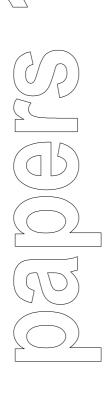
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Council

Monday 25th March 2013 7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or "exempt" information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business

- undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
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- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
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- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
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- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines "Key Decisions" unless the business would disclose confidential or "exempt" information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the <u>Executive Committee</u> are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council's Website:

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If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact lvor Westmore

Democratic Services

Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH Tel: (01527) 64252 (Extn. 3269) Fax: (01527) 65216 e.mail: ivor.wesstmore@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Welcome to today's meeting. Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the conduct of the proper meeting and ensures that debate the the and decisions properly are recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Officers. Council The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments: tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Support Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest point alarm call mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire signs. Officers have been appointed responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

 Where the item relates or is likely to affect your registered interests (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

OR

 Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting your own well-being or financial position, or that of your family, or your close associates more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided a general scattergun approach is not needed
- **Exception** where interest arises only because of your membership of another **public body**, there is no need to declare unless you **speak** on the matter.
- You can vote on the matter.

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST"?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest and
- The item affects your financial position (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your family, close associates or bodies through which you have a registered interest (or relates to the exercise of regulatory functions in relation to these groups)

<u>and</u>

• A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? Declare and Withdraw

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).



Council

25th March 2013 7.00 pm Council Chamber

9. Regulatory Committees

To consider an urgent recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2013/14.

(The Mayor has agreed to take this as an item of Urgent Business in view of the fact that the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee took place following the despatch of the Council agenda and there is a need to agree this matter prior to the start of the new financial year.)

(Report and recommendation attached)



Audit & Governance

Committee 18th March 2013

30. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY FOR 2013/14

The Committee received the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2013/14 for scrutiny prior to approval by full Council.

Officers advised that there was a requirement for the authority to agree these annually for the year ahead. Officers reported that the economy had remained fairly similar to 2012/13, with interest rates having seen some change.

It was noted that the Capital Expenditure figures detailed at paragraph 3.24 of the report contained an error. Officers confirmed that the Approved Programme HRA 2012/13 Estimate amount should have stated 8,657.0 (£'000), as opposed to 6,597.0 (£'000), and that the Total Approved Programme figure stated of 14,544.0 was correct.

RECOMMENDED that

the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2013/14 be approved.

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TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY FOR 2013/14

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Phil Mould
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Teresa Kristunas, Head of Finance
	and Resources
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To enable members of the Audit and Governance Committee to scrutinise the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision prior to approval by full Council.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That subject to any comments, the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2013/14, be approved.

3. KEY ISSUES

Treasury Management Operation

3.1 Treasury Management is:-

"the management of the local authority's cash flows, its bankings, money market and capital market transactions and loan management; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of the optimum performance consistent with those risks".

- 3.2 The approved activities of the Treasury Management operation are as follows:
 - a) Cash flow (daily balances and long term forecasting).
 - b) Investing surplus funds in Approved Investments.
 - c) Borrowing to finance cash deficits.
 - d) Funding of capital expenditure through borrowing, capital receipts, grants or leasing.
 - e) Management of debt (including rescheduling and monitoring)

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- f) Interest rate exposure management.
- g) Dealing procedures with brokers, banks, building societies and the Public Works Loans Board.
- 3.3 On the 1 of April 2004 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code was introduced to support the new system of capital finance embodied in part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003. This introduced a number of prudential indicators that impact on treasury management activity.
- 3.4 The revised guidance issued in 2009 made it clear that investment priorities should be security and liquidity, rather than yield and that authorities should not rely just on credit ratings, but consider other information on risk.
- 3.5 The guidance requires investment strategies to comment on the use of treasury management consultants and on the investment of money borrowed in advance of spending needs.
- 3.6 The investment strategy for periods commencing 1st April 2010 are to be approved by full council and published.

