced budget or has capital receipts.

Investment Return Expectations.

85. Bank Rate is forecast to stay low for the foreseeable future, with no increase potentially before 2024. However, the financial position can often change quickly, and the Council needs to be prepared for increases in rates as well as potentially negative interest rates.

86. The Council will look to report on the actual return achieved on its cash investments, both in terms of percentage and actual cash. It will look to report separately on different categories of cash investments e.g. Property Fund.

Regeneration and Economic Development – Income Generation

87. The Council has remained keen to pursue capital schemes that also generate income. Substantial investments housing and energy projects will necessitate new borrowing. The levels of new borrowing that the Council can afford to take on board will be dependent upon the individual proposals and credit worthiness of the counterparties involved. Due to the timescales within which some property purchasing and disposal decisions have to be made the Council's existing governance arrangements and delegated authorities have been revised.

88. The additional risks that the Council is taking on need to be considered in the context of the totality of risk that the Council faces e.g. external claims, rates revaluation, robustness of income streams, economic downturns, etc. Where there is more risk and volatility in income streams the Council will need to ensure that it maintains sufficient reserves to ensure the Council's ability to deliver key services is not jeopardised.

89. The income generation proposals relating to the Housing Company have required revenue loans to be provided – now repaid in full. Such funding was not available from the Public Works Loan Board and was therefore from existing Council reserves and balances. The rates of interest that are charged to the company are determined

at the time of the advance and need to comply with state aid rules where thresholds are exceeded – a market rate being payable.

End of Year Investment Report

90. At the end of the financial year, officers will report to Council on its investment activity as part of its Annual Treasury Report (to be presented by no later than 30 September).

Policy on Use of External Service Providers

91. The Council uses Link Asset Services as its external treasury management advisors. There is currently value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to credit worthiness information and specialist advice.

92. **Training**

The CIPFA Code requires the responsible officer (Chief Financial Officer) to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management. This especially applies to members responsible for scrutiny. In terms of Treasury management in general, training has been undertaken by members on an annual basis to date.

The training needs of treasury management officers are periodically reviewed.

93. **MiFID II (Markets in Financial Instruments Directive)**

In brief, this directive requires the Council to distinguish itself as either a retail or professional client. In order to qualify for professional status, the Council is required to show that it has more than £10m in investments, invests regularly (more than 10 times a quarter), as well as having appropriately trained and experienced staff.

94. To date only two counterparties have required us to complete the forms in order to maintain the existing professional status. The directive became law on 1 January 2018.

95. The two parties to date are Link Asset Services and CCLA. A schedule of such counterparties will be maintained, as per the requirements of the Code, should the list expand further.

Scheme of Delegation

96. Please see Appendix 9.

Role of the Section 151 Officer

97. Please see Appendix 10.

APPENDIX 1

Minimum Revenue Provision – An Introduction

1. What is a Minimum Revenue Provision?
Capital expenditure is generally expenditure on assets which have a life expectancy of more than one year e.g. buildings, vehicles, machinery etc. It would be impractical to charge the entirety of such expenditure to revenue in the year in which it was incurred therefore such expenditure is spread over several years in order to try to match the years over which such assets benefit the local community through their useful life. The manner of spreading these costs is through an annual Minimum Revenue Provision, which was previously determined under Regulation, and will in future be determined under Guidance.

2. Statutory duty
Statutory Instrument 2008 no. 414 s4 lays down that:

"A local authority shall determine for the current financial year an amount of minimum revenue provision that it considers to be prudent."

The above is a substitution for the previous requirement to comply with regulation 28 in S.I. 2003 no. 3146 (as amended).

There is no requirement to charge MRP where the Capital Financing Requirement is nil or negative at the end of the preceding financial year.

3. Government Guidance
Along with the above duty, the Government issued guidance which came into force on 31st March 2008 which requires that a Statement on the Council's policy for its annual MRP should be submitted to the full Council for approval before the start of the financial year to which the provision will relate.

The Council is legally obliged to "have regard" to the guidance, which is intended to enable a more flexible approach to assessing the amount of annual provision than was required under the previous statutory requirements. The guidance offers four main options under which MRP could be made, with an overriding recommendation that the Council should make prudent provision to redeem its debt liability over a period which is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure is estimated to provide benefits. The requirement to 'have regard' to the guidance therefore means that: -

Although four main options are recommended in the guidance, there is no intention to be prescriptive by making these the only methods of charge under which a local authority may consider its MRP to be prudent.

It is the responsibility of each authority to decide upon the most appropriate method of making a prudent provision, after having had regard to the guidance.

Option 1: Regulatory Method
Under the previous MRP regulations, MRP was set at a uniform rate of 4% of the adjusted CFR (i.e. adjusted for "Adjustment A") on a reducing balance method (which in effect meant that MRP charges would stretch into infinity). This historic approach must continue for all capital expenditure incurred in years before the start of this new approach. It may also be used for new capital expenditure up to the amount which is deemed to be supported through the SCE annual allocation.

Option 2: Capital Financing Requirement Method
This is a variation on option 1 which is based upon a charge of 4% of the aggregate CFR without any adjustment for Adjustment A, or certain other factors which were brought into account under the previous statutory MRP calculation. The CFR is the measure of an authority's outstanding debt liability as depicted by their balance sheet.

