

Denbighshire County Council

**Treasury Management Strategy Statement
and Investment Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21**

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Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21

1 Background

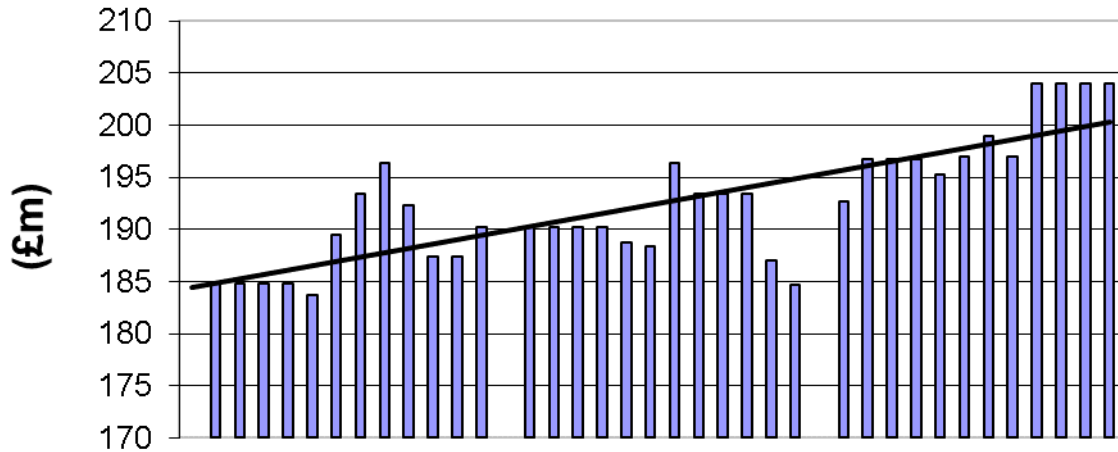
- 1.1 The Council is responsible for its Treasury Management decisions and activity which involves looking after the Council's cash. This is a vital part of the Council's work because approximately £0.5bn passes through the Council's bank account every year.
- 1.2 On 28 February 2012 the Authority adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy statement (TMSS) before the start of each financial year. CIPFA published its new 2017 edition of the Code at the end of 2017 but updated sector specific guidance notes, which include the Treasury Management indicators for local authorities, have yet to be published.
- 1.3 In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issued revised *Guidance on Local Authority Investments* in March 2010 that requires the Authority to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year.
- 1.4 This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the *Local Government Act 2003* to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.
- 1.5 The purpose of the TMSS is to set the:
 - Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19
 - Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19
 - Prudential Indicators for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 (Annex A)
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement

2 Treasury Position

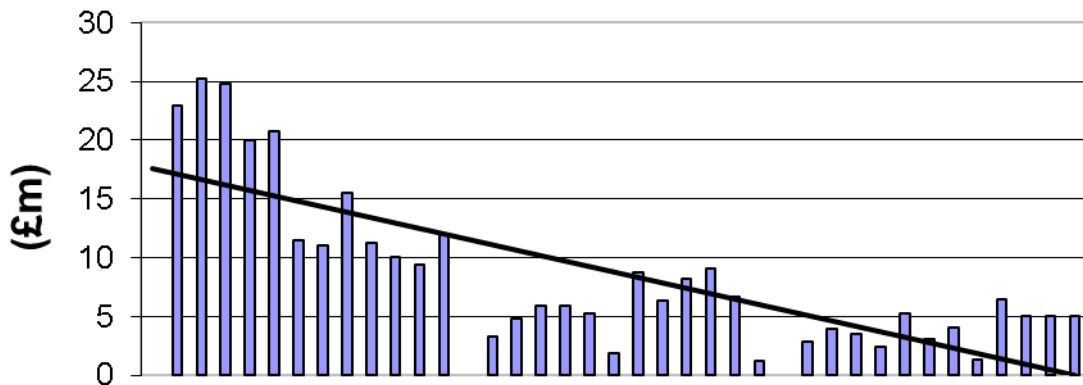
- 2.1 The levels of the Council's borrowing and investment balances over the last three years are shown in the graphs below. The first chart shows the Council's borrowing has increased over this period because the Council has been borrowing to fund its capital plan either from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) or on a temporary basis from other local authorities. The second chart shows a decrease in the amount of money which is available for investment because the Council has been maintaining a minimal amount of investment balances only to meet monthly cash flow requirements.

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Borrowing Balances (2015/16 - 2017/18)



Investment Balances (£m) (2015/16 - 2017/18)



3 Investment Strategy

3.1 Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority’s objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

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- 3.2 Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Council will continue to hold a minimal amount of investments for short-term cash flow purposes and will continue to place a far greater emphasis on investing with the UK Government's Debt Management Office and other local authorities in order to minimise these risks.
- 3.3 The Authority may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table 1 below, subject to the cash limits (per counterparty) and the time limits shown.

Table 1: Approved Investment Counterparties and Limits

Credit Rating	Banks / Building Societies Unsecured	Banks / Building Societies Secured	Government / Local Authorities	Corporates	Registered Providers
UK Govt	n/a	n/a	£Unlimited 50 years	n/a	n/a
AAA	£5m 5 years	£10m 20 years	£8m 50 years	£5m 20 years	£5m 20 years
AA+	£5m 5 years	£10m 10 years	£8m 25 years	£5m 10 years	£5m 10 years
AA	£5m 4 years	£10m 5 years	£8m 15 years	£5m 5 years	£5m 10 years
AA-	£5m 3 years	£10m 4 years	£8m 10 years	£5m 4 years	£5m 10 years
A+	£5m 2 years	£10m 3 years	£8m 5 years	£5m 3 years	£5m 5 years
A	£5m 13 months	£10m 2 years	£8m 5 years	£5m 2 years	£5m 5 years
A-	£5m 6 months	£10m 13 months	£8m 5 years	£5m 13 months	£5m 5 years
BBB+	£5m 100 days	£10m 6 months	£8m 2 years	£5m 6 months	£5m 2 years
None	£1m 6 months	n/a	£8m 25 years	£5m 5 years	£5m 5 years
Pooled funds	£8m per fund				

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Credit Rating: Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

Banks Unsecured: Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail.

Banks Secured: Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements (REPOs) and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in.

Government: Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is an insignificant risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Corporates: Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made as part of a diversified pool in order to spread the risk widely.

Registered Providers: Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of Registered Providers of Social Housing, formerly known as Housing Associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Welsh Government and, as providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Pooled Funds: Shares in diversified investment vehicles consisting of any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Short-term Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and very low or no volatility will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts.

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- 3.4 Natwest is the Council's banker and will continue to be used for operational and liquidity purposes by transferring cash in and out of the instant access account as required even if its credit rating falls below those shown in the table above.
- 3.5 For a group of banks under the same ownership, the banking group limit is equal to the individual bank limit.
- 3.6 Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:
- no new investments will be made,
 - any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
 - full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.
- 3.7 The Authority understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices (the cost of banks insuring themselves against default), financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may meet the credit rating criteria.
- 3.8 When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2011, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, via the Debt Management Office or invested in government treasury bills for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned, but will protect the principal sum invested.

The reduction in investment income which the Council has suffered over the last nine years due to the historically low level of the official bank rate and the minimal amount of cash held is illustrated in Table 2 below:

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Table 2: Investment Income

2008/09 Interest £000	2009/10 Interest £000	2010/11 Interest £000	2011/12 Interest £000	2012/13 Interest £000	2013/14 Interest £000	2014/15 Interest £000	2015/16 Interest £000	2016/17 Interest £000
2,219	635	398	408	239	265	230	108	32

3.9 **Specified Investments:** The WG Guidance defines specified investments as those:

- denominated in pound sterling,
- due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement,
- not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- invested with one of:
 - the UK Government,
 - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
 - a body or investment scheme of “high credit quality”.

The Authority defines “high credit quality” organisations as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher.

3.10 **Non-specified Investments:** Any investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment is classed as non-specified. The Authority does not intend to make any investments denominated in foreign currencies. Non-specified investments will therefore be limited to long-term investments, i.e. those that are due to mature 12 months or longer from the date of arrangement; those that are defined as capital expenditure by legislation, such as shares in money market funds and other pooled funds, and investments with bodies and schemes not meeting the definition of high credit quality. Limits on non-specified investments are shown in table 3 below.

Table 3: Non-Specified Investment Limits

	Cash limit
Total long-term investments	£10m
Total invested in Money Market Funds	£10m
Total invested in other pooled funds	£10m
Total investments without credit ratings or rated below A- (except the UK government and UK local authorities)	£10m
Total investments (except pooled funds) with institutions domiciled in foreign countries rated below AA+	£10m
Total non-specified investments	£50m

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- 3.11 **Non-Treasury Investments:** Although not classed as treasury management activities and therefore not covered by the CIPFA Code or the WG Guidance, the Authority may also purchase property for investment purposes and may also make loans and investments for service purposes.

Such loans and investments will be subject to the Authority's normal approval processes for revenue and capital expenditure and need not comply with this treasury management strategy.

4 Borrowing Strategy

- 4.1 Borrowing strategies continue to be influenced by the relationship between investment and borrowing rates. The interest rate forecast provided in **Annex B** indicates that an acute difference between investment and borrowing rates is expected to continue. This difference creates a "cost of carry" for any new longer term borrowing where the proceeds are temporarily held as investments because of the difference between what is paid on the borrowing and what is earned on the investment.
- 4.2 In view of this, the strategy which has been in place for some time now has been to reduce investment balances and rely on internal borrowing as much as possible instead of external borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).
- 4.3 The Council has been accessing temporary borrowing from other local authorities at very low rates to cover short term cash flow requirements and will continue to do so as this is a good source of readily available cash at historically low rates varying between 0.3% and 0.5%. At the same time, the Council will also continue to monitor its cash position and interest rate levels to ensure that long term borrowing from the PWLB is undertaken at the optimal time to fund on-going Capital commitments.
- 4.4 While the Council can borrow from a number of banks, it normally only borrows long term from the PWLB which is a Government body that lends to public sector organisations.

The approved sources of borrowing are listed below:

- PWLB and any successor body
- any institution approved for investments
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except Clwyd Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues

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5 Debt Rescheduling

- 5.1 The Council is able to pay off loans earlier than it has to and to replace them with cheaper loans in order to save money or to reduce the risk to the Council. Sometimes, these loans will be replaced and sometimes not, depending on market conditions and interest rates.
- 5.2 The lower interest rate environment and changes in the rules regarding the premature repayment of PWLB loans has adversely affected the scope to undertake meaningful debt rescheduling although occasional opportunities arise. A weekly update on this is received from the Council's treasury management advisers so the position is kept under review.

6 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement

- 6.1 The Council's MRP policy was reviewed during 2017/18 to explore potential savings options and the changes have been implemented from 2017/18. The revised MRP policy was agreed by Council on 17 October 2017.
- 6.2 The Council sets aside money each year to repay debt and this is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).
- 6.3 There are four different methods of calculating MRP and the Council needs to say each year which methods it will use. This is known as the MRP Statement.
- 6.4 The MRP Statement is submitted to Council before the start of each financial year. If the terms of the original MRP Statement are revised again during the year, a revised statement will be put to Council at that time.

6.5 MRP Statement

The Council will apply the Asset Life Method to calculate MRP on outstanding supported borrowing incurred up to 31 March 2017 using a straight line calculation over 50 years. This represents a change from the Regulatory Method which had been applied previously.

The Council will apply the Asset Life Method to calculate MRP on supported borrowing incurred on or after 1 April 2017 using a straight line calculation over an appropriate number of years, dependent on the period of time that the capital expenditure is likely to generate benefits. This also represents a change from the Regulatory Method which had been applied previously.

The Council will apply the Asset Life Method to calculate MRP on all capital expenditure funded from unsupported borrowing. This represents a continuation of the previous policy.

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- 6.6 Adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) has resulted in leases coming on the balance sheet. This affects how much it appears the Council has borrowed but this is effectively covered by grant payments. MRP in respect of leases brought on the balance sheet under IFRS will match the annual principal repayment for the associated deferred liability. This is a technical accounting adjustment which is cost neutral for the Council.
- 6.7 MRP on housing assets funded through Prudential Borrowing is charged at 5% of the HRA's CFR. MRP on all other items such as new builds are charged at 2% of the HRA's CFR.

7 Reporting Treasury Management Activity

- 7.1 The Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) will report to the Corporate Governance Committee on treasury management activity / performance as follows:
- (a) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators will be submitted to the committee in January each year prior to approval by Council.
 - (b) Two treasury management updates will be submitted to the committee in January and July each year.
 - (c) An annual report on treasury activity will be submitted to the committee in July each year for the preceding year prior to approval by Cabinet.
- A treasury update showing the latest investment and borrowing position will be included in the monthly Revenue Monitoring report and borrowing will also be reported on in the Capital Plan to Council.

8 Other items

8.1 Investment Training

8.1.1 Member Training

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires the Section 151 Officer to ensure that all members tasked with treasury management responsibilities, including scrutiny of the treasury management function, understand fully their roles and responsibilities.

The Council has nominated the Corporate Governance Committee as the committee which has responsibility for scrutiny of the treasury management function.

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8.1.2 Staff Training

Staff attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. There is a team of three members of staff who cover TM duties on a rota basis to ensure that their knowledge is kept up to date. These members of staff are also members of professional accountancy bodies including the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT).

8.2 Treasury Management Advisers

The Council uses Arlingclose Ltd as Treasury Management Advisers and receives the following services:

- Credit advice
- Investment advice
- Borrowing advice
- Technical accounting advice
- Economic & interest rate forecasts
- Workshops and training events

The Council maintains the quality of the service with its advisers by holding quarterly strategy meetings and tendering every 5 years. Following a tendering exercise, the contract was renewed with Arlingclose from 01 January 2014 for three years with an option to extend for a further two year period. The Council reviewed the contract at the end of 2016 and decided to continue for a further two year period which means that the contract is due to be renewed at the end of 2018.

8.3 Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MIFID)

8.3.1 The way that local authorities can access financial services changed in January 2018 as a result of the second Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MIFID) from the EU. Under the new regulations, local authorities can only continue to be classed as professional clients if they have at least a £10m investment balance and staff with relevant experience. Local authorities not meeting the criteria are reclassified as retail clients. Retail clients have greater protection when placing investments because there is a requirement for firms to ensure that investments are suitable for the client. Professional clients are assumed to have greater knowledge and therefore need less protection.

8.3.2 The Council is not in a position to be classed as a professional client because it does not have an investment balance which is consistently above £10m so it is classified as a retail client. In practice, this does not have an impact on the Council's treasury management activities which consist of cash deposits or loans which are outside the scope of MIFID. The Council's investment advisers, Arlingclose, will continue to advise retail

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clients as they have a retail adviser who is able to advise on any investment products which come under the scope of MIFID such as shares and bonds.

8.4 Investment of Money Borrowed in Advance of Need

The Authority may, from time to time, borrow in advance of need, where this is expected to provide the best long term value for money. Since amounts borrowed will be invested until spent, the Authority is aware that it will be exposed to the risk of loss of the borrowed sums, and the risk that investment and borrowing interest rates may change in the intervening period. These risks will be managed as part of the Authority's overall management of its treasury risks.

The total amount borrowed will not exceed the authorised borrowing limit of £250 million. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be three years, although the Authority is not required to link particular loans with particular items of expenditure.

8.5 Policy on Use of Financial Derivatives

In the absence of any explicit legal power to do so, the Authority will not use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options). Derivatives embedded into loans and investments, including pooled funds and forward starting transactions, may be used, and the risks that they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

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ANNEX A

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2018/19 TO 2019/20

1 Background

1.1 The indicators are calculated to demonstrate that the Council’s borrowing is affordable and are underpinned by the following regulations. There is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2003 for local authorities to have regard to CIPFA’s Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the “CIPFA Prudential Code”) when setting and reviewing their Prudential Indicators.

2 Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

2.1 This is a key indicator of prudence. In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional increases to the capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

2.2 The Section 151 Officer reports that the Council had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2017/18 to date nor are there any difficulties envisaged in future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the approved budget.

3 Estimates of Capital Expenditure

3.1 This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on Council Tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

Capital Expenditure	2017/18 Approved £000	2017/18 Revised £000	2018/19 Estimate £000	2019/20 Estimate £000	2020/21 Estimate £000
Council Fund	8,153	22,573	22,312	6,005	5,834
Corporate Plan (2014-17)	22,324	18,453	24,904	12,903	1,560
HRA	10,058	11,045	10,233	13,883	13,772
Total	40,535	52,071	57,449	32,791	21,166

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3.2 Capital expenditure will be financed as follows:

Capital Financing	2017/18 Approved £000	2017/18 Revised £000	2018/19 Estimate £000	2019/20 Estimate £000	2020/21 Estimate £000
Council Fund					
Capital Receipts	650	4,123	866		
Grants & Contributions	1,943	6,293	4,638	1,829	1,829
Revenue Contributions & Reserves	148	2,369	2,211		
Supported Borrowing	3,866	1,657	5,543	3,005	3,005
Prudential Borrowing	1,546	8,131	9,054	1,171	1,000
	8,153	22,573	22,312	6,005	5,834
Corporate Plan (2014-17)					
Capital Receipts	0	197	41	0	0
Grants & Contributions	7,916	10,326	4,960	303	0
Revenue Contributions & Reserves	2,991	4,201	2,837	2,105	0
Supported Borrowing	0	33	0	0	0
Prudential Borrowing	11,417	3,696	17,066	10,495	1,560
	22,324	18,453	24,904	12,903	1,560
Total	30,477	41,026	47,216	18,908	7,394
HRA					
Capital Receipts	20	126	0	1,100	0
Grants & Contributions	2,420	2,409	2,409	2,409	2,409
Revenue Contributions & Reserves	1,710	1,710	2,050	1,436	884
Supported Borrowing	0	0	0	0	0
Prudential Borrowing	5,908	6,800	5,774	8,938	10,479
Total	10,058	11,045	10,233	13,883	13,772

4 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

4.1 This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet borrowing costs. It shows how much of its budget the Council uses to repay debt and interest.

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4.2 The ratio is based on costs net of investment income.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2017/18 Approved £000	2017/18 Revised £000	2018/19 Estimate £000	2019/20 Estimate £000	2020/21 Estimate £000
Financing Costs	12,864	12,962	11,005	10,995	10,995
Net Revenue Stream	189,252	189,252	194,418	193,370	191,343
Council Fund Ratio	6.80%	6.85%	5.66%	5.69%	5.75%
Financing Costs	6,602	6,261	6,757	7,250	8,002
Net Revenue Stream	14,864	14,566	15,535	16,532	17,022
HRA Ratio	44.42%	42.98%	43.50%	43.85%	47.01%

5 Capital Financing Requirement

5.1 The Capital Plan relies on various sources of finance i.e. grants, contributions and capital receipts. Once these are used up, the Council needs to rely on borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is the amount of borrowing which is needed. Total borrowing shouldn't therefore go above the CFR. The Council's CFR and borrowing levels are compared in the table below for the current and future years.