Prudential Indicators

- 3.7 The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable; also, that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in a manner that supports prudence, affordability and sustainability.
- 3.8 To demonstrate that local authorities have fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out the indicators that must be used, and the factors that must be taken into account. The Code does not include indicative limits or ratios, these are for the local authority to set for itself subject to the controls under [clause 4] of the Local Government Act 2003.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

- 3.9 The requirement to make a MRP is contained within the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
- 3.10 Following the publication of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations issued on the 26 February 2008 local

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authorities are required to prepare an annual statement of policy for making a MRP. The annual statement should be submitted to Council before the start of the financial year.

- 3.11 MRP is the amount of revenue which an authority sets aside for the repayment of the principal element of any borrowing undertaken to finance capital expenditure. The interest cost of borrowing continues to be a direct charge to revenue. The new regulations that came into force on the 31 March 2008 impose a duty on the Council to make an amount of MRP which it considers to be a "prudent provision".
- 3.12 The broad aim of "prudent provision" is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of the grant. This authority does not have any borrowing supported by Revenue Support Grant.
- 3.13 MRP is calculated in the financial year after the capital expenditure has been incurred and so the capital spend in 2012/13 informs the MRP set aside in the revenue account for 2013/14. The new regulations have added an exception to this in that if expenditure has been incurred on an asset which has not become operational then MRP does not need to be set aside until the financial year after the asset becomes operational. In effect authorities are entitled to a "MRP holiday" until the new asset becomes operational.
- 3.14 The turmoil within financial markets, in particular the failing of a number of Icelandic banks and the issue with Northern Rock has highlighted the risks associated with treasury management activities.
- 3.15 The strategy adopted by many local authorities has been to protect capital sums with minimal returns on investments. There are now only a handful of institutions with a F1+ credit rating.
- 3.16 The bank base rate has remained at 0.5% since 5th March 2009.
- 3.17 On 20th October 2010 HM Treasury issued an instruction to the PWLB to increase the interest rate on all new loans by an average of 1% above UK Government Gilts. The borrowing rate for new fixed loans increased by approximately 0.87% and by 0.90% across variable rates.
- 3.18 The £15 million that the Council previously invested for periods up to one year with a number of banks and building societies has now been lent by the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account as a contribution to the £98,929,000 that had to be paid to the CLG on the

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28th March 2012. The General Fund now receives interest based on the rate charged by the Public Works Loans Board on the monies borrowed in respect of self-financing.

Capital Resources

- 3.19 The Council's capital programme for 2013/14 shows a requirement for capital resources of £9.4 million. In order to fund the 2013/14 capital programme the Council will need to undertake further prudential borrowing of £2.1 million. The availability of capital receipts from asset disposals is limited because of market conditions.
- 3.20 The Council currently has £5.0 million of long term borrowing relating to housing capital expenditure. Further long term borrowing will be undertaken on or before the 28th March 2012 in order to make the payment of £99,512,000 to the CLG and to replace most of the housing short term borrowing. The remainder of the Council's borrowing is currently undertaken on a short-term basis. Further long term borrowing will be undertaken when market conditions are favourable.
- 3.21 The decision on when borrowing will be taken up will depend on expenditure plans and market conditions. The Council only has the power to borrow to fund capital expenditure. From 1st April 2012 the Council will have a limit (Debt Cap) on borrowing for housing purposes currently estimated at £118,040,000.

Prudential Indicators

- 3.22 The Council is required to publish the following indicators introduced by the Code for the next and following two financial years:
 - a) Actual and estimated capital expenditure,
 - b) Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream,
 - c) Capital financing requirement,
 - d) Actual limit for external debt.
 - e) Operational boundary for external debt,
 - f) Council tax implications of the incremental effect of capital decisions,
 - g) Treasury Management indicators.
- 3.23 The prudential indicators for the forthcoming and following years must be set before the beginning of the financial year. They may be revised

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at any time, and must be reviewed, and revised if appropriate, for the current year when the prudential indicators are set for the following year.