Option 3: Asset Life Method.
This method may be applied to most new capital expenditure, including where desired that which may alternatively continue to be treated under options 1 or 2.

Under this option, it is intended that MRP should be spread over the estimated useful life of either an asset created, or other purpose of the expenditure. There are two useful advantages of this option: -

- Longer life assets e.g. freehold land can be charged over a longer period than would arise under options 1 and 2.
- No MRP charges need to be made until the financial year after that in which an item of capital expenditure is fully incurred and, in the case of a new asset, comes into service use (this is often referred to as being an 'MRP holiday'). This is not available under options 1 and 2.

There are two methods of calculating charges under option 3:
- equal instalment method – equal annual instalments,
- annuity method – annual payments gradually increase during the life of the asset.

Option 4: Depreciation Method
Under this option, MRP charges are to be linked to the useful life of each type of asset using the standard accounting rules for depreciation (but with some exceptions) i.e. this is a more complex approach than option 3.

The same conditions apply regarding the date of completion of the new expenditure as apply under option 3.

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2021/22

The Council implemented the new Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) guidance in 2008/9 and will assess the MRP for 2021/22 in accordance with the main recommendations contained within the guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 21(1A) of the Local Government Act 2003.

A major proportion of the MRP for 2021/22 relates to the more historic debt liability that will continue to be charged at the rate of 4%, in accordance with option 1 of the guidance. Certain expenditure reflected within the debt liability at 31st March 2021 will

under delegated powers be subject to MRP under option 3, which will be charged over a period which is reasonably commensurate with the estimated useful life applicable to the nature of expenditure, using the equal annual instalment method. For example, capital expenditure on a new building, or on the refurbishment or enhancement of a building, will be related to the estimated life of that building.

Estimated life periods will be determined under delegated powers – subject to the limitations of the government's investment requirements (2018). To the extent that expenditure is not on the creation of an asset and is of a type that is subject to estimated life periods that are referred to in the guidance, these periods will generally be adopted by the Council. However, the Council reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in exceptional circumstances where the recommendations of the guidance would not be appropriate.

As some types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council are not capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives will be assessed on a basis which most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure. Also, whatever type of expenditure is involved, it will be grouped together in a manner which reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure and will only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.

Repayments included in finance leases are applied as MRP. It should also be noted that the Council will not make any separate MRP in regards of the loans to Optivo (previously Amicus Horizon) in respect of the Coastal Space scheme. Optivo will meet the costs of the Council PWLB loan (Principal and Interest) and the Council makes the payments to the PWLB. Likewise, for any loan to the Foreshore Trust - as the interest and principal repayments to be made by the Council will be funded in full from the sums payable by the Trust no separate MRP will be made by the Council.

Where the Council generates additional income from capital Investments it will look to make a prudent provision for the repayment of debt over the expected life of the asset. In doing so, where an annuity loan is taken or may be taken at some stage in the future to finance the purchase the MRP made will reflect as far as possible the principal element of the actual loan repayments (rather than accruals). The interest rate to be calculated at the outset being determined by the Chief Finance Officer.

APPENDIX 2 Interest Rate Forecasts

Link Asset Services Interest rate forecast – Dec 2020 – March 2024

Link Group Interest Rate View	9.11.20										(The Capital Economics forecasts were done 11.11.20)			
	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24
BANK RATE	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
3 month ave earnings	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
6 month ave earnings	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
12 month ave earnings	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
5 yr PWLB	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
10 yr PWLB	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30
25 yr PWLB	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80
50 yr PWLB	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
Bank Rate														
Link	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Capital Economics	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	-	-	-	-	-
5yr PWLB Rate														
Link	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Capital Economics	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	-	-	-	-	-
10yr PWLB Rate														
Link	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30
Capital Economics	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	-	-	-	-	-
25yr PWLB Rate														
Link	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80
Capital Economics	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	-	-	-	-	-
50yr PWLB Rate														
Link	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
Capital Economics	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	-	-	-	-	-

Note: PWLB rates and forecast shown above have taken into account the 20 basis point certainty rate reduction effective as of the 1st November 2012.

APPENDIX 3 Economic Review (by Link Treasury Services)

ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- **UK.** The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee has kept **Bank Rate** unchanged. However, it revised its economic forecasts to take account of a second national lockdown from 5th November to 2nd December which is obviously going to put back economic recovery and do further damage to the economy. It therefore decided to do a further tranche of **quantitative easing (QE) of £150bn**, to start in January when the current programme of £300bn of QE announced in March to June, runs out. It did this so that "announcing further asset purchases now should support the economy and help to ensure the unavoidable near-term slowdown in activity was not amplified by a tightening in monetary conditions that could slow the return of inflation to the target".
- Its forecasts appeared, at the time, to be rather optimistic in terms of three areas:
    - The economy would recover to reach its pre-pandemic level in Q1 2022
    - The Bank also expects there to be excess demand in the economy by Q4 2022.
    - CPI inflation is therefore projected to be a bit above its 2% target by the start of 2023 and the "inflation risks were judged to be balanced".
- Significantly, there was no mention of **negative interest rates** in the minutes or Monetary Policy Report, suggesting that the MPC remains some way from being persuaded of the case for such a policy, at least for the next 6 -12 months. However, rather than saying that it "stands ready to adjust monetary policy", the MPC this time said that it will take "whatever additional action was necessary to achieve its remit". The latter seems stronger and wider and may indicate the Bank's willingness to embrace new tools.
- One key addition to **the Bank's forward guidance** in August was a new phrase in the policy statement, namely that "it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and achieving the 2% target sustainably". That seems designed to say, in effect, that even if inflation rises to 2% in a couple of years' time, do not expect any action from the MPC to raise Bank Rate – until they can clearly see that level of inflation is going to be persistently above target if it takes no action to raise Bank Rate. Our Bank Rate forecast currently shows no increase through to quarter 1 2024 but there could well be no increase during the next five years due to the slow rate of recovery of the economy and the need for the Government to see the burden of the elevated debt to GDP ratio falling significantly. **Inflation** is unlikely to pose a threat requiring increases in Bank Rate during this period as there is likely to be spare capacity in the economy for a considerable time. It is expected to briefly peak at around 2% towards the end of 2021, but this is a temporary short lived factor and so not a concern.
- However, the minutes did contain several references to **downside risks**. The MPC reiterated that the "recovery would take time, and the risks around the GDP projection were judged to be skewed to the downside". It also said "the risk of a more persistent period of elevated unemployment remained material". Downside risks could well include severe restrictions remaining in place in some form during the rest of December and most of January too. That could involve some or all of the lockdown being extended beyond 2nd December, a temporary relaxation of restrictions over Christmas, a resumption of the lockdown in January and lots of regions being subject

to Tier 3 restrictions when the lockdown ends. Hopefully, restrictions should progressively ease during the spring. It is only to be expected that some businesses that have barely survived the first lockdown, will fail to survive the second lockdown, especially those businesses that depend on a surge of business in the run up to Christmas each year. This will mean that there will be some level of further permanent loss of economic activity, although the extension of the furlough scheme to the end of 31st March will limit the degree of damage done.

- As for **upside risks**, we have been waiting expectantly for news that various **COVID19 vaccines** would be cleared as being safe and effective for administering to the general public. The Pfizer announcement on 9th November was very encouraging as its 90% effectiveness was much higher than the 50-60% rate of effectiveness of flu vaccines which might otherwise have been expected. However, their phase three trials are still only two-thirds complete. More data needs to be collected to make sure there are no serious side effects. We don't know exactly how long immunity will last or whether it is effective across all age groups. The Pfizer vaccine specifically also has demanding cold storage requirements of minus 70C that might make it more difficult to roll out. However, the logistics of production and deployment can surely be worked out over the next few months.

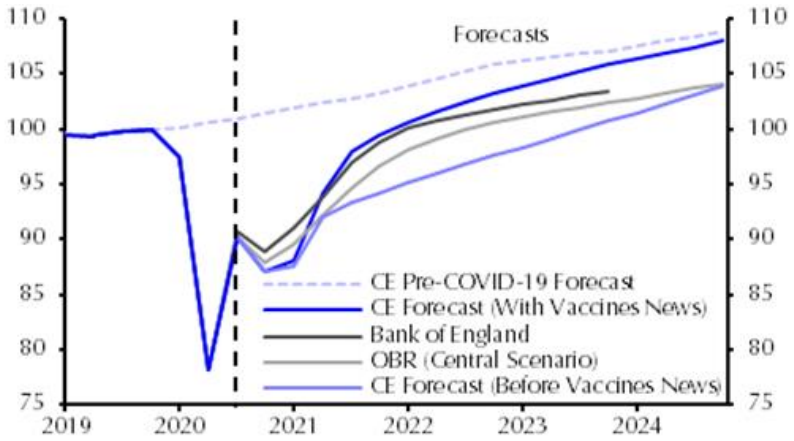
- However, there has been even further encouraging news since then with another two vaccines announcing high success rates. Together, these three announcements have enormously boosted confidence that **life could largely return to normal during the second half of 2021**, with activity in the still-depressed sectors like restaurants, travel and hotels returning to their pre-pandemic levels, which would help to bring the unemployment rate down. With the household saving rate currently being exceptionally high, there is plenty of pent-up demand and purchasing power stored up for these services. A comprehensive roll-out of vaccines might take into late 2021 to fully complete; but if these vaccines prove to be highly effective, then there is a possibility that restrictions could begin to be eased, possibly in Q2 2021, once vulnerable people and front-line workers had been vaccinated. At that point, there would be less reason to fear that hospitals could become overwhelmed any more. Effective vaccines would radically improve the economic outlook once they have been widely administered; it may allow GDP to rise to its pre-virus level a year earlier than otherwise and mean that the unemployment rate peaks at 7% next year instead of 9%. But while this would reduce the need for more QE and/or negative interest rates, increases in Bank Rate would still remain some years away. There is also a potential question as to whether the relatively optimistic outlook of the Monetary Policy Report was swayed by making positive assumptions around effective vaccines being available soon. It should also be borne in mind that as effective vaccines will take time to administer, economic news could well get worse before it starts getting better.

