

3rd Quarter Treasury Management Report 2017/2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2009 (the Code) was adopted by Council on 23 February 2010.
- 1.2 The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:
 - a. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
 - b. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
 - c. Receipt by Council of an Annual Treasury Management Strategy Report for the year ahead, a mid-year review report (as a minimum) and an annual review report of the previous year.
 - d. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
 - e. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body which in this Council is the Treasury Management Sub-Committee.
- 1.3 Treasury management in this context is defined as:

'The management of the local authority's 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.'
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to meet one of the above requirements of the CIPFA Code, namely a mid-year review report of treasury management activities, for the financial year 2017/18.

2. Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2017/18

- 2.1 The Council's 2017/18 Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy was approved by full Council on 21 February 2017 (report COU/SE/17/002 refers). The investment strategy for 2017/18 was to give priority to the security and liquidity of investments whilst at the same time seeking to optimise the return on investments.
- 2.2 The target rate of return for investments for 2017/18 was 0.55%. This target rate was based upon investment rate projections for the year provided by Capita (the Council's treasury management advisors), together with consideration of the profile of the Council's portfolio of investments (i.e. mixture of liquid and fixed term investments). Based upon the anticipated funds available for investment in the year (taking into account planned capital expenditure and receipts from asset disposals) this gave a target investment income of £253k for the year.

3. Interest Rates and Market Activity

- 3.1 As a result of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on 2 November 2017, the Bank of England increased the bank's Base Rate to 0.50%. Our advisors, Link Asset Services, (formally Capita) have commented that "as there are so many variables at this time, caution must be exercised in respect of all interest rate forecasts", they have however predicted that the Bank of England are likely to incrementally increase the Base Rate to around 1% by 2020. The knock on effect of this for the Council is continuing uncertainty on returns going forward. Currently the Council's returns for investments up to 3 months in length are at base rate or below, while those of 4 to 12 months are generally below 0.75%.
- 3.2 Markets will continue to be closely monitored and higher rates of return secured whenever possible.

4. The Council's Lending Criteria 2017/18

- 4.1 The Council's Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy requires that deposits are only placed with a limited number of high quality banks and building societies whose credit rating is independently assessed as sufficiently secure by the Council's treasury advisers or, for non-rated building societies, subject to their meeting minimum financial criteria (based on asset base size).
- 4.2 The unprecedented nature of the current economic climate has forced local authorities to keep their lending criteria under constant review to ensure that the balance between security of capital, liquidity of investments and yield on investment income is adequately maintained.
- 4.3 The below tables shows the credit criteria applicable at the 31 December 2017:

Credit Criteria: Rated Banks and Institutions

Capita Colour Code Key	Maximum Duration / Investment Values
Purple	Max £13m for max of 2 years (subject to max 50% of portfolio)
Orange	£12m for max of 2 years (subject to max 40% of portfolio)
Red	£11m for max of 1 year (subject to max 50% of portfolio)
Green	£9m for max of 6 months (subject to max 30% of portfolio)
Blue (nationalised / substantially owned by the UK government)	£18m for max of 2 years

Credit Criteria: Rated Building Societies

Capita Colour Code Key*	Credit Criteria 01/04/2017
Red	£11m for max of 1 year (subject to max 50% of portfolio)
Green	£7m for max of 1 year (subject to max 30% of portfolio)

Credit Criteria: Non- Rated Building Societies

Asset Base**	Credit Criteria 01/04/2017
Asset base > £2,500m	£6m for max 6 months
Asset base > £1,000m	£5m for max 6 months

order to simplify the complex system of commercial credit ratings, Link Asset Services has developed a system of colour coding which reflect the relative strengths of individual banking institutions. Details of these colour coding are provided in the Council's Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

** Further restrictions on non-rated building societies include a requirement for societies to be covered by a Dun and Bradstreet credit rating.

5 Compliance with Treasury Management Strategy and Code of Practice

- 5.1 During the first nine months of the financial year the Council operated within the approved Treasury limits and Prudential Indicators (as set out in the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Annual Treasury Strategy Statement). No institutions in which investments were made had any difficulty in repaying investments and interest in full during the period.

6 Interest Earned from Treasury Investments during the period 1 April to 31 December 2017

- 6.1 The table below summaries the interest earned during the period 1 April to 31 December, 2017 on the various Treasury Investments held by the Council;

TREASURY MANAGEMENT – INTEREST EARNED SUMMARY	
	£
Temporary Investments – Term Deposits	167,068
Bank of Scotland Current Account	463
Barclays Reserve Account	27
NatWest Call Account	272
Santander 365 Day Account	58,597
TOTAL INTEREST EARNED/ACCRUED	£226,427

- 6.2 The budgeted income from investments for the period 1 April to 31 December 2017 was £189,750 (average rate of return of 0.55%). Interest actually earned during the period totalled £226,424 (average rate of return 0.562%), an over-achievement of interest of £36,677 and an over-achievement of 0.012% on the average rate of return.
- 6.3 The over-achievement of interest earned was primarily due to higher cash balances being available for investment than expected. These increases in balances are due to timing differences in the collection and payment of Council Tax, NNDR and other revenue streams, and underspends relating to the budgeted capital programme.
- 6.4 By year end it is predicted that interest earned will exceed the originally budgeted figure by approximately £32k, this is mainly due to higher cash balances as the predicted average rate of return remains at 0.55%.