Capital Expenditure

3.24 The estimates of capital expenditure for 2012/13 and future years included in the Council's approved capital programme are:

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Approved	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Programme	£'000	£'000	£,000	£'000
HRA	6,597.0	7,556.0	7,551.0	7,480.0
General Fund	5,947.0	2,043.0	1,872.0	0.0
Total Approved	14,544.0	9,599.0	9,423.0	7,480.0
Programme				

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

3.25 The financing costs include the amount of interest payable and receivable in respect of borrowing and investments. The Net Revenue Stream for the HRA is the amount to be met from housing rents and for the General Fund it is the "amount to be met from government grants and local taxation". The estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years are:

Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream						
	2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 2014/15					
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate		
HRA	21.2	20.2	19.2	18.2		
General	(3.6)	(3.5)	(3.4)	(3.3)		
Fund						

3.26 The figures in the above table are shown as negatives where the interest received from temporary and long term investments is estimated to exceed the cost of temporary borrowing. The significant changes in 2012/13 are due to the borrowing the HRA self-financing and the use by the HRA of the monies previously invested externally.

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Net Revenue Streams for 2012/13 and 2013/14

3.27 The Net Revenue Stream for the HRA is calculated as follows:

	2012/13	2013/14
	Estimate	Initial
	£	£
Dwelling rents	22,682,180	23,443,400
Non-dwelling rents	484,000	459,200
Charges for services	190,280	272,180
and facilities		
Contributions	-	959,810
(Supporting People and		
Social Services)		
Net Revenue Stream	23,356,460	25,134,590

3.28 The Net Revenue Stream for the General Fund is calculated as follows:

	2012/13	2013/14
	Estimate	Estimate
	£	£
Revenue Support Grant	80,099	2,897,377
Non-Domestic		
Rates/Baseline funding	4,132,050	1,927,546
Council Tax	5,784,189	4,984,396
Council Tax Grant	144,397	57,783
Collection Fund	0	36,000
Net Revenue Stream	10,140,735	9,903,102

Capital Financing Requirement

3.29 The capital financing requirement is a measure of the extent to which the Council needs to borrow to support capital expenditure. It does not necessarily relate to the actual amount of borrowing at any one point in time. The Council has an integrated treasury management strategy where there is no distinction between revenue and capital cash flows, and the day to day position of external borrowing and investments constantly changes. The closing Capital Financing Requirement for 2011/12 was £41.557 million.

Capital Financing Requirement				
2012/13 2013/14 2014/15 2015/16				
Estimate Estimate Estimate Estimate				Estimate
£'000 £'000 £'000 £'000				£'000
HRA	23,229	23,229	23,229	23,229
General Fund	20,371	22,114	23,686	23,686
Total	43,600	45,343	46,915	46,915

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Prudential Indicators

- 3.30 CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance includes the following key indicator of prudence:
- 3.31 "In order to ensure that over the medium term net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of Capital Financing Requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional Capital Financial Requirement for the current and next two years."
- 3.32 As at the 31 March 2012 the Council's borrowing exceeded its investments by £125.09 million.

External Debt

- 3.33 In respect of any external debt, it is recommended that the Council approves the following Authorised Limits for its total external debt gross of investments for the next three financial years. The Authorised Limit for external debt for the forthcoming year is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003: "A local authority shall determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow."
- 3.34 The Authorised Limits are consistent with the current capital programme and the proposals for capital expenditure included in the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Council's Capital Strategy. The limits are based on the most likely financial circumstances but with an allowance made for unusual cash movements. It is not anticipated that any borrowing will be undertaken except temporarily until further revenues are received.