- **Public borrowing** is now forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility (the OBR) to reach £394bn in the current financial year, the highest ever peace time deficit and equivalent to 19% of GDP. In normal times, such an increase in total gilt issuance would lead to a rise in gilt yields, and so PWLB rates. However, the QE done by the Bank of England has depressed gilt yields to historic low levels, (as has similarly occurred with QE and debt issued in the US, the EU and Japan). This means that new UK debt being issued, and this is being done across the whole yield curve in all maturities, is locking in those historic low levels through until maturity. In addition, the UK has one of the longest average maturities for its entire debt portfolio, of any country in the world. Overall, this means that the total interest bill paid by the

Government is manageable despite the huge increase in the total amount of debt. The OBR was also forecasting that the government will still be running a budget deficit of £102bn (3.9% of GDP) by 2025/26. However, initial impressions are that they have taken a pessimistic view of the impact that vaccines could make in the speed of economic recovery.

- Overall, **the pace of recovery** was not expected to be in the form of a rapid V shape, but a more elongated and prolonged one. The initial recovery was sharp but after a disappointing increase in GDP of only 2.1% in August, this left the economy still 9.2% smaller than in February; this suggested that the economic recovery was running out of steam after recovering 64% of its total fall during the crisis. The last three months of 2020 were originally expected to show zero growth due to the impact of widespread local lockdowns, consumers probably remaining cautious in spending, and uncertainty over the outcome of the UK/EU trade negotiations concluding at the end of the year also being a headwind. However, the second national lockdown starting on 5th November for one month is expected to depress GDP by 8% in November while the rebound in December is likely to be muted and vulnerable to the previously mentioned downside risks. It was expected that the second national lockdown would push back recovery of GDP to pre pandemic levels by six months and into sometime during 2023. However, the graph below shows what Capital Economics forecast will happen now that there is high confidence that successful vaccines will be widely administered in the UK in the first half of 2021; this would cause a much quicker recovery than in their previous forecasts.

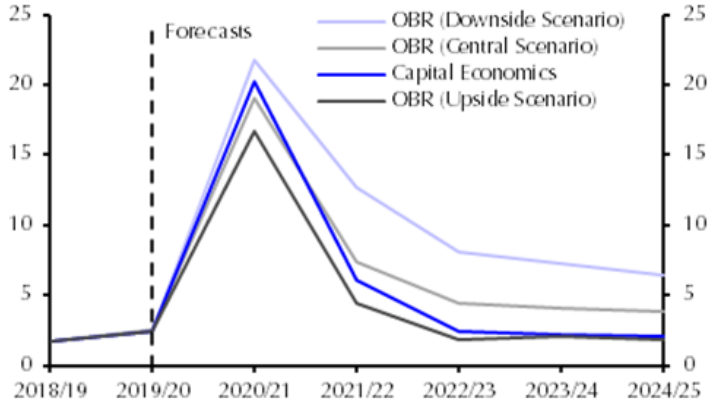
Chart: Level of real GDP (Q4 2019 = 100)



(if unable to print in colour…... the key describing each line in the above graph is in sequential order from top to bottom in parallel with the lines in the graph.

This recovery of growth which eliminates the effects of the pandemic by about the middle of the decade would have major repercussions for public finances as it would be consistent with the government deficit falling to 2% of GDP without any tax increases. This would be in line with the OBR's most optimistic forecast in the graph below, rather than their current central scenario which predicts a 4% deficit due to assuming much slower growth. However, Capital Economics forecasts assume that there is a reasonable Brexit deal and also that politicians do not raise taxes or embark on major austerity measures and so, (perversely!), depress economic growth and recovery.

Chart: Public Sector Net Borrowing (As a % of GDP)



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- Capital Economics have not revised their forecasts for Bank Rate or gilt yields after this major revision of their forecasts for the speed of recovery of economic growth, as they are also forecasting that inflation is unlikely to be a significant threat and so gilt yields are unlikely to rise significantly from current levels.

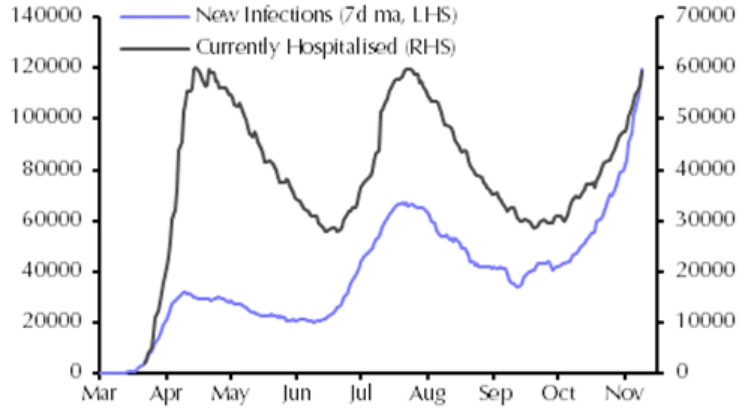
- There will still be some **painful longer term adjustments** as e.g. office space and travel by planes, trains and buses may not recover to their previous level of use for several years, or possibly ever, even if vaccines are fully successful in overcoming the current virus. There is also likely to be a reversal of globalisation as this crisis has exposed how vulnerable long-distance supply chains are. On the other hand, digital services are one area that has already seen huge growth.

