



Report To: Audit and Governance Committee

Date: Wednesday, 29 January 2025

Subject: Draft Treasury Management Policy and Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2025/26

Purpose: To provide pre-decision scrutiny to the strategy being proposed.

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Report Of: Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive - Corporate Development (S151).

Report Author: Sean Howsam, Interim Treasury & Investments Manager (PSPSL).

Ward(s) Affected: None directly.

Exempt Report: No.

Summary

This report is the Draft Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for the 2025/26 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.

This Report refers to a key element of the Council's Governance Framework and represents an important contribution to the evidence trail in support of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26.

Recommendations

That the Audit and Governance Committee scrutinise the Treasury Management Policy (**Appendix 1**) and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2025/26 (**Appendix 2**) and make any comments and suggestions for consideration by Executive Board on 20 February 2025 and Council on 5 March 2025 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 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 1** 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 2025/26 are attached at **Appendix 2**. The strategy statements cover:
- reporting requirements
 - capital prudential indicators 2024/25 to 2029/30
 - 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 2** will be amended and considered by Executive Board prior to submission to Council for approval before the commencement of the 2025/26 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 changed 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 is underway to ascertain the

value of lease liabilities which will impact the Council's CFR with effect from the current financial year.

2.6 The Government recently updated Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance effective from the 2025/26 financial year. The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement in Section 2.5 of **Appendix 2** has been amended to ensure compliance with the new guidance. The Council will be required to calculate MRP on its property fund investments in a different way resulting in a budget pressure of £67,456.77 in 2025/26. A separate report is included on the agenda covering these implications.

2.7 The Council is interested in undertaking actions to reduce climate change and as an ethical investor will consider the environmental, social and governance issues. The Council continues to develop its strategy in this area.

Officers are working with the Council's external treasury advisors to establish how these issues can be taken into consideration when Link Group formulate their Suggested Credit List which is used by the 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.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

None

Staffing

None

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

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.

Data Protection

None

Financial

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.

Risk Management

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.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

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

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

The Portfolio Holder for Finance is briefed on treasury performance on a regular basis.

Reputation

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

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None

Health and Wellbeing

None

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

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.

Acronyms

bps – basis points

CDS - Credit Default Swap

CFR – Capital Financing Requirement

CIPFA - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

CPI - Consumer Price Index

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

LB – Liability Benchmark

LOBO – Lender Option Borrower Option

LUF – Levelling Up Fund

LUP – Levelling Up Partnership

MPC - Monetary Policy Committee

MRP – Minimum Revenue Provision

PWLB - Public Works Loan Board

TMSS – Treasury Management Strategy Statement

UKSPF - UK Shared Prosperity Fund

VRP – Voluntary Revenue Provision

y/y – year on year

Appendices

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

Appendix 1 Treasury Management Policy Statement 2025/26

Appendix 2 Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Plan 2025-26

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
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Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body for the 2025/26 financial year.

Report Approval

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Signed off by: Christine Marshall – Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) & S151 christine.marshall@sholland.gov.uk

Approved for publication: Cllr Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Finance.