Authorised Limit for External Debt				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	Revised	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	Estimate			
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	155,000	160,000	165,000	170,000
Other long term	155,000	160,000	165,000	170,000
liabilities				
Total	155,000	160,000	165,000	170,000

3.35 The Council is asked to approve the following Operational Limit for external debt for the same period. The Operational Limit is based on the same estimates as for the Authorised Limit but differs in that it does not take into account the allowance for unusual cash movements.

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Operational Limit for External Debt				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	Revised	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	Estimate			
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	150,000	155,000	160,000	165,000
Other long term	150,000	155,000	160,000	165,000
liabilities				
Total	150,000	155,000	160,000	165,000

3.36 The Council's actual external debt at the 31 March 2012 was £142 million (£37.817 million in short term borrowing and £104.183 million long term borrowing). It should be noted that the actual external debt is not directly comparable to the authorised limit and the operational boundary, since the actual external debt reflects the position at one point in time. The figures above reflect the £98.929 million paid to the CLG on the 28th March 2012 in respect of the Housing Settlement.

Treasury Management

- 3.37 The Council has previously adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. Interest rate risk management is a priority and therefore the Code identifies two indicators that will provide the Operational Boundaries to the exposure to interest rate risk.
 - a) Upper limits for variable rate exposure and
 - b) Upper limits to fixed rate exposure.
- 3.38 It is recommended that the Council sets an upper limit on its fixed interest rate exposures for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 of 100% and on its variable interest rate exposures on 50%. This limit on variable rates is consistent with the current approved limit.
- 3.39 The medium term strategy is to undertake borrowing for capital expenditure. The timing of any longer term borrowing will depend on interest rates and the profile of capital spend.
- 3.40 The Council's investments are held in a relatively flexible form and therefore fixed interest rate exposure is not considered to be a significant risk.

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Maturity Structure of any Fixed Rate Borrowing (as a percentage of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate)				
Upper Limit Lower Limit				
Under 12 months	100%	0%		
12 months and within 24 100% 0% months				
24 months and within 5 years	100%	0%		
5 years and within 10 years	100%	0%		
10 years and above 100% (

3.41 The Code requires that authorities set out the total principal of sums invested for periods longer than 364 days and set an upper limit for each forward financial year for the maturity of these investments. The purpose of the indicator is to manage the investment portfolio within good treasury management practice guidelines and ensure there is a spread of investment maturities to reduce risks inherent in interest rate volatility. The following limits are recommended.

Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days		
£ million		
31 March 2012 0.0		
31 March 2013 0.0		
31 March 2014 0.0		

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy

3.42 For all unsupported (prudential) borrowing the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) will be based on the estimated life of the assets financed by borrowing in accordance with the MRP guidance.

Financial Implications

3.43 The financial implications are contained throughout the report.

Legal Implications

- 3.44 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the authority has to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. The Council has previously resolved to comply with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. Under the Code of Practice the Council is required to approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy before the start of the financial year.
- 3.45 Guidance issued under Section 15 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to approve an Annual Investment Strategy before the start of the financial year.

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- 3.46 The treasury management code of practice requires all organisations covered by it to have a treasury management strategy stating the policies and objectives of its treasury management function.
- 3.47 On the 16th November 2009 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued a consultation paper on various changes to the prudential Capital Finance system introduced by the Local Government Act 2003. The revised guidance impacted on an authority's investment strategy.
- 3.48 In order to comply with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003 the Council needs to approve a range of prudential indicators as detailed in the body of this report before the start of the forthcoming financial year. At the same time the Council also needs to approve a Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.49 The Council's policy regarding borrowing and investments is contained in its Treasury Management Strategy.
- 3.50 This report will determine the Council's policy on making a MRP for 2013/14.
- 3.51 The performance management implications are detailed in the report.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.52 There are no implications identified.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Council needs to ensure that the risks associated with the treasury function have been properly identified and evaluated. The risks include interest rate exposure, counterparty or credit risk, liquidity (insufficient cash to meet liabilities) risk, funding (inability to repay or replace loans) risk, and the failure of internal controls.
- 4.2 The Council would be failing in its legal obligations under the Local Government Act 2003 if it failed to agree a set of Prudential Indicators for the forthcoming financial year and in its legal obligations under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 if it failed to prepare an annual statement of policy on making a MRP.