- The **Financial Policy Committee** (FPC) report on 6th August revised down their expected credit losses for the banking sector to "somewhat less than £80bn". It stated that in its assessment "banks have buffers of capital more than sufficient to absorb the losses that are likely to arise under the MPC's central projection". The FPC stated that for real stress in the sector, the economic output would need to be twice as bad as the MPC's projection, with unemployment rising to above 15%.

US. The result of **the November elections** means that while the Democrats have gained the presidency and a majority in the House of Representatives, it looks as if the Republicans will retain their slim majority in the Senate. This means that the Democrats will not be able to do a massive fiscal stimulus, as they had been hoping to do after the elections, as they will have to get agreement from the Republicans. That would have resulted in another surge of debt issuance and could have put particular upward pressure on debt yields – which could then have also put upward pressure on gilt yields. On the other hand, equity prices leapt up on 9th November on the first news of a successful vaccine and have risen further during November as more vaccines announced successful results. This could cause a big shift in investor sentiment i.e. a swing to sell out of government debt to buy into equities which would normally be expected to cause debt prices to fall and yields to rise. However, the rise in yields has been quite muted so far and it is too early to say whether the Fed would feel it necessary to take action to suppress any further rise in debt yields. It is likely that the next two years, and possibly four years in the US, could be a political stalemate where neither party can do anything radical.

The economy had been recovering quite strongly from its contraction in 2020 of 10.2% due to the **pandemic** with GDP only 3.5% below its pre-pandemic level and the unemployment rate dropping below 7%. However, the rise in new cases during quarter 4, to the highest level since mid-August, suggests that the US could be in the early stages of a third wave. While the first wave in March and April was concentrated in the Northeast, and the second wave in the South and West, the latest wave has been driven by a growing outbreak in the Midwest. The latest upturn poses a threat that the recovery in the economy could stall. This is **the single biggest downside risk** to the shorter term outlook – a more widespread and severe wave of infections over the winter months, which is compounded by the impact of the regular flu season and, as a consequence, threatens to overwhelm health care facilities. Under those circumstances, states might feel it necessary to return to more draconian lockdowns.

COVID-19 New infections & hospitalisations



However, with the likelihood that highly effective vaccines are going to become progressively widely administered during 2021, this should mean that life will start to return to normal during quarter 2 of 2021. Consequently, there should be a sharp pick-up in growth during that quarter and a rapid return to the pre-pandemic level of growth by the end of the year.

After Chair Jerome Powell unveiled the **Fed's adoption of a flexible average inflation target** in his Jackson Hole speech in late August, the mid-September meeting of the Fed agreed by a majority to a toned down version of the new inflation target in his speech - that *"it would likely be appropriate to maintain the current target range until labour market conditions were judged to be consistent with the Committee's assessments of maximum employment and inflation had risen to 2% and was on track to moderately exceed 2% for some time."* This change was aimed to provide more stimulus for economic growth and higher levels of employment and to avoid the danger of getting caught in a deflationary "trap" like Japan. It is to be noted that inflation has actually been under-shooting the 2% target significantly for most of the last decade, (and this year), so financial markets took note that higher levels of inflation are likely to be in the pipeline; long-term bond yields duly rose after the meeting. The Fed also called on Congress to end its political disagreement over providing more support for the unemployed as there is a limit to what monetary policy can do compared to more directed central government fiscal policy. The FOMC's updated economic and rate projections in mid-September showed that officials expect to leave the fed funds rate at near-zero until at least end-2023 and probably for another year or two beyond that. There is now some expectation that where the Fed has

led in changing its inflation target, other major central banks will follow. The increase in tension over the last year between the US and China is likely to lead to a lack of momentum in progressing the initial positive moves to agree a phase one trade deal. The Fed's meeting on 5 November was unremarkable - but at a politically sensitive time around the elections.

EU. The economy was recovering well towards the end of Q2 and into Q3 after a sharp drop in GDP caused by the virus, (e.g. France 18.9%, Italy 17.6%). However, growth is likely to stagnate during Q4, and Q1 of 2021, as a second wave of the virus has affected many countries, and is likely to hit hardest those countries more dependent on tourism. The €750bn fiscal support package eventually agreed by the EU after prolonged disagreement between various countries, is unlikely to provide significant support, and quickly enough, to make an appreciable difference in the worst affected countries. With inflation expected to be unlikely to get much above 1% over the next two years, the ECB has been struggling to get inflation up to its 2% target. It is currently unlikely that it will cut its central rate even further into negative territory from -0.5%, although the ECB has stated that it retains this as a possible tool to use. It is therefore expected that it will have to provide more monetary policy support through more quantitative easing purchases of bonds in the absence of sufficient fiscal support from governments. The current PEPP scheme of €1,350bn of QE which started in March 2020 is providing protection to the sovereign bond yields of weaker countries like Italy. There is therefore unlikely to be a euro crisis while the ECB is able to maintain this level of support. However, the PEPP scheme is regarded as being a temporary measure during this crisis so it may need to be increased once the first PEPP runs out during early 2021. It could also decide to focus on using the Asset Purchase Programme to make more monthly purchases, rather than the PEPP scheme, and it does have other monetary policy options.

