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# Treasury Management Practices

Medway Council

January 2024

**Contents**

Contents .....	2
1. TMP1 – Treasury risk management .....	3
2. TMP 2 – Performance measurement.....	18
3. TMP3 – Decision making and analysis .....	20
4. TMP4 – Approved instruments, methods and techniques.....	22
5. TMP5 – Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities, and dealing arrangements..	24
6. TMP6 – Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.....	30
7. TMP7 – Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements .....	33
8. TMP8 – Cash and cash flow management.....	35
9. TMP9 – Money laundering .....	36
10. TMP10 – Training and qualifications .....	38
11. TMP11 – Use of external service providers .....	40
12. TMP12 – Corporate governance.....	42

## **1. TMP1 – Treasury risk management**

1.1. The responsible officer will design, implement and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, will report at least annually on the adequacy/suitability thereof, and will report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the organisation's objectives in this respect, all in accordance with the procedures set out in TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements. In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements which seek to ensure compliance with these objectives are set out in the schedule to this document.

### **1.2. CREDIT AND COUNTERPARTY RISK MANAGEMENT**

1.3. Credit and counter-party risk is the risk of failure by a counterparty to meet its contractual obligations to the organisation under an investment, borrowing, capital project or partnership financing, particularly as a result of the counterparty's diminished creditworthiness, and the resulting detrimental effect on the organisation's capital or current (revenue) resources.

1.4. This organisation regards a key objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited, and will limit its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4 Approved Instruments Methods and Techniques and listed in the schedule to this document. It also recognises the need to have, and will therefore maintain, a formal counterparty policy in respect of those organisations from which it may borrow, or with whom it may enter into other financing arrangements, it will ensure that robust due diligence procedures covering all external investment including investment properties

### **1.5. POLICY ON THE USE OF CREDIT RISK ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES**

- The Council will use credit criteria in order to select creditworthy counterparties with which to place investments.
- Credit ratings will be used as supplied from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors.
- Treasury Management Consultants will provide regular updates of changes to all ratings relevant to the council.
- The responsible officer will formulate suitable criteria for assessing and monitoring the credit risk of investment counterparties and shall construct a lending list comprising maturity periods, type, group, sector, country and counterparty limits.

1.6. This organisation will use the MUFNG (previously Link) Asset Services creditworthiness service based on using colours determined by minimum combinations of ratings to derive maturity limits as follows:

- Yellow                    5 years
- Dark Pink                5 years for Ultra-Short dated Bonds with a credit score of 1.25

- Light Pink      5 years for Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with accredit score of 1.5
- Purple            2 years
- Blue              1 year (applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK banks)
- Orange           1 year
- Red                6 months
- Green             100 days
- No Colour        Not to be used

- 1.7. In addition a credit default swap overlay is used as a further safeguard to give early warning of potential creditworthiness problems which may only belatedly lead to actual changes in credit ratings.
- 1.8. Credit ratings for individual counterparties can change at any time. The Chief Operating Officer or a nominated representative can at any time remove counterparties from the list. The Chief Operating Officer is responsible for applying approved credit rating criteria for selecting approved counterparties. The Chief Operating Officer following consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder must approve any additions to the in-house counterparty list.
- 1.9. This organisation will not rely solely on credit ratings in order to select and monitor the creditworthiness of counterparties. In addition to credit ratings it will therefore use other sources of information including:
- The quality financial press,
  - Market data,
  - Information on government support for banks, and,
  - The credit ratings of that government support.
- 1.10. Maximum maturity periods and amounts to be placed in different types of investment instrument are specified in paragraph 8 and TMP 1 schedule 1
- 1.11. Diversification: this organisation will avoid concentrations of lending and borrowing by adopting a policy of diversification. It will therefore use the following: -
- Maximum amount to be placed with any one institution - £25m and for those with a MUFG (Link) Asset Services duration of less than 12 months £20m
  - Group limits where a number of institutions are under one ownership – maximum of £25m and for those with a MUFG (Link) Asset Services duration of less than 12 months £20m.
  - Country limits – a minimum sovereign rating of AA- from Fitch Ratings (or equivalent) is required for an institution to be placed on our approved lending list, with the exception of United Kingdom, where there is no restriction on the sovereign credit rating. The maximum investment in any one country is £40m with the exception of UK which is unlimited. The list of countries which currently meet this criteria is: -

AAA	AA+	AA	AA-
Australia	Canada	Abu Dhabi (UAE)	Belgium
Denmark	Finland	Qatar	France
Germany	U.S.A		U.K.
Netherlands			
Norway			
Singapore			
Sweden			
Switzerland			

- 1.12. Investments will not be made with counterparties that do not have a credit rating in their own right.
- 1.13. The definition of ‘**high credit quality**’ in order to determine what are specified investments as opposed to non-specified investments which do not have high credit ratings is set out at the end of TMP1 in schedule 1.
- 1.14. The counterparty list for the in-house team is available for members if required but is not published in this document due to the sensitive nature of this information.
- 1.15. **Policy on environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations**
- For short term investments with counterparties, this Council utilises the ratings provided by Fitch, Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s to assess creditworthiness, which do include analysis of ESG factors when assigning ratings. The Council will continue to evaluate additional ESG-related metrics and assessment processes that it could incorporate into its investment process and will update accordingly.
- 1.16. **LIQUIDITY RISK MANAGEMENT**
- 1.17. This is the risk that cash will not be available when it is needed, that ineffective management of liquidity creates additional unbudgeted costs, and that the organisation’s business/service objectives will be thereby compromised.
- 1.18. This organisation will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the

level of funds available to it which are necessary for the achievement of its business/service objectives. This organisation will only borrow in advance of need where there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme or to finance future debt maturities.

**1.19. AMOUNTS OF APPROVED MINIMUM CASH BALANCES AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS**

1.20. The Treasury Management section shall seek to minimise the balance held in the Council's main bank accounts at the close of each working day with a guide balance of no more than £300,000 overdrawn or in credit.

