

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators – Q2 2023/24

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy published the revised Treasury and Prudential codes in 2021, which now requires quarterly reporting of performance against forward looking prudential indicators. The performance of the Council's treasury management activity, against benchmarks and the key indicators in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, as approved by Full Council at its meeting of 7 February 2023, are set out below.

Investments

The average investment return over Q2 was 4.82% under-performing the benchmark rate by 27 basis points (or 0.27 percentage points). This is typical in a rising interest rate environment as a result of the time lag between changes in base rate and investments maturing and being able to re-invest at more favourable rates.

Quarter	Average Investment Balance £m	Average Investment return	Average Benchmark Rate*	Difference
Q1	295.687	4.19%	4.34%	(0.15%)
Q2	293.169	4.82%	5.09%	(0.27%)

**the Benchmark rate used is the Standard Overnight Index Average (SONIA); a rate administered by the Bank of England based on actual transactions of overnight borrowing by financial institutions.*

The timing of Bank of England (BoE) bank interest rate movements in the quarters explains the widening gap between Q1 & Q2 average benchmark rate, SONIA and the average interest earned. The gap will reduce going forward as the base rate has not increased since August.

During Q2 we have monitored the security of the Council's investment, to assess the risk of those investments losing their value. These risks were assessed using the financial standing of the groups invested in, the length of each investment, and the historic default rates. Our investment strategy sets an allowable risk level of 0.050% (i.e. that there is a 99.95% probability that the Council will get its investments back). The actual indicator ranged between 0.003% and 0.008%, reflecting the high proportion of investments held in highly secure and/or very liquid investments.

Investment Risk benchmark	0.050%
Maximum investment risk experienced Q2	0.008%

Borrowing

The table below shows the Council's total external borrowing and average rate as at 30 September 2023:

	Balance as at 30 September 2023 £m	Average Rate
PWLB	210.142	4.53%
Market Loans	6.450	4.25%
Total borrowing	216.592	4.52%

The table below shows the Q2 forecast of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) compared to the estimate within the 2023/24 strategy approved in February 2023. The CFR is expected to give rise to new borrowing required of £68.334m by the end of the year, compared to the original estimate of £83.932m. The strategy currently forecasts that the level of reserves and balances in the medium term allows internal borrowing of up to £50.000m, and therefore it is currently expected that external borrowing of £18.334m may be required to support the capital programme.

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (Underlying Borrowing Need)	Original Estimate 2023/24 £m	Revised forecast as at 30 September 2023 £m
Opening CFR	274.367	272.225
Borrowing Need	34.904	20.105
Minimum Revenue Provision	(7.429)	(7.404)
Closing CFR	301.842	284.926
External Borrowing as at 30 September 2023		216.592
Forecast Underborrowing (if no action taken)		68.334

The table below shows that the Council is operating within the Operational Boundary and Authorised Borrowing Limits set within the Treasury Management strategy and has sufficient headroom to cover the borrowing need arising from the year's capital programme.

Borrowing Limits	Operational Boundary £m	Authorised Borrowing Limit £m
Limit set for 2023/24	376.000	396.000
Less: PFI & Leases	65.000	65.000
Limit for Underlying Borrowing	311.000	331.000
Actual External Borrowing at 30 September	216.592	216.592
Headroom*	94.408	114.408

*Authorised Borrowing headroom cannot be less than zero

The maturity profile of the Authority's borrowing is within the limits set within the strategy.

Maturity Structure of borrowing	Lower Limit set	Upper Limit set	Actual as at 30 September 2023
Under 12 Months	0%	25%	2%
12 months to 2 years	0%	40%	2%
2 years to 5 years	0%	60%	7%
5 years to 10 years	0%	70%	16%
Over 10 years	0%	90%	72%