However, as in the UK and the US, the advent of highly effective vaccines will be a game changer, although growth will struggle during the closing and opening quarters of this year and next year respectively before it finally breaks through into strong growth in quarters 2 and 3. The ECB will now have to review whether more monetary support will be required to help recovery in the shorter term or to help individual countries more badly impacted by the pandemic.

China. After a concerted effort to get on top of the virus outbreak in Q1, economic recovery was strong in Q2 and then into Q3 and Q4; this has enabled China to recover all of the contraction in Q1. Policy makers have both quashed the virus and implemented a programme of monetary and fiscal support that has been particularly effective at stimulating short-term growth. At the same time, China's economy has benefited from the shift towards online spending by consumers in developed markets. These factors help to explain its comparative outperformance compared to western economies.

However, this was achieved by major central government funding of yet more infrastructure spending. After years of growth having been focused on this same area, any further spending in this area is likely to lead to increasingly weaker economic returns in the longer term. This could, therefore, lead to a further misallocation of resources which will weigh on growth in future years.

Japan. Japan's success in containing the virus without imposing draconian restrictions on activity should enable a faster return to pre-virus levels of output than in many major economies. While the second wave of the virus has been abating, the economy has been

continuing to recover at a reasonable pace from its earlier total contraction of 8.5% in GDP. However, there now appears to be the early stages of the start of a third wave. It has also been struggling to get out of a deflation trap for many years and to stimulate consistent significant GDP growth and to get inflation up to its target of 2%, despite huge monetary and fiscal stimulus. There has also been little progress on fundamental reform of the economy. The change of Prime Minister is not expected to result in any significant change in economic policy.

World growth. While Latin America and India have, until recently, been hotspots for virus infections, infection rates have begun to stabilise. World growth will be in recession this year. Inflation is unlikely to be a problem for some years due to the creation of excess production capacity and depressed demand caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Until recent years, world growth has been boosted by increasing **globalisation** i.e. countries specialising in producing goods and commodities in which they have an economic advantage and which they then trade with the rest of the world. This has boosted worldwide productivity and growth, and, by lowering costs, has also depressed inflation. However, the rise of China as an economic superpower over the last thirty years, which now accounts for nearly 20% of total world GDP, has unbalanced the world economy. The Chinese government has targeted achieving major world positions in specific key sectors and products, especially high tech areas and production of rare earth minerals used in high tech products. It is achieving this by massive financial support, (i.e. subsidies), to state owned firms, government directions to other firms, technology theft, restrictions on market access by foreign firms and informal targets for the domestic market share of Chinese producers in the selected sectors. This is regarded as being unfair competition that is putting western firms at an unfair disadvantage or even putting some out of business. It is also regarded with suspicion on the political front as China is an authoritarian country that is not averse to using economic and military power for political advantage. The current trade war between the US and China therefore needs to be seen against that backdrop. It is, therefore, likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a **reversal of world globalisation and a decoupling of western countries** from dependence on China to supply products. This is likely to produce a backdrop in the coming years of weak global growth and so weak inflation.

Summary

Central banks are, therefore, likely to support growth by maintaining loose monetary policy through keeping rates very low for longer. Governments could also help a quicker recovery by providing more fiscal support for their economies at a time when total debt is affordable due to the very low rates of interest. They will also need to avoid significant increases in taxation or austerity measures that depress demand in their economies.

If there is a huge surge in investor confidence as a result of successful vaccines which leads to a major switch out of government bonds into equities, which, in turn, causes government debt yields to rise, then there will be pressure on central banks to actively manage debt yields by further QE purchases of government debt; this would help to suppress the rise in debt yields and so keep the total interest bill on greatly expanded government debt portfolios within manageable parameters. It is also the main alternative to a programme of austerity.

APPENDIX 4 - Prudential Indicators

The Council's Capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the Capital expenditure plans (detailed in the budget) is reflected in the prudential indicators below.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Authorised Limit for external debt					
borrowing	95,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
other long term liabilities	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	100,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
Operational Boundary for external debt					
borrowing	85,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000
other long term liabilities	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	90,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000

Interest Rate Exposures	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	Upper	Upper	Upper
Limits on fixed interest rates based on **net** debt	100%	100%	100%
Limits on variable interest rates based on **net** debt	100%	100%	100%
Limits on fixed interest rates:			
· Debt only	100%	100%	100%
· Investments only	100%	100%	100%
Limits on variable interest rates			
· Debt only	30%	30%	30%
· Investments only	100%	100%	100%

Maturity Structure of fixed interest rate borrowing 2021/22			
		lower	Upper
Under 12 Months		0%	100%
12 months to 2 years		0%	100%
2 years to 5 years		0%	100%
5 years to 10 years		0%	100%
10 years to 20 years		0%	100%
20 years to 30 years		0%	100%
30 years to 40 years		0%	100%
40 years to 50 years		0%	100%

Maturity Structure of variable interest rate borrowing 2021/22			
		lower	Upper
Under 12 Months		0%	30%
12 months to 2 years		0%	30%
2 years to 5 years		0%	30%
5 years to 10 years		0%	30%
10 years to 20 years		0%	10%
20 years to 30 years		0%	10%
30 years to 40 years		0%	10%
40 years to 50 years		0%	10%

Affordability Prudential Indicator - Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This indicator assesses the affordability of the capital investment plans. It provides an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the Council's overall finances. This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

Prudential Indicator: Financing Cost to Net Revenue Stream	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Original.Est	2020/21 Rev.Est	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate
Financing Costs	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1. Interest Charged to General Fund	1,810	2,315	1,914	2,115	2,326	2,414
2. Interest Payable under Finance Leases and any other long term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing credited or charged to the amount met from government grants and local taxpayers	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Interest and Investment Income	-580	-667	-551	-608	-671	-660
5. Amounts payable or receivable in respect of financial derivatives	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. MRP, VRP	1,176	1,499	1,499	1,723	1,873	2,533
7. Depreciation/Impairment that are charged to the amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,406	3,147	2,862	3,230	3,528	4,287
Net Revenue Stream						
Amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers	13,329	13,063	14,845	14,018	13,156	13,372
Ratio						
Financing Cost to Net Revenue Stream	**18%**	**24%**	**19%**	**23%**	**27%**	**32%**

This prudential indicator shows that the ratio of financing costs to the net revenue stream is increasing. This is not unexpected given that the Council has had an income generation strategy that has resulted in increased Capital expenditure over the period 2017/18 to 2021/22. The above ratio does not take into account the income is being generated from the initiatives and commercial property acquisitions.

Other Prudential Indicators

Internal Borrowing and Gearing ratios for the authority are included in the Capital Strategy.

APPENDIX 5 Specified and Non-Specified Investments

Specified Investments:

The idea of specified investments is to identify investments offering high security and high liquidity. All these investments should be in sterling and with a maturity of up to a maximum of one year.

Schedule A

	Security / Minimum Credit Rating	Maximum Maturity Period
Local authorities	N/A	1 year
DMADF – UK Government	N/A	1 year
Money Market Funds (CNAV, LVAV,VNAV)	AAA	Liquid
Term deposits with banks and building societies	Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	Up to 1 year Up to 1 year Up to 6 months Up to 3 months Not for use
Certificates of deposits (CDs) issued by credit rated deposit takers (banks and building societies)	Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	Up to 1 year Up to 1 year Up to 6 months Up to 3 months Not for use
UK Government Gilts	UK sovereign rating	12 months
UK Government Treasury Bills	UK sovereign rating	12 months

Non-Specified Investments

These are any investments which do not meet the specified investment criteria.
The aim is to ensure that proper procedures are in place for undertaking risk assessments of investments made for longer periods or with bodies which do not have a “high” credit rating. As far as this Council is concerned the risks are in relation to the value of the investments, which may rise, or fall, rather than deficient credit rating.

There is no intention to invest in Non-Specified Investments, other than those Property Funds where there are no Capital accounting implications, without taking specialist advice first. The limits on Investments in Property Funds will be agreed as part of this Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Policy. For clarity any increase in the level of the investment would need Council approval.

Schedule B

Investment	Security / Minimum credit rating	(A) Why use it? (B) Associated risks
Property Funds	*The use of these instruments can be deemed capital expenditure, and as such will be an application (spending) of capital resources. This Authority will check on the status of any fund it may consider using. Appropriate due diligence will also be undertaken before investment of this type is undertaken. These are longer term investments and will extend beyond 365 days (expected to be invested for 5 years or more)*	
UK Government Gilts with maturities in excess of 1 year Custodial arrangement required prior to purchase	Government backed	(A) (i) Excellent credit quality. (ii) Very liquid. (iii) if held to maturity, known yield (rate of return) per annum – aids forward planning. (iv) If traded, potential for capital gain through appreciation in value (i.e. sold before maturity) (v) No currency risk. (B) (i) 'Market or interest rate risk': Yield subject to movement during life of sovereign bond which could negatively impact on price of the bond i.e. potential for capital loss.

APPENDIX 6 Approved Countries for Investments

The list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher (the lowest rating shown from Fitch, Moody's and S&P) and also have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link Asset Services credit worthiness service.

Countries that meet our criteria 1, 2, 3, 4 (at 24.12.2020)

1. AAA
   - Australia
   - Denmark
   - Germany
   - Netherlands
   - Singapore
   - Sweden
   - Switzerland
   - U.S.A.

2. AA+
   - Finland
   - Canada

3. AA
   - Abu Dhabi (UAE)
   - France

4. AA-
   - Belgium
   - Qatar
   - U.K.

Examples of Countries that do not meet our criteria:

Japan
Kuwait
Greece
Spain

APPENDIX 7 Treasury Management Policy Statement

The Council defines the policies and objectives of its treasury management activities as:

"The management of the organisation's borrowing, 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".

This 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 their risk implications for the organisation, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.

The Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide 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."