7. Investment Activity during the period 1 April to 31 December 2017

- 7.1 The table below summaries the investment activities during the period;

TREASURY MANAGEMENT – INVESTMENT ACTIVITY SUMMARY	
	2017/18 £
Opening Balance 01 April 2017	46,350,000
Investments made during the year (including transfers to business reserve accounts)	90,600,000
Sub Total	136,950,000
Investments realised during the year (including withdrawals from business reserve accounts)	92,200,000
Closing Balance 31 December 2017*	44,750,000

*a summary of the breakdown of these funds is available in paragraph 9 of this report

- 7.2 Investments were made with counterparties that met the agreed lending criteria and investment periods. Investment periods range from overnight to one year, dependent on the Council's cash flows, the view on interest rates and the actual interest rates on offer.
- 7.3 Where possible, investments were made in longer term fixed term investments (up to 1 year) in order to lock into interest rates which exceed the Council's budgeted rate of return and to provide some certainty of return for a proportion of the Council's investments.
- 7.4 During the period, for cash flow purposes (in particular relating to capital projects/purchases), use was made of the instant access and business reserve accounts with Barclays, NatWest and Bank of Scotland. As at 31 December 2017 £1.75m was held in these accounts at an average interest rate of 0.15%.
- 7.5 The table below shows the investments held as at 31 December 2017;

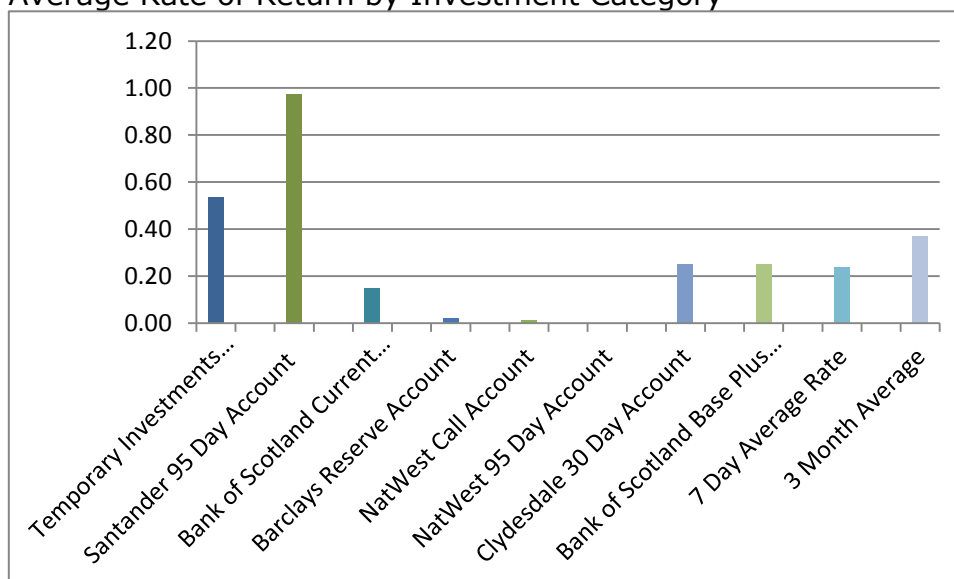
Investments held as at 30 September 2017				
Counterparty	Principal Amount	Interest Rate	Date Loaned	Date Returned
Bank of Scotland	5,000,000	0.90%	13/02/17	12/02/18
Skipton B/Society	2,500,000	0.65%	02/06/17	19/03/18
Skipton B/Society	3,000,000	0.77%	05/06/17	05/06/18
Newcastle B/Society	6,000,000	0.65%	03/07/17	15/03/18
Coventry B/Society	1,000,000	0.24%	01/09/17	15/01/18
National Counties B/Soc	1,000,000	0.39%	02/10/17	15/01/18
National Counties B/Soc	1,500,000	0.47%	02/10/17	15/02/18
Principality B/Society	1,000,000	0.29%	16/10/17	12/02/18
Yorkshire B/Society	5,000,000	0.20%	01/11/17	22/01/18
Nottingham B/Society	3,000,000	0.47%	01/11/17	19/03/18
Nottingham B/Society	1,000,000	0.52%	01/12/17	07/03/18
Coventry B/Society	2,000,000	0.37%	01/12/17	19/02/18
Yorkshire B/Society	2,000,000	0.40%	01/12/17	19/02/18
Principality B/Society	1,000,000	0.52%	07/12/17	03/04/18
Santander 365 Day	8,000,000	0.95%	365 day	notice
Bank of Scotland	1,350,000	0.15%	Call	
Barclays Reserve	100,000	0.01%	Call	
NatWest Call Account	300,000	0.01%	Call	
TOTAL	44,750,000			

8. Average Rate of Return Comparison

- 8.1 The table below shows the change in the average rate of return for the various categories of investment quarter on quarter;

Comparison of Average Rate of Return			
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Temporary Investments	0.594%	0.552%	0.534%
Santander 365 Day	1.017%	0.983%	0.972%
Bank of Scotland C/Acc	0.100%	0.150%	0.150%
Barclays Reserve	0.100%	0.026%	0.021%
NatWest Call Account	0.010%	0.010%	0.011%
7 Day Average	0.37%	0.24%	0.29%
3 Month Average	0.48%	0.30%	0.36%
Overall Average return on Investments	0.607%	0.575%	0.562%

Average Rate of Return by Investment Category



9. Summary of Funds Held

- 9.1 The table below shows a summary of the funds held as at 31 December 2017

Summary of Funds held	
Fund	£
Earmarked Revenue Reserves *	20,948,821
Capital Receipts Reserves *	13,820,769
General Fund Reserve	3,035,695
Cash flow Balances (held on behalf of others)	6,944,715
Total Value of Investments	44,750,000

*these funds will be utilised through the Council's 5 year financial planning period

10. Borrowing

- 10.1 As at 31 December 2017 the Council had no external debt.