

TITLE: 2024/25 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

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1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy, the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That the Finance and Assets Committee recommends to Full Council to approve:

- The 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy
- The Annual Investment Strategy
- The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement
- The Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

2.2 Committee approve that the Director, Finance amended the Strategy between Committee and Council to build into it any changes required to reflect the decision made at Committee with regard to the Crematorium project.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 This Treasury Management Strategy has been drafted excluding any reference to the Crematorium project, while this goes through the Council's decision making process. However, if Committee decide to recommend to Council the progression of the project at this evening's meeting, it is planned to update the Strategy in advance of Council on the 20th February. Paragraph 2.2 requests approval to do this.

3.2 CIPFA Requirements

The Council has adopted the CIPFA (*Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy*) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and any subsequent revisions.

3.3 The Treasury Management Policy Statement

As per CIPFA's definition, the Council defines its treasury management activities 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.
- The Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the Council, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.
- The Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

The Council will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:

- a treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities;
- suitable treasury management practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.

The content of the policy statement and TMPs will follow the recommendations contained in Sections 6 and 7 of the CIPFA Code, subject only to amendment where necessary to reflect the particular circumstances of this Council. Such amendments will not result in the Council materially deviating from the Code's key principles.

- Full Council will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the financial year (this report), a mid-year review and an annual report after financial close, in the form prescribed in its TMPs.
- The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Finance and Assets Committee, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Director, Finance, who will act in accordance with the Council's policy statement and TMPs and as a CIPFA member, CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.
- The Council nominates Finance and Assets Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

3.4 Investment Strategy

The Council continues to hold significant reserves (January 2024) and has been able, up until now, to meet the costs of the loans to East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) and East Cambs CLT, the construction of the Leisure Centre, the purchase of Waste fleet and the major works at the depot from internal borrowing against these reserves; therefore, without the need for external borrowing. This situation is forecast to continue in 2024/25.

The Council continues to hold cash balances in advance of those needed to cover internal borrowing and these will be invested in line with the criteria detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy (appendix 1 to this report).

The Council has currently loaned East Cambs Trading Company £5.0 million, in relation to the loan agreement approved by Council in April 2022, the total value of this loan facility is £7.5 million.

3.5 Borrowing Strategy

The Council continues to hold significant reserves so internal cash balances are being used to fund capital commitments. This situation is expected to continue and while cash balances are expected to reduce in the remainder of this financial year and in future years, it is now forecast that no external borrowing will be required during 2024/25. This situation will be continually monitored as we go into the new financial year.

3.6 Counterparty Limits

The Counterparty limits in the Treasury Management Strategy remain unchanged from 2023/24.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report, other than those detailed above.

4.2. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.

4.3. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

5.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

Background Documents:

The Prudential Code published by CIPFA

Treasury Management Practice Schedules

Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax 2024/25 Report (also on this agenda)