Capital Financing Requirement	31/03/18 Approved £000	31/03/18 Revised £000	31/03/19 Estimate £000	31/03/20 Estimate £000	31/03/21 Estimate £000
Council Fund	186,054	181,333	207,549	215,528	215,921
HRA	74,215	71,769	75,570	78,966	82,363
Total CFR	260,269	253,102	283,119	294,494	298,284
Total Debt	205,192	205,192	220,802	231,430	237,839

6 Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions

6.1 This indicator shows the equivalent impact on Council Tax of the decision to undertake Prudential Borrowing as well as the investment interest lost by using capital receipts and reserves to part fund the Capital Plan. The impact of supported borrowing has not been included because it is assumed that the Council would always spend its supported borrowing to fund its Capital Plan.

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Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions	2017/18 Approved £	2018/19 Estimate £	2019/20 Estimate £	2020/21 Estimate £
Increase in Band D Council Tax due to:				
Prudential Borrowing	5.37	6.66	2.57	2.57
Capital Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reserves	0.61	0.44	0.00	0.00
Total	5.98	7.10	2.57	2.57

7 Authorised Limit & Operational Boundary for External Debt

- 7.1 The Council has an integrated treasury management strategy and manages its treasury position in accordance with its approved strategy and practice. Overall borrowing will therefore arise as a consequence of all the financial transactions of the Council and not just those arising from capital spending reflected in the CFR.
- 7.2 The **Authorised Limit** sets the maximum level of external borrowing. It is measured on a daily basis against all external borrowing items on the Balance Sheet i.e. long and short term borrowing, overdrawn bank balances and long term liabilities. This Prudential Indicator separately identifies borrowing from other long term liabilities such as finance leases. It is consistent with the Council's existing commitments, its proposals for capital expenditure and financing and its approved treasury management policy statement and practices. This is reported as a part of the Capital Monitoring Report.
- 7.3 The Authorised Limit has been set on the estimate of the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario with sufficient headroom over and above this to allow for unusual cash movements.
- 7.4 The Authorised Limit is the statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 (referred to in the legislation as the Affordable Limit) and if it is breached, it would be reported to the next Council meeting.

Authorised Limit for External Debt	2017/18 Approved £000	2017/18 Revised £000	2018/19 Proposed £000	2019/20 Proposed £000	2020/21 Proposed £000
Borrowing	250,000	240,000	250,000	260,000	260,000

- 7.5 The **Operational Boundary** links directly to the Council's estimates of the CFR and estimates of other cash flow requirements. This indicator is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit reflecting the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario but without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit.

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Operational Boundary for External Debt	2017/18 Approved £000	2017/18 Revised £000	2018/19 Proposed £000	2019/20 Proposed £000	2020/21 Proposed £000
Borrowing	245,000	235,000	245,000	255,000	255,000

8 Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code

- 8.1 This indicator demonstrates that the Council has adopted the principles of best practice. The Council adopted the original Code in March 2002. A revised Code was issued in November 2009 and another in November 2011. One of the recommendations is that the Code is adopted by Council.

Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice in Treasury Management
The Council approved the adoption of the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code (Nov 2011) at its meeting on 28 February 2012.

9 Upper Limits for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure and Variable Interest Rate Exposure

- 9.1 These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates. This Council calculates these limits on a net interest paid basis (i.e. interest paid on fixed rate debt net of interest received on fixed rate investments).
- 9.2 The upper limit for variable rate exposure has been set to ensure that the Council is not exposed to interest rate rises which could adversely impact on the revenue budget. The limit allows for the use of variable rate debt to offset exposure to changes in short-term rates on investments.