1.21. Details of:

- a. Standby facilities – The bank allows a £0.5m overdraft facility on the group accounts. If funds are received after the Treasury Management Section has completed its deals for the day the section will attempt to deposit funds in an account, which is available if it is within the permitted time frame.
- b. Bank overdraft arrangements – A £0.5m overdraft at 1% over base rate has been agreed as part of the banking services contract. The overdraft is assessed on a group basis for the Council's accounts.
- c. Short-term borrowing facilities – The Council accesses temporary loans through approved brokers on the London money market.
- d. Insurance/guarantee facilities – There are no specific insurance or guarantee facilities as the above arrangements are regarded as being adequate to cover all unforeseen occurrences.
- e. Special payments – 24 hours' notice must be given to the Treasury Team for all special payments (CHAPS) or Faster Payments above £100,000.

**1.22. INTEREST RATE RISK MANAGEMENT**

1.23. The risk that fluctuations in the levels of interest rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation's finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately.

1.24. This organisation will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements as amended in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.

It will achieve this by the prudent use of its approved financing and investment instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. This should be the subject to the consideration and, if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

**1.24. Details of approved interest rate exposure limits**

1.25. Of the overall borrowing limit 2025-26: £805,899 the amount of the overall borrowing portfolio which may be outstanding by way of short-term borrowing is the higher of £150,000,000 or 50% of the total borrowing portfolio (excluding LOBOs) LOBO limit £102,000,000.

- 1.26. **Trigger points and other guidelines for managing changes to interest rate levels**
- 1.27. The Chief Operating officer is responsible for incorporating the limits identified in 1.3.1 and 1.3.3 into the Annual Treasury Management Strategy, and for ensuring compliance with the limits.
- 1.28. Interest rates are monitored very closely on a daily basis and any significant alterations would be reported immediately. Interest rates affect all decisions made on borrowing and investments.
- 1.29. **Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure**
- 1.30. See 1.25 above.
- 1.31. **Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure**
- 1.32. Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure: 100%
- 1.33. **Policies concerning the use of instruments for interest rate management**
- a. Forward dealing – Consideration will be given to dealing from forward periods dependent upon market conditions. When forward dealing is more than 24 hours forward then the approval of the Chief Finance Officer or Finance Business Partner is required.
  - b. Callable deposits – The Council will use callable deposits as part as of its Annual Treasury Strategy statement. The credit criteria and maximum periods are set out in the Schedule of Specified and Non-Specified Investments appended to the Annual Treasury Strategy statement.
  - c. LOBOS (borrowing under lender’s option/borrower’s option) – Use of LOBOs are considered as part of the annual borrowing strategy. The Chief Operating Officer or Finance Business Partner must approve all borrowing for periods in excess of 365 days.
- 1.34. **EXCHANGE RATE RISK MANAGEMENT**
- 1.35. The risk that fluctuations in foreign exchange rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation’s finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately.
- 1.36. It will manage its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates so as to minimise any detrimental impact on its budgeted income/expenditure levels.
- 1.37. **Approved criteria for managing changes in exchange rate levels**
- a. As a result of the nature of Medway Council’s business, Medway Council may have an exposure to exchange rate risk from time to time. This will mainly arise from the receipt of income or the incurring of expenditure in a currency other than sterling. Medway Council will adopt a full hedging strategy to control and add certainty to the sterling value of these transactions. This will mean that the council will eliminate any significant foreign exchange exposures as soon as they are identified.
  - b. Where there is a contractual obligation to receive income or make a payment in a currency other than sterling at a date in the future, forward foreign exchange transactions will be considered, with professional advice, to comply with this full

cover hedging policy. Unexpected receipt of foreign currency income will be converted to sterling at the earliest opportunity unless Medway Council has a contractual obligation to make a payment in the same currency at a date in the future. In this instance, the currency will be held on deposit to meet this expenditure commitment.

#### 1.38. **REFINANCING RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 1.39. The risk that maturing borrowings, capital, project or partnership financings cannot be refinanced on terms that reflect the provisions made by the organisation for those refinancing, both capital and current (revenue), and/or that the terms are inconsistent with prevailing market conditions at the time.
- 1.40. This organisation will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which are competitive and as favourable to the organisation as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time.
- 1.41. It will actively manage its relationships with its counterparties in these transactions in such a manner as to secure this objective, and will avoid overreliance on any one source of funding if this might jeopardise achievement of the above.
- 1.42. Refinancing risk is the risk that when loans or other forms of capital financing mature, that they cannot be refinanced where necessary on terms that reflect the assumptions made in formulating revenue and capital budgets.
- 1.43. The level of refinancing risk has been increased by the current policy of borrowing short-term to take advantage of lower short-term interest rates.
- 1.44. **Debt/other capital financing, maturity profiling, policies and practices**
- 1.45. The Council will establish through its Prudential and Treasury Indicators the amount of debt maturing in any year/period.
- 1.46. Any debt rescheduling will be considered when the difference between the refinancing rate and the redemption rate is most advantageous and the situation will be continually monitored in order to take advantage of any perceived anomalies in the yield curve. The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:
- a. the generation of cash savings at minimum risk;
  - b. to reduce the average interest rate;
  - c. to amend the maturity profile and /or the balance of volatility of the debt portfolio.
- 1.47. Rescheduling will be reported to full Council in the Annual Treasury Outturn Report.
- 1.48. **Projected capital investment requirements**
- 1.49. The responsible Officer will prepare a 3+-year plan for capital expenditure for the Council. The capital plan will be used to prepare a 3+-year revenue budget for all forms of financing charges. This will include using prudential borrowing to fund invest to save schemes.



- 1.50. The definition of capital expenditure and long-term liabilities used in the Code will follow recommended accounting practice.
- 1.51. **Policy concerning limits on affordability and revenue consequences of capital financing**
- 1.52. In considering the affordability of its capital plans, the Council will consider all the resources currently available/estimated for the future together with the totality of its capital plans, revenue income and revenue expenditure forecasts for the forthcoming year and the two following years.. It will also take into account affordability in the longer term beyond this three-year period.
- 1.53. **PFI, Partnerships, ALMOs and guarantees**
- 1.54. This is currently not applicable to Medway Council.
- 1.55. **LEGAL AND REGULATORY RISK MANAGEMENT**
- 1.56. The risk that the organisation itself, or an organisation with which it is dealing in its treasury management activities, fails to act in accordance with its legal powers or regulatory requirements, and that the organisation suffers losses accordingly.
- 1.57. This organisation will ensure that all of its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in such activities. In framing its credit and counterparty policy under TMP1[1] credit and counterparty risk management, it will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they may effect with the organisation, particularly with regard to duty of care and fees charged.
- 1.58. This organisation recognises that future legislative or regulatory changes may impact on its treasury management activities and, so far as it is reasonably able to do so, will seek to minimise the risk of these impacting adversely on the organisation.
- 1.59. **References to relevant statutes and regulations**
- 1.60. The treasury management activities of the Council shall comply fully with legal statute, guidance, Codes of Practice and the regulations of the Council. These are:
- Local Government Finance Act 1988 section 114 – duty on the responsible officer to issue a report if the Council is likely to get into a financially unviable position.
  - Requirement to set a balanced budget - Local Government Finance Act 1992 section 32 for billing authorities and section 43 for major precepting authorities.
  - Local Government Act 2003
  - S.I. 2003 No.2938 Local Government Act 2003 (Commencement No.1 and Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2003 13.11.03
  - S.I. 2003 No.3146 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 and associated commentary 10.12.03
  - S.I. 2004 No.533 Local Authorities (Capital Finance) (Consequential, Transitional and Savings Provisions) Order 2004 8.3.04
  - S.I. 2004 No.534 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004 8.3.04
  - S.I. 2004 no. 3055 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2004

- S.I. 2006 no. 521 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006
- S.I. 2007 no. 573 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 s238(2) – power to issue guidance; to be used re: MRP
- S.I. 2008 no. 414 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008
- S.I. 2009 no. 321 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009
- S.I. 2009 no. 2272 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance And Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2009
- S.I. 2009 no. 3093 The Local Government Pension Fund Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009
- S.I. 2010 no. 454 (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010
- Localism Act 2011
- S.I. 2012 no. 265 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2012 No. 711 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2012 No. 1324 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2012 No. 2269 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2013 no. 476 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- S.I. 2015 no. 234 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
- *There has not been an issue of a Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations statutory instrument in 2005, 2011 and 2016*
- S.I. 2017 no. 536 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- S.I. 2018 no. 1207 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Statutory Guidance on Investments 2018
- Statutory Guidance on MRP 2018 amended 2024 with full effect from April 2025
- 2019 No. 394 Exiting the European Union financial services: The Money Market Funds (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
- S.I. 2019 no. 396 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
- S.I. 2020 no. 1212 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020
- S.I. 2021 no. 611 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

#### 1.61. Guidance and codes of practice

- CIPFA Local Authority Capital Accounting - a reference manual for practitioners' latest year Edition
- CIPFA Guide for Chief Financial Officers on Treasury Management in Local Authorities 1996
- CIPFA Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management 2002
- CIPFA Standard of Professional Practice on Continuous professional Development 2005
- CIPFA Standard of Professional Practice on Ethics 2006

- The Good Governance Standard for Public Services 2004
- CIPFA's Treasury Management Codes of Practice and Guidance Notes 2021,
- CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities revised 2017
- CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities – guidance notes revised 2021
  
- LAAP Bulletins
- IFRS - Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: A Statement of recommended Practice
  
- PWLB circulars on Lending Policy
- The UK Money Markets Guide. (was formerly known as the Financial Conduct Authority's Code of Market Conduct
  
- The Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts
- The Council's Financial Regulations
- The Council's Scheme of Delegated Functions

**1.62. Procedures for evidencing the council's powers/authorities to counterparties**

1.63. The Council's powers to borrow and invest are contained in legislation.

- Investing: Local Government Act 2003, section 12
- Borrowing: Local Government Act 2003, section 1

1.64. Lending shall only be made to counterparties on the Approved Lending list. This list has been compiled using advice from the Council's treasury advisers based upon credit ratings supplied by Fitch, Moodys and Standard & Poors.

**1.65. Statement on the council's political risks and management of same**

1.66. The responsible officer shall take appropriate action with the Council, the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to respond to and manage appropriately political risks such as change of majority group, leadership in the Council, change of Government etc.

**1.67. Monitoring Officer**

1.68. The Monitoring officer is the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance; the duty of this officer is to ensure that the treasury management activities of the Council are lawful.

**1.69. Chief Operating Officer**

1.70. The Chief Operating Officer's duty is to ensure that the financial affairs of the Council are conducted in a prudent manner and to make a report to the Council if he has concerns as to the financial prudence of its actions or its expected financial position.

**1.71. FRAUD, ERROR AND CORRUPTION, AND CONTINGENCY RISK MANAGEMENT**

1.72. The risk that an organisation fails to identify the circumstances in which it may be exposed to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings, and fails to employ suitable systems and procedures and maintain effective contingency management arrangements to these ends. It includes the area of risk commonly referred to as operational risk.

1.73. This organisation will ensure that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to these ends.

1.74. The Council will therefore:

- a. seek to ensure an adequate division of responsibilities and maintenance at all times of an adequate level of internal check, which minimises such risks.
- b. Fully document all its treasury management activities so that there can be no possible confusion as to what proper procedures are.
- c. Staff will not be allowed to take up treasury management activities until they have had proper training in procedures and are then subject to an adequate and appropriate level of supervision.
- d. Records will be maintained of all treasury management transactions so that there is a full audit trail and evidence of the appropriate checks being carried out.

