



REPORT TO:	Audit and Governance Committee Full Council – 28 February 2024
DATE:	24 January 2024
SUBJECT:	Draft Treasury Management Policy and Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25
PURPOSE:	To provide pre-decision scrutiny to the strategy being proposed.
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Fry, Portfolio Holder for Finance
REPORT OF:	Christine Marshall – Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) & S151
REPORT AUTHOR:	Sean Howsam (Interim Treasury & Investments Manager PPSPL)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	None
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report is the Draft Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for the 2024/25 financial year and is included as part of the Budget Setting Report that is submitted to Executive Board and Council for approval.

As the report is a treasury report it is being submitted to Audit and Governance Committee for scrutiny prior to submission to Executive Board and Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Audit and Governance Committee scrutinise the Treasury Management Policy (**Appendix A**) and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 (**Appendix B**) and make any comments and suggestions for consideration by Executive Board on 14 February 2024 and Council on 28 February 2024 when they consider these documents as part of the budget report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Members have the option of making comments to Executive Board and Council in respect of the proposed strategy or alternatively making no comments.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

1.3 CIPFA defines treasury management as:

"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including 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".

1.4 The Council's treasury function is undertaken by Public Sector Partnership Services Limited (PSPSL) on behalf of the Council.

1.5 The CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to prepare a capital strategy report which will provide the following:

- a high-level long term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed
- the implications for future financial sustainability

The aim of this capital strategy is to ensure that all elected members on the full council fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting capital strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite. The capital strategy is being reported separately.

2. REPORT

2.1 There are no proposed changes to the Treasury Management Policy Statement in **Appendix A** and it is attached for completeness.

2.2 The Council is required to set out its Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year. These outline the Council's strategy for borrowing and its policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. Our strategy statements for 2024/25 are attached at **Appendix B**. The strategy statements cover:

- reporting requirements
- capital prudential indicators 2023/24 to 2028/29
- the borrowing requirement
- the MRP policy
- the use of the Council's resources and the investment position
- prudential and treasury indicators
- treasury limits in force which will 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 policy
- creditworthiness policy
- country limits
- investment strategy

2.3 The strategy document presented to Audit and Governance for scrutiny is currently at draft stage. This is because the future Capital Programme has yet to be finalised and approved by Council. Once this is known the tables within the strategy document shown at **Appendix B** will be amended and considered by Executive Board prior to submission to Council for approval before the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year.

2.4 The Council's strategy statement has been prepared in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code and will require approval by Full Council. In addition there will be Quarterly and Mid-Year Treasury Reports and an Annual Report submitted to Audit and Governance Committee. The aim of these reporting arrangements is to ensure that those with ultimate responsibility for the treasury management function appreciate fully the implications of treasury management policies and activities, and that those implementing policies and executing transactions have properly fulfilled their responsibilities with regard to delegation and reporting.

- 2.5** The rules in relation to accounting for leases is changing from 1 April 2024. The new rules require leases to be brought onto the balance sheet and will increase the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). Work will be carried out over the next few months to assess the likely impact on the Council's CFR and where changes are required to the treasury and prudential indicators, a separate report will be brought to the Committee for scrutiny prior to submission to Council for approval.
- 2.6** The Government has recently released amended Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance which is currently out to consultation and likely to be effective from the 2024/25 financial year. The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement will be reviewed prior to submission to Full Council.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** This report has been produced based on information available from the budget setting process. As this process is ongoing the information is subject to amendment prior to its final submission to Council.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 None

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

- 5.1.1 None

5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.2.1 The Treasury Management Strategy (incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy) aims to achieve the optimum performance from the Council's cash flow, debt and investment operations and effectively control the associated risks. This will help to finance the corporate priorities of the Council.

5.3 STAFFING

- 5.3.1 None

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.4.1 This Council is required to produce a Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy before the commencement of each financial year to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. The report has no implications which would affect the constitution and does not therefore warrant a further change in the constitution.
- 5.4.2 Plans and strategies for control of the Council's borrowing, investments, capital expenditure and minimum revenue provision form part of the Council's policy framework and are therefore a non-executive (Council) function under the Council's Constitution.

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

5.5.1 None

5.6 FINANCIAL

5.6.1 Adoption of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy will ensure sound financial controls associated with the management of the authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions and safeguard these assets.

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 The Strategy will put in place measures for the effective control of the risks associated with Treasury Management and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. The Council's priority is the security of its investments.

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

5.8.1 This report is being submitted for pre decision scrutiny prior to submission to Executive Board and Council.

5.8.2 Link Group, who are external treasury advisors to the Council, have been consulted in relation to the compilation of this report.

5.9 REPUTATION

5.9.1 The security of investments is the Council's main priority when investing surplus cash.

5.10 CONTRACTS

5.10.1 None

5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER

5.11.1 None

5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

5.12.1 None

5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

5.13.1 None

5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.14.1 None directly from the report. The Council is currently liaising with external treasury advisors to establish how these issues can be taken into considering when assessing the suitability of financial institution for investment purposes.

5.15 LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

5.15.1 None

6. ACRONYMS

- 6.1 *Bps – basis points*
- 6.2 *CDS – Credit Default Swap*
- 6.3 *CFR – Capital Financing Requirement*
- 6.4 *CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy*
- 6.5 *CPI – Consumer Price Index*
- 6.6 *DLUHC – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities*
- 6.7 *DMADF – Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility*
- 6.8 *GDP – Gross Domestic Product*
- 6.9 *LB – Liability Benchmark*
- 6.10 *LOBO - Lender Option Borrower Option*
- 6.11 *LUF – Levelling Up Fund*
- 6.12 *MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government*
- 6.13 *MPC – Monetary Policy Committee*
- 6.14 *MRP – Minimum Revenue Provision*
- 6.15 *OLTL – Other Long Term Liabilities*
- 6.16 *PFI – Public Finance Initiative*
- 6.17 *PSPSL - Public Sector Partnership Services Limited*
- 6.18 *PWLB – Public Works Loan Board*
- 6.19 *QT – Quantitative Techniques*
- 6.20 *SONIA – Sterling Overnight Index Average*
- 6.21 *UKSPF – UK Shared Prosperity Fund*
- 6.22 *VRP – Voluntary Revenue Provision*

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

<i>APPENDIX A</i>	<i>Treasury Management Policy Statement 2024-25</i>
<i>APPENDIX B</i>	<i>Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Plan 2024-25</i>

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management.	CIPFA website

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body for the 2024/25 financial year.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Sean Howsam – Interim Treasury & Investments Manager (PSPSL) Sean.Howsam@pspsl.co.uk
Signed off by:	Christine Marshall – Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) & S151 christine.marshall@sholland.gov.uk
Approved for publication:	CLlr Fry - Portfolio Holder for Finance