APPENDIX 8 Key Principles and Clauses formally adopted

The Code identifies three key principles:

Key Principle 1

Public service organisations should put in place formal and comprehensive objectives, policies and practices, strategies and reporting arrangements for the effective management and control of their treasury management activities

Key Principle 2

Their policies and practices should make clear that the effective management and control of risk are the prime objectives of their treasury management activities and that responsibility for these lies clearly within their organisations. Their appetite for risk should form part of their annual strategy, including any use of financial instruments for the prudent management of those risks, and should ensure that priority is given to security and portfolio liquidity when investing treasury management funds.

Key Principle 3

They should acknowledge that the pursuit of value for money in treasury management and the use of suitable performance measures, are valid and important tools for responsible organisations to employ in support of their business and service objectives; and that within the context of effective risk management, their treasury management policies and practices should reflect this.

Clauses formally adopted

1. This organisation will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:

- a Treasury Management Policy Statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities

- suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the organisation will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.

The content of the policy statement and TMP's will follow the recommendations contained in Sections 6 and & of the Code, subject only to amendment where necessary to reflect the particular circumstances of this organisation. Such amendments will not result in the organisation materially deviating from the Codes key principles.

2. This organisation (i.e. full board/council) will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual

strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid- year review and an annual report after its close, in the form prescribed in its TMPs.

3. This council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury decisions to the Chief Financial Officer, who will act in accordance with the organisations policy statement and TMPs and, if he/she is a CIPFA member, CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

4. This Council nominates the Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

APPENDIX 9 Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation

(i) Full Council

1. Approval of the Treasury Management Strategy - prior to the new financial year

2. Approval of the Investment Strategy - prior to the new financial year

3. Approval of the MRP Policy - prior to the start of the new financial year

4. Approval of any amendments required to the Strategy during the year

5. Receipt of a Midyear report on the Treasury Management Strategy, to include consideration of any recommendations of the Cabinet or Audit Committee arising from any concerns since the original approval.

(ii) Cabinet

1. Developing and determining the Treasury Management strategy, Investment Strategy and MRP policy and recommending them to full Council - prior to the start of the new financial year.

2. Receipt of a midyear report on the Treasury Management Strategy and any concerns since the original approval and making recommendations to Council as appropriate.

3. Receiving, and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices, activities, and performance reports (based on quarterly reporting).

4. Approval of/amendments to the organisation’s adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement;

5. budget consideration and approval;

6. approval of the division of responsibilities;

(iii) Audit Committee

1. Scrutinising the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and MRP policy, Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices and making recommendations to Cabinet and Council as appropriate.

2. Receiving and reviewing monitoring reports (based on quarterly reporting) and making recommendations as appropriate.

APPENDIX 10 The Treasury Management Role of the Section 151 Officer

Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer) responsibilities

- recommending clauses, treasury management policy for approval, detemining Treasury Management Practices, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance
- submitting regular treasury management policy reports
- submitting budgets and budget variations
- receiving and reviewing management information reports
- reviewing the performance of the treasury management function
- ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function
- ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit
- recommending the appointment of external service providers.

Additional Responsibilities following new Codes of Practice/ Investment Guidance

The above list of specific responsibilities of the S151 officer in the 2017 Treasury Management Code has not changed. However, implicit in the changes in both the Prudential and the Treasury Management Codes, is a major extension of the functions of this role, especially in respect of non-financial investments, (which CIPFA has defined as being part of treasury management). Namely:-

1. preparation of a capital strategy to include capital expenditure, capital financing, non-financial investments and treasury management, with a long term timeframe (say 20+ years – to be determined in accordance with local priorities).

2. ensuring that the capital strategy is prudent, sustainable, affordable and prudent in the long term and provides value for money.

3. ensuring that due diligence has been carried out on all treasury and non-financial investments and is in accordance with the risk appetite of the authority.

4. ensure that the authority has appropriate legal powers to undertake expenditure on non-financial assets and their financing.

5. ensuring the proportionality of all investments so that the authority does not undertake a level of investing which exposes the authority to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources.

6. ensuring that an adequate governance process is in place for the approval, monitoring and ongoing risk management of all non-financial investments and long term liabilities.

7. provision to members of a schedule of all non-treasury investments including material investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures, loans and financial guarantees .

8. ensuring that members are adequately informed and understand the risk exposures taken on by an authority.

9. ensuring that the authority has adequate expertise, either in house or externally provided, to carry out the above.

10. Creation of Treasury Management Practices which specifically deal with how non treasury investments will be carried out and managed, to include the following): -

- Risk management (TMP1 and schedules), including investment and risk management criteria for any material non-treasury investment portfolios;

- Performance measurement and management (TMP2 and schedules), including methodology and criteria for assessing the performance and success of non-treasury investments;

- Decision making, governance and organisation (TMP5 and schedules), including a statement of the governance requirements for decision making in relation to non-treasury investments; and arrangements to ensure that appropriate professional due diligence is carried out to support decision making;

- Reporting and management information (TMP6 and schedules), including where and how often monitoring reports are taken;

- Training and qualifications (TMP10 and schedules), including how the relevant knowledge and skills in relation to non-treasury investments will be arranged.