1.75. **Details of systems and procedures to be followed, including internet services**

1.76. Procedures:

1.77. Written procedures exist for completing the day-to-day treasury function, which is supported by the Treasury Strategy and Treasury Management Practices.

1.78. The daily treasury balances are obtained from NatWest Bankline, the council's on-line banking system and all treasury payments are made using this system or the council's creditors system. CHAPS/BACS/Faster payments are made via the on-line banking system – they are input by a treasury officer and approved by a finance business partner.

1.79. **Investment and borrowing transactions**

- A detailed register of all loans and investments is maintained.
- A written acknowledgement of each deal is sent promptly to the lending or borrowing institution where transactions are done directly with the organisation where that is a requirement of the institution being dealt with.
- Written confirmation is received and checked against the dealer's records for the transaction.
- Any discrepancies are immediately reported to the control team principal officer for resolution.
- All transactions placed through brokers are confirmed by a broker note showing details of the loan arranged. Written confirmation is received and checked against the dealer's records for the transaction. Any discrepancies are immediately reported to the Control Team Principal Officer for resolution.
- Contract notes for transactions carried out by the external fund managers will be received as executed and maintained.

1.80. **Regularity and security**

- Lending is only made to institutions on the Approved List of Counterparties.
- The treasury team enters into the ~~treasury diary~~ cash flow spreadsheet when money borrowed or lent is due to be repaid.
- All loans raised and repayments made go directly to and from the bank account of approved counterparties.

- Counterparty limits are set for every institution that the Council invests with.
- Brokers have a list of named officials authorised to agree deals.
- There is a separation of duties in the section between dealers and the checking and authorisation of all deals.
- The Council's bank holds a list of Council officials who are authorised signatories for treasury management transactions.
- No member of the treasury team is an authorised signatory.
- Payments can only be authorised using a proforma signed by an authorised signatory, the list of signatories having previously been agreed with the current provider of our banking services.
- There is adequate insurance cover for employees involved in loans management and accounting.

#### 1.81. Checks

- The bank reconciliation is carried out weekly for the housing benefit account and fortnightly for the general account and creditor account from the bank statement to the financial ledger.
- The bank statements are also checked for large transactions to ensure that they are valid transactions.
- The investment and borrowing spreadsheets are reconciled to the balance sheet ledger codes at the end of each month and at the financial year-end.
- A cost of borrowing and investment income earned is produced every month when a review is undertaken against the budget for interest earnings and debt costs.

#### 1.82. Calculations

- The calculation of repayment of principal and interest notified by the lender or borrower is checked for accuracy against the amount calculated on the relevant treasury paperwork.
- Periodic interest payments of PWLB and other long-term loans are reconciled and entered into the cash flow spreadsheet. This is used to check the amount paid to lenders.
- Average equated capital loans fund interest rates are calculated monthly using information from PWLB and LOBO schedules. A reconciliation is carried out monthly between the financial ledger Integra and the PWLB and LOBO schedules.
- These interest and expense rates are then used to calculate the principal and interest charges to the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account recharge.

#### 1.83. Emergency and contingency planning arrangements

1.84. In an emergency situation, the Council's Business Continuity Planning arrangements will be enacted. Electronic copies of the previous day's treasury activity are always held electronically with information on payments and repayments. Internet based Bankline has enabled remote access to make payments, transfers and check balances.

#### 1.85. Insurance cover details

1.1. **Fidelity Guarantee insurance** – The Council has 'Fidelity Guarantee' insurance cover with Travelers Insurance Company. This covers the insured (the Council) in respect of loss of money or other property belonging to the insured or in the insured's trust or custody for which the insured is legally responsible occurring as a direct result of any act of fraud or

dishonesty committed by any Person Guaranteed specified in the Schedule during the Period of Insurance. This cover is limited to £5m for any one event, with an excess of £1m, per event. **Professional Indemnity Insurance** – The Council also has a ‘Professional Indemnity’ insurance policy with Travelers Insurance Company, which covers loss to the Council from a breach of duty owed by the Insured in its professional capacity arising out of any act error or omission which is negligent accidentally committed or occasioned in good faith by any ‘Employee’. The definition of Employee is wide-scoping and the Policy document should be referred to for this purpose.

This cover is limited to either £5m or £1m, depending on the type of service being provided and the potential loss to the Council for any one event, with an excess of £100k for each and every loss.

**1.2. Business Interruption** – The Council also has two types of ‘Business Interruption’ cover as part of its property insurance with AIG

- a. Revenue
- b. Increased Cost of Working.

The Sum Insured for Gross Revenue is £5m with an excess of £1.25m per event. The Sums Insured for Increased Cost of Working are £30m for all premises occupied by the Insured and £20m for the Medway Tunnel and both have a Maximum Indemnity Limit of 24 months and both have a £1.25m excess per event.

### **1.3. MARKET RISK MANAGEMENT**

1.4. The risk that, through adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums an organisation borrows and invests, its stated treasury management policies and objectives are compromised, against which effects it has failed to protect itself adequately.

1.5. This organisation will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests, and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

#### **1.6. Details of approved procedures and limits for controlling exposure to investments whose capital value may fluctuate (Gilts, CDs, Money Market Funds etc.)**

1.7. These are controlled through setting limits on investment instruments where the principal value can fluctuate. The limits are determined and set through the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

**TMP 1 SCHEDULE 1 – SPECIFIED AND NON SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS****SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS:**

(All such investments will be sterling denominated, with **maturities up to maximum of 1 year**, meeting the minimum 'high' rating criteria where applicable)