	2017/18 Approved %	2018/19 Estimate %	2019/20 Estimate %	2020/21 Estimate %
Upper Limit for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure	100	100	100	100
Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure	40	40	40	40

- 9.3 The limits above provide the necessary flexibility within which decisions will be made for drawing down new loans on a fixed or variable rate basis; the decisions will ultimately be determined by expectations of anticipated interest rate movements as set out in the Council's treasury management strategy.

10 Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate borrowing

- 10.1 This indicator highlights the existence of any large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates

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and is designed to protect against excessive exposures to interest rate changes in any one period, in particular in the course of the next ten years.

- 10.2 It is calculated as the amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate. The maturity of borrowing is determined by reference to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment.

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing	Actual %	Lower Limit %	Upper Limit %
under 12 months	2.44	0	30
12 months and within 24 months	2.43	0	30
24 months and within 5 years	6.91	0	30
5 years and within 10 years	7.11	0	30
10 years and above	81.11	50	100

11 Credit Risk

- 11.1 The Council considers security, liquidity and yield, in that order, when making investment decisions.
- 11.2 Credit ratings remain an important element of assessing credit risk, but they are not a sole feature in the Council's assessment of counterparty credit risk.
- 11.3 The Council also considers alternative assessments of credit strength, and information on corporate developments of and market sentiment towards counterparties. The following key tools are used to assess credit risk:
- Published credit ratings of the financial institution (minimum A- or equivalent) and its sovereign (minimum AA+ or equivalent for non-UK sovereigns);
 - Sovereign support mechanisms;
 - Credit default swaps (where quoted);
 - Share prices (where available);
 - Economic fundamentals, such as a country's net debt as a percentage of its GDP;
 - Corporate developments, news, articles, markets sentiment and momentum;
 - Subjective overlay.
- 11.4 The only indicators with prescriptive values are credit ratings. Other indicators of creditworthiness are considered in relative rather than absolute terms.

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12 Upper Limit for total principal sums invested over 364 days

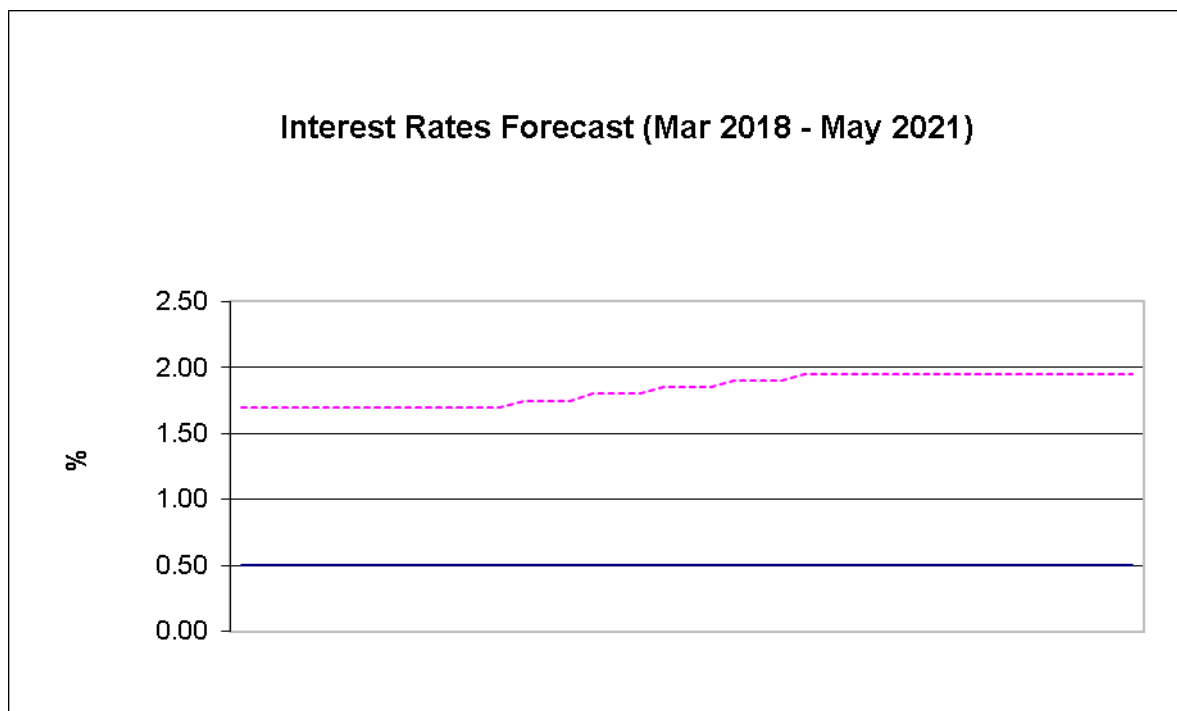
12.1 The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