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5. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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Appendix A

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013/14

1.0 Objectives

The main objectives of Treasury Management are:-

a) Borrowing

- To effect funding in any one year at the cheapest rate commensurate with future risk.
- To forecast average future interest rates and borrowing accordingly.
- To monitor and review the level of variable interest rate loans in order to take greater advantage of interest rate movements.

b) Investment

 To maximise the return on investments while maintaining capital security.

c) Cash Flow

- To either borrow on a temporary basis to cover shortfalls in funds or make temporary investments in order to manage the Council's cash flow in the most cost effective way.
- To maintain minimum balances with the Council's bankers.

2.0 Sources of Financing

The following list specifies which borrowing instruments can be adopted:-

- Market Long Term Loans available through the London Money Market.
- Market Temporary (up to 364 days) Loans available through the London Money Markets.
- Public Works Loans Board the low risk source of longer term borrowing for the Council.
- Overdraft Redditch Borough Council has an overdraft limit of £1million with Lloyds TSB Bank plc.
- Internal (Capital receipts and revenue balances) including "set aside" capital receipts earmarked to repay debt used as a substitute for new borrowing.
- Leasing.

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3.0 Borrowing Limits

The prudential indicator for the Authorised Limit for external debt for the current year is the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003: "A local authority shall determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow."

4.0 Interest Rate Exposure

The Council will set for the forthcoming financial year and following two financial years upper limits to its exposures to the effects of changes in interest rates. These indicators will relate to both fixed interest rates and variable interest rates.

Annual Investment Strategy - 2013/14

<u>Introduction</u>

5.0 Guidance issued under section 15 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to approve an Annual Investment Strategy before the start of the financial year.

6.0 Objective

- 6.1. The objective of the Council's Investment Strategy is to prudently invest all surplus funds held on behalf of the authority. Priority will be given to security and liquidity but at the same time maximising yield.
- 6.2 The Council will not borrow funds to invest.

7.0 Types of Investments

7.1 The investments which the Council are able to use are categorised as `Specified Investments' and `Non-Specified' Investments.

Specified Investments offer high security and high liquidity. They must be in sterling and have a maturity of less than a year. The Strategy is for the Council to restrict its investment activity to specified investments.

7.2 Specified Investments

All short-term investments arising from the management of the Council's cash flow shall be invested with:

 the major British clearing banks, National Westminster, Lloyds TSB, HSBC and Barclays, also Coutts and Company, the wholly owned subsidiary of National Westminster,

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- building societies and building society conversions that are F1 or F1+ credit rated for short-term lending'
- all other local authorities (non-capped)
- other public bodies such as universities
- `AAA' rated Money Market Funds.

The maximum amount placed with any single institution will be £2.5 million.

8.0 <u>Credit ratings</u>

The Council's requirements in terms of credit ratings of lending parties are notified to the broker's. The Council principally relies on the credit ratings published by Fitch Ratings, to establish the credit quality of counterparties. Where counterparty does not have a Fitch rating, the equivalent Moody's rating will be used.

9.0 External Fund Management

The Council has withdrawn from the use of external fund managers. Investments made or committed by the Council's fund managers have been returned to the Council and are now invested in-house. No new investments will be placed by external fund managers.

The agreement with the remaining External Fund Manager was terminated in August 2007.

10.0 Reporting Arrangements

10.1 The Head of Finance and Resources will report on the prudential indicators as set out in CIPFA's Prudential Code for the coming year to the Council, at or before the start of the financial year and on the Treasury Management Strategy (including the Annual Investment Strategy) it is proposed to adopt for the forthcoming year.