	<b>* Minimum 'High' Credit Criteria</b>	<b>Use</b>
Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility	--	In-house and Fund Manager
Term deposits – local authorities	--	In-house and Fund Manager
Term deposits – banks and building societies	See note 1	In-house and Fund Manager
Collateralised deposit (see note 3)	UK sovereign rating	In-house and Fund Manager
Certificates of deposit issued by banks and building societies	See note 1	In-house and Fund Manager
UK Government Gilts	UK sovereign rating	In-house buy and hold and Fund Manager
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	AAA	In-house buy and hold and Fund Manager
Bond issuance issued by a financial institution which is explicitly guaranteed by the UK Government (refers solely to GEFCO - Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation)	UK sovereign rating	In-house buy and hold and Fund manager
Sovereign bond issues (other than the UK govt)	AAA	In-house buy and hold and Fund Manager
Treasury Bills	UK sovereign rating	In house and Fund manager
Government Liquidity Funds	* Long-term AAA volatility rating V1+	In-house and Fund managers
Money Market Funds	* Long-term AAA volatility rating V1+	In-house and Fund Managers

Note 1. Award of "Creditworthiness" Colour by MUFG (Link) Treasury Services

**Accounting treatment of investments.** The accounting treatment may differ from the underlying cash transactions arising from investment decisions made by this Council. To ensure that the Council is protected from any adverse revenue impact, which may arise from these differences, we will review the accounting implications of new transactions before they are undertaken.

**1.8.2 NON-SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS:** These are any investments which do not meet the Specified Investment criteria. A maximum of 70% \*\* will be held in aggregate in non-specified investment

## 1. Maturities of ANY period

	<b>* Minimum Credit Criteria</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>** Max total investments</b>	<b>Max. maturity period</b>
<b>Fixed term deposits with variable rate and variable maturities:</b> -Structured deposits	See note 1	In-house	£10m	Lower of 5 years or Sector duration rating
Property Funds	See note 2	In-house	£25m (original cost of investment)	N/A

## 2. Maturities in excess of 1 year

	<b>* Minimum Credit Criteria</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>** Max total investments</b>	<b>Max. maturity period</b>
Term deposits – local authorities	--	In-house	£25m	5 Years
Term deposits – banks and building societies	See note 1	In-house	£25m	As per MUFG duration rating
Certificates of deposit issued by banks and building societies covered by UK Government (explicit) guarantee	See note 1 and 2	In-house	£25m	As per MUFG duration rating and see note 3
Certificates of deposit issued by banks and building societies	See note 1 and 2	In-house	£25m	As per MUFG duration rating and see note 3
UK Government Gilts	UK sovereign rating	In-house	£25m	see note 1
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	AAA	In-house	£10m	see note 1
Sovereign bond issues (other than the UK govt)	AAA	In-house	£10m	see note 1
Social Enterprises	See note 4	In-house	£5m	25 years

Note 1. Award of “Creditworthiness” Colour by MUFG (Link) Treasury Services

Note 2 Property Funds are not credit rated.

Note 3 Property Funds: Investment of up to an aggregate limit of £25m may be invested in collective property funds (based on original cost of investment). \*\* If forward deposits are to be made, the forward period plus the deal period should not exceed one year in aggregate.



N.B. buy and hold may also include sale at a financial year end and repurchase the following day in order to accommodate the requirements of SORP.

Note 4 Social Enterprises may not be credit rated.

## **2. TMP 2 – Performance measurement**

### **2.1. EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

2.2. The Council has a number of approaches to evaluating treasury management decisions:

2.3. For performance outcomes:

- a. interest and financing costs are monitored as part of the quarterly revenue monitoring cycle
- b. reviews with our treasury management consultants
- c. annual treasury outturn report as reported to full council
- d. mid-year review to full council
- e. regular regional benchmarking reviews are completed by MUFG (Link) and the outcomes discussed at meetings with participating authorities
- f. strategic, scrutiny and efficiency, VFM reviews

2.4. The Chief Finance Officer and Finance Business Partner hold reviews with our consultants approximately every 6 months to review the performance of the investment and debt portfolios.

2.5. An Annual Treasury Outturn Report is submitted to the Council each year after the close of the financial year, which reviews the performance of the debt and investment portfolios. This report contains the following:

- a. total debt and investments at the beginning and close of the financial year and average interest rates
- b. borrowing strategy for the year compared to actual strategy
- c. investment strategy for the year compared to actual strategy
- d. explanations for variance between original strategies and actual
- e. debt rescheduling done in the year
- f. actual borrowing and investment rates available through the year
- g. comparison of return on investments to the investment benchmark
- h. compliance with Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- i. other

2.6. When data becomes available, comparative reviews are undertaken to see how the performance of the authority on debt and investments compares to other authorities with similar size portfolios (but allowing for the fact that Prudential and Treasury Indicators are locally set). Comparisons with other authorities are drawn through membership of the MUFG (Link) benchmarking group.

### **2.7. Benchmarks and Calculation Methodology**

2.8. Medway Council compares treasury management performance with its peers using comparative data supplied by MUFG (Link) Asset Services.

### **2.9. Debt management**

- Average rate on all external debt
- Average period to maturity of external debt

2.10. **Investment**

2.11. The performance of investment earnings will be measured against the following benchmarks:

- Other local authorities
- Other market products
- Weighted average rate of return
- Weighted average maturity
- Weighted average credit risk

2.12. Performance will also be measured against other local authority funds with similar benchmark and parameters managed by other fund managers.

2.13. **Policy Concerning Methods for Testing Value for money in Treasury Management**

2.14. Treasury services will be procured in accordance with Council procurement rules that are set to establish value for money.

### **3. TMP3 – Decision making and analysis**

#### **3.1. FUNDING, BORROWING, LENDING AND NEW INSTRUMENTS/TECHNIQUES**

#### **3.2. Records to be kept – the following records will be retained:**

- Daily cash balance forecasts
- Daily bank balances from NatWest Bankline
- Investment limits & borrowing analysis
- Money market rates
- Dealing sheet for all money market transactions
- Brokers' confirmations for investment and temporary borrowing transactions
- Confirmations from borrowing /lending institutions where deals are done directly
- PWLB loan confirmations
- PWLB debt portfolio schedules
- Certificates for market loans, local bonds and other loans
- CCLA and other property fund contract notes
- CCLA and other property fund statements of units, management expenses and dividends.

#### **3.3. Processes to be pursued**

- Cash flow analysis
- Debt and investment maturity analysis
- Ledger reconciliation
- Review of opportunities for debt restructuring
- Review of borrowing requirement to finance capital expenditure (and other forms of financing where those offer best value)
- Performance information (e.g. monitoring of actuals against budget for debt charges, interest earned, investment returns, etc.).

#### **3.4. Issues to be addressed:**

#### **3.5. In respect of every treasury management decision made the Council will:**

- a. Above all be clear about the nature and extent of the risks to which the Council may become exposed
- b. Be certain about the legality of the decision reached and the nature of the transaction, and that all authorities to proceed have been obtained
- c. Be content that the documentation is adequate both to deliver the Council's objectives and protect the Council's interests, and to deliver good housekeeping
- d. Ensure that third parties are judged satisfactory in the context of the Council's creditworthiness policies, and that limits have not been exceeded
- e. Be content that the terms of any transactions have been fully checked against the market and have been found to be competitive.

#### **3.6. In respect of borrowing and other funding decisions, the Council will:**

- a. consider the ongoing revenue liabilities created, and the implications for the organisation's future plans and budgets
- b. evaluate the economic and market factors that might influence the manner and timing of any decision to fund

- c. consider the merits and demerits of alternative forms of funding, including funding from revenue, leasing and private partnerships
- d. consider the alternative interest rate bases available, the most appropriate periods to fund and repayment profiles to use and, if relevant, the opportunities for foreign currency funding.

3.7. In respect of investment decisions, the Council will:

- a. consider the optimum period, in the light of cash flow availability and prevailing market conditions;
- b. consider the alternative investment products and techniques available, especially the implications of using any which may expose the Council to changes in the value of its capital.

## 4. TMP4 – Approved instruments, methods and techniques

### 4.1. APPROVED ACTIVITIES OF THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT OPERATION

- borrowing;
- lending;
- debt repayment and rescheduling;
- consideration, approval and use of new financial instruments and treasury management techniques;
- managing the underlying risk associated with the Council’s capital financing and surplus funds activities;
- managing cash flow;
- banking activities;
- the use of external fund managers (other than Pension Fund);
- leasing.

### 4.2. APPROVED INSTRUMENTS FOR INVESTMENTS

4.3. The latest version of the Treasury Management Strategy is appended to this document.

### 4.4. APPROVED TECHNIQUES

- Forward dealing
- LOBOs – lenders option, borrower’s option borrowing instrument
- PWLB
- The use of structured products such as callable deposits

### 4.5. APPROVED METHODS AND SOURCES OF RAISING CAPITAL FINANCE

4.6. Finance will only be raised in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, and within this limit the Council has a number of approved methods and sources of raising capital finance. These are:

<b>On Balance Sheet</b>	<b>Fixed</b>	<b>Variable</b>
PWLB	●	●
European Investment Bank	●	●
Market (long-term)	●	●
Market (temporary)	●	●
Market (LOBOs)	●	●
Stock issues	●	●
Local temporary	●	●
Local Bonds	●	
Overdraft		●
Negotiable Bonds	●	●
Internal (capital receipts & revenue balances)	●	●
Commercial Paper	●	
Medium Term Notes	●	
Leasing (not operating leases)	●	●

Deferred Purchase ● ●

**Other Methods of Financing**

Government

Lottery monies

PFI/PPP

Operating leases

4.7. Borrowing will only be done in Sterling. All forms of funding will be considered dependent on the prevailing economic climate, regulations and local considerations. The responsible officer has delegated powers in accordance with Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, the Scheme of Delegation to Officers Policy and the Treasury Management Strategy to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from the approved sources.

4.8. **INVESTMENT LIMITS**

4.9. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out the limits and the guidelines for use of each type of investment instrument.

4.10. **BORROWING LIMITS**

4.11. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement details the Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

## **5. TMP5 – Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities, and dealing arrangements**

### **5.1. LIMITS TO RESPONSIBILITIES / DISCRETION AT COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE LEVELS**

- a. The full Council will set the Prudential Indicators and revise them as and when necessary.
- b. The Audit committee, Cabinet and then Full Council will receive and review reports on treasury management policies, the annual treasury management strategies and the quarterly reports.
- c. The Audit Committee and Cabinet will receive and review Treasury Management Practices.
- d. Cabinet and Audit Committee will receive and review the Annual Treasury Outturn report.
- e. Cabinet will receive and review Treasury Management monitoring reports.
- f. The Chief Finance Officer will be responsible for amendments to the Council's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices.
- g. Cabinet will consider and approve the Treasury Management Budget.
- h. The Audit committee and Cabinet will approve the segregation of responsibilities via the TMP Schedules.
- i. The Chief Finance Officer will receive and review external audit reports and put recommendations to the Audit Committee.
- j. Approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of appointment will be decided by Cabinet in accordance with Financial Regulations.

### **5.2. PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES CONCERNING SEGREGATION OF DUTIES**

- a. Approvals of payments on Natwest Bankline payments system are segregated from input of payments.
- b. Treasury paperwork approval is segregated from approval of payments on Bankline.
- c. A check is made by the approver on the validity of the deals and that all payments due are being made.

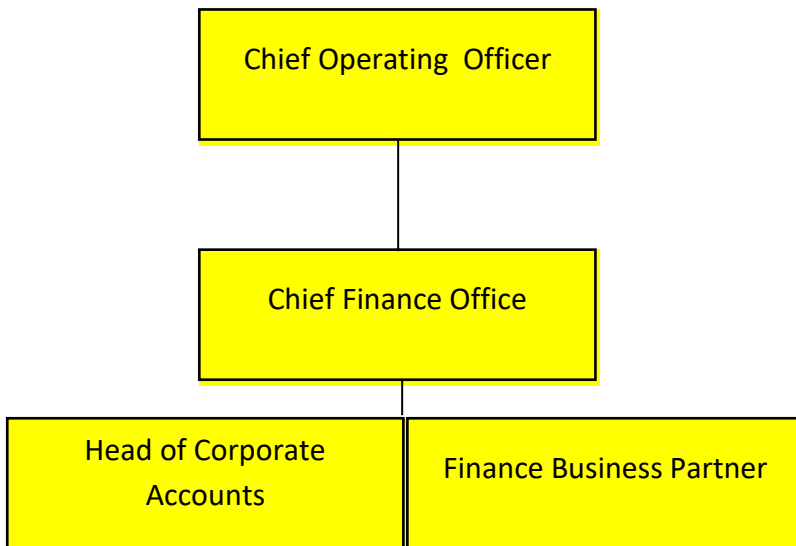
### **5.3. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION CHART**

5.4. All decisions on borrowing, investing or financing are delegated by Medway Council to the Chief Operating Officer. Further delegation of responsibility is made by the Chief Finance Officer to his staff, who are all required to act in accordance with CIPFA's code on Treasury Management.

5.5. The structure for decision-making and delegation of responsibility for long-term borrowing is as follows:

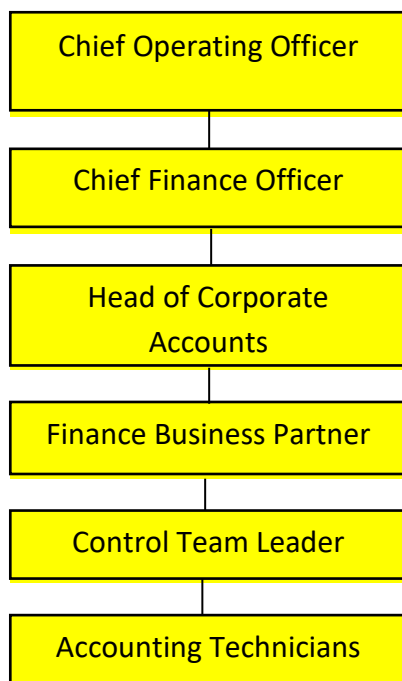


**1. Strategy and decisions on borrowing and lending:**



It is the responsibility of the Finance Business Partner and Head of Corporate Accounts to prepare the annual strategy for approval by the Chief Operating Officer. In addition the Chief Operating Officer will consider and decide on detailed proposals for borrowing and investment made by the Finance Business Partner – Technical Accounts.

**2. Day to day cash flow management delegated to the Head of Corporate Accounts and the Control Team**



## 5.6. STATEMENT OF DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH TREASURY POST

### 5.7. Chief Operating Officer is responsible for will:

- recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance;
- submitting regular treasury management policy reports;
- submitting budgets and budget variations;
- receiving and reviewing management information reports;
- reviewing the performance of the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit;
- recommending the appointment of external service providers.
- ensuring that the treasury system is specified and implemented

5.8. The Chief Operating Officer has delegated powers through this policy to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from the approved sources, and to make the most appropriate form of investments in approved instruments.

5.9. The Chief Operating Officer may delegate his power to borrow and invest to members of his staff. The Chief Finance Officer, Head of Corporate Accounts , Finance Business Partner – Technical Accounts, Control Team Leader and Accounting Technicians must conduct all dealing transactions, or staff authorised by the Chief Operating Officer to act as temporary cover for leave/sickness. All transactions must be authorised by an approver who did not conduct the dealing transaction.

5.10. The Chief Operating Officer will ensure that Treasury Management Policy is adhered to, and if not will bring the matter to the attention of elected members as soon as possible.

5.11. Prior to entering into any capital financing, lending or investment transaction, it is the responsibility of the Chief Operating Officer to be satisfied, by reference to the Council's legal department and external advisors as appropriate, that the proposed transaction does not breach any statute, external regulation or the Council's Financial Regulations.

5.12. It is also the responsibility of the Chief Operating Officer to ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of The Non-Investment Products Code (formerly known as The London Code of Conduct) for principals and broking firms in the wholesale markets.

### 5.13. Chief Finance Officer

5.14. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for formulating the strategy and arranging loans and transactional activities, The Chief Finance Officer and Head of Corporate Accounts will jointly:

- a. Recommend clauses, treasury management policy / practices for approval, reviewing the same on a regular basis, and monitoring compliance.
- b. Submit treasury management reports as required to the Audit Committee and then to full Council.

- c. Executes-transactions and conducts other day-to-day activities in accordance with the Treasury Management Practices.
- d. Adhere to agreed policies and limits.
- e. Manage the overall treasury management function.
- f. Supervise treasury management staff.
- g. Ensure appropriate segregation of duties
- h. Monitor performance on a day-to-day basis.
- i. Submit-management information reports to the Chief Operating-Officer.
- j. Maintain relationships with third parties and external service providers and review their performance.

**5.15. The Head of the Paid Service – the Chief Executive**

5.16. The responsibilities of this post will be:

- a. Ensuring that the Chief Operating Officer reports as required to the Audit committee, Cabinet and full Council on treasury policy, activity and performance.

**5.17. The Monitoring Officer – Assistant Director Legal and Governance**

5.18. The responsibilities of this post will be:

- a. Ensuring compliance by the Chief Operating Officer with the treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices and that they comply with the law.
- b. Being satisfied that any proposal to vary treasury policy or practice complies with law or any code of practice.
- c. Giving advice to the Chief Operating Officer when advice is sought.

**5.19. Internal Audit**

5.20. The responsibilities of Internal Audit will be: -

- a. Reviewing compliance with approved policy and treasury management practices.
- b. Reviewing division of duties and operational practice.
- c. Assessing value for money from treasury activities.
- d. Undertaking probity audit of treasury function.

**5.21. ABSENCE COVER ARRANGEMENTS**

5.22. Arrangements are in place to ensure at least 2 members of the Team are available at all times or emergency backup is available. There will be at least three members of staff confident in the undertaking of the daily Treasury activities within the team. There are at least 4 officers who may approve treasury transactions and a rota is set on a weekly basis to ensure that there are always at least 2 approvers available. Approvals can also be done remotely from any internet terminal.