Upper Limit for total principal sums invested over 364 days	2017/18 Approved £m	2018/19 Estimate £m	2019/20 Estimate £m	2020/21 Estimate £m
	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

INTEREST RATES FORECAST

The graph below shows the interest rate forecast for the Official UK Bank Rate and the 50 year GILT rate from March 2018 to May 2021. The Official Bank Rate influences the rate at which the Council can invest. The GILT rate is the rate at which the Government borrows money and therefore this affects the rate at which the Council can borrow from the PWLB which is approximately 1% above GILT rates.

As the graph shows, it's much more expensive to borrow than to invest at the moment with the Official UK Bank Rate expected to remain constant over the period. The graph illustrates that the difference between investment and borrowing rates is approximately 2%. This means that the cost of carry referred to in paragraph 4.1 in **Appendix 1** is approximately £20,000 for every £1m borrowed because the Council could borrow for 50 years at a rate of approximately 2.5% but could only invest at a rate of approximately 0.5%.



—— Official Bank Rate

- - - - 50-yr GILT Rate

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ANNEX C

GLOSSARY - Useful guide to Treasury Management Terms and Acronyms

BANK OF ENGLAND	UK's Central Bank
BANK RATE	Bank of England Interest Rate (also known as Base Rate)
CPI	Consumer Price Index – a measure of the increase in prices
RPI	Retail Price Index – a measure of the increase in prices
DMO	Debt Management Office – issuer of gilts on behalf of HM Treasury
FSA	Financial Services Authority - the UK financial watchdog
GDP	Gross Domestic Product – a measure of financial output of the UK
LIBID	London Interbank Bid Rate - International rate that banks lend to other banks
LIBOR	London Interbank Offer Rate – International rate that banks borrow from other banks (the most widely used benchmark or reference for short term interest rates)
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board – a Government department that lends money to Public Sector Organisations
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee - the committee of the Bank of England that sets the Bank Rate
LONG TERM RATES	More than 12 months duration
SHORT TERM RATES	Less than 12 months duration
BOND (GENERAL)	An investment in which an investor loans money to a public or private company that borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a fixed interest rate
GOVERNMENT BOND	A type of bond issued by a national government generally with a promise to pay periodic interest payments and to repay the face value on the maturity date

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CORPORATE BOND	A type of bond issued by a corporation to raise money in order to expand its business
COVERED BOND	A corporate bond issued by a financial institution but with an extra layer of protection for investors whereby the investor has recourse to a pool of assets that secures or “covers” the bond if the financial institution becomes insolvent
GILT	A bond that is issued by the British government which is classed as a low risk investment as the capital investment is guaranteed by the government
REPO	A repurchase agreement involving the selling of a security (usually bonds or gilts) with the agreement to buy it back at a higher price at a specific future date For the party selling the security (and agreeing to repurchase it in the future) it is a REPO For the party on the other end of the transaction e.g. the local authority (buying the security and agreeing to sell in the future) it is a reverse REPO
FTSE 100	Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 - An index composed of the 100 largest companies listed on the London Stock Exchange which provides a good indication of the performance of major UK companies