

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet – 8 February 2011

Council - 11 February 2011

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2011/12

Accountable member	Finance & Community Development , John Webster
Accountable officer	Chief Finance Officer, Mark Sheldon
Accountable scrutiny committee	Economy & Business Improvement
Ward(s) affected	None
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	In accordance with best practice, the Council has adopted and complies with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the public services. To comply with the code, the Council has a responsibility to set out its Treasury Management Strategy Statement for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy for council approval prior to the start of a new financial year.
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of the attached Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12 at Appendix 2 including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The general policy objective ‘that Council should invest prudently the surplus funds held on behalf of the community giving priority to security and liquidity’.• That the Prudential Indicators for 2011/12 including the authorised limit as the statutory affordable borrowing limit determined under Section 3 (1) Local Government Act 2003 be approved.• Additions to the Council’s lending list are proposed in order to provide some further capacity. These proposals have been put forward after taken advice from the Council’s treasury management advisers and are prudent enough to ensure the credit quality of the Council’s investment portfolio remains high.• To increase the time period of investing up to two years with counterparties noted in the recommended lending list.• For 2011/12 in calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), the Council will apply Option 1 in respect of supported capital expenditure and Option 3 in respect of unsupported capital expenditure as per section 21 in Appendix 3.

Financial implications	All financial implications are noted in the report. Contact officer: Andrew Sherbourne, andrew.sherbourne@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264337
Legal implications	As detailed in the report. Contact officer: Nicolas Wheatley nicolas.wheatley@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272695
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	None arising directly from this report. Contact officer: Julie McCarthy, julie.mccarthy@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264355
Key risks	As noted in Appendix 1.
Corporate and community plan Implications	The purpose of the strategy is to improve corporate governance, a key objective for the Council.
Environmental and climate change implications	None arising directly from this report.

1. Background

1.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services and the Prudential Code require local authorities to determine the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Prudential Indicators on an annual basis. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement also incorporates the Investment Strategy as required under the CLG's Investment Guidance.

1.2 For the purposes of the Code, CIPFA has adopted the following as its definition of treasury management activities:

“the management of the organisation’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.”

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

- A Treasury Management Strategy Statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities
- Suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) 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.

1.4 The local authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, which came into force on 1st April 2004, include provisions relevant to investments. These regulations, together with amendments subsequently made to them (S.I No.534), determine the nature of specific investments, and how they should be treated/accounted for by a local authority. Formal guidance was revised and issued by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) in 2010.

1.5 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy at Appendix 2, state the overriding principles and objectives governing treasury management activity. As an integral part of that Statement, the Council includes the preparation of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will achieve those principles and objectives prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.

1.6 The general policy objective of the Annual Investment Strategy is that:

‘the Council should invest prudently the surplus funds held on behalf of the community giving priority to security and liquidity’.

The Council is responsible for its treasury decisions and activity. No treasury management activity is without risk. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk is an important and integral element of its treasury management activities.

1.7 The strategy allows sufficient flexibilities and delegations to avoid the need for a formal variation, other than in the most exceptional circumstance.

2.0 Icelandic Banks

2.1 The council has been actively pursuing the deposits from the three Icelandic owned banks, Glitnir, Landsbanki and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (KSF). The situation with both Glitnir and Landsbanki is that the council’s legal advisors have now filed written submissions with the Icelandic courts with regards to the deposits made in 2006, and court hearings are due to take place in early-spring 2011. As regards to KSF we have received £1.628m back to date which amounts to 53p in the pound. The latest information we have indicates a recovery rate in the range of 75p to 84p in the pound.

3.0 Consultation

3.1 The Council’s external treasury advisors, Arlingclose Ltd, supported the Council in the production of the strategies.

3.2 The strategy was approved by the Treasury Management Panel at its meeting on 27th January 2011.

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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk Assessment 2. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12 3. Annual MRP Statement
Background information	<p>Section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council Treasury Management Practices</p>