



PAPER G

Purpose: For Noting

Committee report

Committee	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date	25 SEPTEMBER 2017
Title	TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17
Report of	TECHNICAL FINANCE MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In accordance with the council's Treasury Management Strategy 2016-17, this report presents the annual report on treasury management policies, practices and activities for the year ended 31 March 2017.
2. In December 2016, the committee received the half-year progress report on treasury management activities. This report updates the previous report, and includes additional information required for the annual report.
3. The council's activities have fallen within the boundaries of the prudential indicators set for the year:
 - Due to continuing low interest rates, and the strategy to undertake short-term borrowing, the council has incurred lower than forecast costs of borrowing for the year, contributing positively to the overall out-turn.
 - Due to continuing low interest rates, a prudent investment strategy and reduced surplus funds for investment, the council has attracted lower than average returns on its investments, in comparison to other local authorities who use the same treasury management advisers, Arlingclose Limited.
4. The committee is asked to consider this report and highlight any areas which may need to be addressed in the forthcoming year.

BACKGROUND

5. The council's treasury management activity is underpinned by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the code"), which requires authorities to produce

annually prudential indicators and a treasury management strategy statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

6. This report fulfils the council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA code and the Department for Communities and Local Government's (CLG's) Investment Guidance.
7. The code of practice defines treasury management as:
The management of the council's investments and 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.
8. The code of practice requires that a report be provided on the actual performance of the council against the following prudential indicators at the end of each financial year:
 - Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream.
 - Actual capital expenditure.
 - Actual capital financing requirement.
 - Actual external debt.
9. Detailed information on the council's performance against all of these indicators is set out in Appendix B to this report.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

10. The council's arrangements for treasury management support effective service and project delivery across the authority, in turn supporting the key priorities set out in the [Corporate Plan 2015-17](#).
11. There is a need for regular review of the Treasury Management Strategy, in line with the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy, to ensure the key priorities of the council continue to be deliverable within the reduced resources available to the council.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

12. The council's current treasury management arrangements are conducted by council staff, with support from an external treasury management adviser, Arlingclose Limited, within existing budgets.
13. The Treasury Management Strategy includes the overall management of the council's cash flow and borrowing strategy. With interest rates low, the strategy has been to avoid long-term external loans (with interest rates in excess of four per cent) and take short-term loans when needed (with interest rates of below one per cent). This has generated significant savings as part of the budget strategies over recent years.

14. At the December 2016 meeting, the committee received a report which forecast net annual savings from treasury management activities in 2016-17 of £450,000.
15. As at 31 March 2017, the total net savings were in excess of £1 million for the year, which contributed to the overall financial result of the council.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Failure to provide this information will mean that the council is in breach of the requirements set out in the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management 2011, and the council's approved treasury management strategy 2016-17.
17. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 explicitly require English authorities to "have regard" to the code.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

18. The council, as a public body, is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
19. Initial screening has indicated that there are no specific equality and diversity issues arising from the content of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

20. Treasury management activities have a high level of risk in that they relate to transactions that can amount to several million pounds which are undertaken with external bodies. When the council has surplus monies to invest, there are risks if those organisations to whom it lends default on repayment. The costs to the council of its treasury management activities are dependent on fluctuating interest rates.
21. The overall strategy of borrowing short-term and avoiding long-term debt carries the risk that, if interest rates suddenly rise, when longer term debt is eventually required, it will cost more.
22. The council manages these risks by adopting a treasury management strategy which includes maintaining a limited list of organisations to which it is authorised to lend, and restricting the maximum amount to be invested with each organisation, based on advice obtained from its external treasury management advisers, Arlingclose Limited. It also operates protocols for maintaining financial controls.
23. Although there is no statutory requirement to comply with the code, the council is obliged under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to

make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. Failure to comply with the code could result in adverse comments being raised by the council's external auditors.

24. The committee's overview of the council's treasury management arrangements plays an important part in the council's overall governance regime. It has an important role to play in the monitoring of treasury management activities, including overview of the risks faced by this function both internally, which are directly controllable through segregation of duties and reporting arrangements, and externally, controllable through the monitoring of counterparties and lending limits, and also regular monitoring of general economic factors.

EVALUATION

25. The council's treasury management activities for 2016-17 have fallen within the boundaries of the agreed strategy for 2016-17.

RECOMMENDATION

26. That the committee considers the performance for the year ended 31 March 2017 against the prudential indicators and highlights any issues arising that need to be addressed in 2017-18.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

27. [Appendix A](#) – Performance report.
[Appendix B](#) – Prudential indicators.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

28. Treasury Management Strategy 2016-17 (Audit Committee 18 February 2016, Paper D)
<https://www.iwight.com/Meetings/committees/Audit%20Committee/18-2-16/Paper%20D.pdf>
29. Treasury Management Half-yearly progress report (Audit committee, 5 December 2016, Paper E)
<https://www.iwight.com/Meetings/committees/Audit%20Committee/5-12-16/Paper%20E.pdf>

Contact Point: Jo Thistlewood, Technical Finance Manager, ☎ 821000
e-mail jo.thistlewood@iow.gov.uk

CHRIS WARD
*Director of Finance
and section 151 officer*

CLLR STUART HUTCHINSON
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources