



REPORT TO:	Governance and Audit Committee
DATE:	Thursday, 14 March 2024
SUBJECT:	Q3 Treasury Management Update 2023-24
PURPOSE:	To provide Members with an update on Treasury Management performance and activity to ensure best practice is maintained.
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation, UKSPF and Levelling Up
REPORT OF:	Christine Marshall – Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) & S151
REPORT AUTHOR:	Sean Howsam, Interim Treasury & Investment Manager (PSPSL)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	None directly
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

Attached at **Appendix A** is the Q3 Treasury Management Update Report on the Council's "Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy". It covers the following areas;

- An economic update for the first three quarters of the 2023/24 financial year;
- The outlook for the remainder of the financial year along with interest rate forecasts;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2023/24;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2023/24;
- Debt Rescheduling;
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2023/24.

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 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Governance and Audit Committee receive and review the contents of the report attached at **Appendix `A`**.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management suggests that members should be informed of Treasury Management activities at least quarterly. This report therefore ensures this Council is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's revised Code of Practice.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As this is an update report there are no other further options for consideration.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.
- 1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital programme. The capital programme provides a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending requirements. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion, any existing debt may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 1.3 Accordingly, treasury management is defined 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 risks around investments have always been managed effectively by the Council.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 This report provides the 2023/24 Quarter 3 update on the Council's "Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy" (**Appendix A**).
- 2.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued the revised Code of Practice for Treasury Management in 2021.

- 2.3** The Code suggests that members should be informed of Treasury Management activities at least quarterly. This report therefore ensures this Council is embracing best practice in accordance with CIPFA's revised Code of Practice.
- 2.4** The Council's 2023/24 budget for investment income is £1.861m (split £1.184m GF and £677k HRA). At the end of December 2023 investment income earned was estimated to be approximately £1.821m (split £1.143m GF and £678k HRA), which was £419k above the profiled budget on a straight line basis (split £251k GF and £168k HRA).
- 2.5** The average level of funds available for investment purposes during the first three quarters of the financial year was £47.8m including the loans to Welland Homes which are classified as long-term debtors.
- 2.6** Treasury investments achieved an average rate of 5.184% (Q2 4.966%) compared to the benchmark average 3-month Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) rate of 5.100% (Q2 5.024%).
- 2.7** Interest on Welland Homes loans has achieved an average rate of 3.967% (Q2 3.887%).
- 2.8** The combined rate achieved on all investments is estimated to be approximately 5.056% (Q2 4.858%).
- 2.9** The outturn for investment income for 2023/24 is forecast to be £2.357m (Q2 £2.26m) split £1.481m (Q2 £1.423m) GF and £876k (Q2 £837k) HRA. This is a combined total of £496k above budget compared with £399k previously reported as at Quarter 2. This increase in the predicted outturn is due to revised information being received relating to the profiled capital spend.
- 2.10** The projected outturn for borrowing costs for 2023/24 is £2.35m which is in line with the budget.
- 2.11** The Council's Investment Policy and Strategy is kept under constant review with the aim of balancing risk and reward. The investment criteria agreed for 2023/24 permitted investments with banks whose parent bank originates from a country with a sovereign rating of A+ or higher and meets Link Groups counterparty investment criteria.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** This report provides an update on treasury management performance to Members to ensure Best Practice is maintained as required by CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

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 None

5.3 STAFFING

5.3.1 None

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.4.1 The General Power of Competence in the Localism Act 2011 allows Councils a broad freedom in their operations.

5.4.2 Councils have the general power to borrow under Section 1 of the Local Government Act 2003.

5.4.3 The power to invest is set out in the Local Government Act 2003, Section 12, which gives the Council the power to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs.

5.4.4 The power that allows councils to spend for capital purposes is included in the Local Government Act 2003.

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

5.5.1 None

5.6 FINANCIAL

5.6.1 The financial implications are covered in detail in **Appendix A** to this report and in section 2 above.

5.6.2 By making the investment criteria relating to financial institutions stringent, the Council receives lower rates of return. The Council therefore aims to strike a balance between risk and reward when considering its portfolio of investments. Treasury Management is a key financial consideration for the Authority especially in respect of its investment returns and Capital Programme.

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 The Code of Practice sets out the framework for controlling the risks associated with treasury management decisions for borrowing and investing. Ultimately investment and borrowing decisions are made in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. The overriding priority is that the security of a deposit takes precedence over a return on investment.

5.7.2 The Prudential and Treasury Indicators control the limits for investing and borrowing, to ensure that any borrowing is affordable and sustainable and long term borrowing is for capital purposes only.

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

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

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

5.15 LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

5.15.1 None

6. ACRONYMS

- 6.1
- bps – basis points
 - CDS - Credit Default Swap
 - CIPFA - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
 - CPI - Consumer Price Index
 - GDP – Gross Domestic Product
 - GF – General Fund
 - HRA – Housing Revenue Account
 - m/m – month on month
 - myy – month year on year
 - MPC - Monetary Policy Committee
 - PMI - Purchasing Managers' Index
 - PWLB - Public Works Loan Board
 - q/q - quarter on quarter
 - QT – Quantitative Tightening
 - SONIA - Sterling Overnight Index Average

APPENDICES

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

APPENDIX A	Q3 Treasury Management Update
------------	-------------------------------

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
SHDC Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24	<u>(Public Pack)Agenda Supplement Agenda Supplement for South Holland District Council, 02/03/2023 18:30 (sholland.gov.uk)</u>

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
Governance and Audit	Q1 Update Report - 19 September 2023 Mid Term Report – 9 November 2023 Q3 Update Report - 14 March 2024 (this report)

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:	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation, UKSPF and Levelling Up