**5.23. DEALING LIMITS**

- The dealer must adhere to the agreed lending list. This controls counterparty risk. The dealer is not restricted in who they may borrow from, here the risk is with the counterparty.

- Limits on those institutions that the dealer may lend to are set out in these Treasury Management Practices. There is a maximum limit to the deals that may be open with them at any one time. At present, the limits for authorised counterparties is between £10m and £25m depending upon rating for the in-house team. There is also a country limit of £40m save for the UK where there is not a limit for the in-house treasury team. This ensures diversification and therefore decreases risk. This system of limits is discussed in schedule one of this document.
- All treasury management decisions undertaken must adhere to the framework and strategy set out in the Treasury Policy Statement and their schedules. Decisions must operate within limits set by statutory instruments, codes of practice and other regulatory criteria. The dealer must ensure that they are operating within their own limits to decision making as described above. A dealer should not assume they have unlimited responsibility by being aware of the responsibilities of others as specified from 5.6 onwards.

#### 5.24. **LIST OF APPROVED BROKERS**

5.25. A list of approved brokers is maintained within the Treasury Team and a record of all transactions recorded against them. See TMP 11.1.2.

#### 5.26. **POLICY ON BROKERS' SERVICES**

5.27. Deals will be based on the most advantageous terms available for each deal taking into account total interest and brokerage costs.

#### 5.28. **POLICY ON RECORDING OF CONVERSATIONS**

5.29. It is not the Council's policy to record brokers conversations.

#### 5.30. **DIRECT DEALING PRACTICES**

5.31. The Council will consider dealing directly with counterparties if it is appropriate and the Council believes that better terms will be available. At present, most deals are arranged through direct deals for investments. There are certain types of accounts and facilities, where direct dealing is required, as follows:

- Business Reserve Accounts:
- Call Accounts:
- Money Market Funds.

#### 5.32. **SETTLEMENT TRANSMISSION PROCEDURES**

5.33. Funds that are due to be paid to a named counterparty or payee are transmitted by electronic transfer using the NatWest Clearing House Automated Payments System (or CHAPS). This method allows the transfer of funds from Medway Council's bank accounts to a receiver's account, without need to inform the bank. Medway Council can also receive payments via CHAPS/BACS; the Medway General Account is the designated account for inward payments account no. 90502094 outward payments are made from account no. 90502108.

5.34. CHAPS/BACS instructions are entered by the dealer onto the internet Bankline system. Notification of incoming payments is received from the bank. Approved officers authorise and action the payments using a secure system. An audit trail is maintained on the internet Bankline system that shows what was approved, and by whom. Bankline generates a unique reference number for each payment by which it can be tracked and all information is held against.

5.35. **The close of business daily is as follows:**

	<b>Close of Business</b>	<b>Latest time for payment release</b>
<b>CHAPS</b>	17:00	15:49 or 16:49 for Natwest accounts
<b>BACS</b>	17:00	18:15

5.36. There are three levels of users for Bankline; input, approval and two administrators. The Finance Operations section maintains a list within Bankline of which members of staff are authorised to access CHAPS/BACS. It also lists the various transactions they are authorised to carry out. In the event of the Bankline system failing instructions for CHAPS/BACS are faxed to Natwest. An authorised signatory countersigns this document.

5.37. The dealer enters payments via Bankline and verifies their accuracy, confirming details.

5.38. The approver can view the payment and approve the transmission of funds after checking the verified entry to the documentation supplied by the dealer. For security reasons no user can enter and then release payments.

5.39. The administrators can either enter or approve payments (but not both) as they are set up as "dual" administrators, but both would have to approve material changes. They arrange the system privileges that are conferred upon specific users of the Bankline system.

5.40. **DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

5.41. For each deal undertaken a record is prepared giving details of dealer, amount, period, counterparty, interest rate, dealing date, payment date(s), broker.

## **6. TMP6 – Reporting requirements and management information arrangements**

### **6.1. ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF REPORTING**

- a. Annual reporting requirements before the start of the year:
  - review of the organisation’s approved clauses, treasury management policy statement and practices
  - strategy report on proposed treasury management activities for the year comprising of the Treasury management strategy statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement
- b. First quarter review
- c. Mid-year review
- d. Third quarter review
- e. Annual review report after the end of the year

### **6.2. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT**

6.3. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out the specific expected treasury activities for the forthcoming financial year. This strategy will be submitted Audit committee, Cabinet and then to the full Council for approval before the commencement of each financial year.

6.4. The formulation of the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement involves determining the appropriate borrowing and investment decisions in the light of the anticipated movement in both fixed and shorter -term variable interest rates. For instance, the Council may decide to postpone borrowing if fixed interest rates are expected to fall, or borrow early if fixed interest rates are expected to rise.

6.5. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement is concerned with the following elements:

- Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- the current treasury portfolio
- the borrowing requirement
- prospects for interest rates
- the borrowing strategy
- liability benchmark
- policy on borrowing in advance of need
- debt rescheduling
- the investment strategy
- creditworthiness policy
- policy on use of external service providers
- the MRP strategy

6.6. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement will establish the expected move in interest rates against alternatives (using all available information such as published interest rate forecasts where applicable) and highlight sensitivities to different scenarios.

### **6.7. THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT**

6.8. At the same time as the Council receives the Treasury Management Strategy Statement it will also receive a report on the Annual Investment Strategy which will set out the following:

- a. The Council's risk appetite in respect of security, liquidity and optimum performance
- b. The definition of high credit quality to determine what are specified investments as distinct from non-specified investments
- c. Which specified and non-specified instruments the Council will use
- d. Whether they will be used by the in-house team, external managers or both
- e. The Council's policy on the use of credit ratings and other credit risk analysis techniques to determine creditworthy counterparties for its approved lending list
- f. Which credit rating agencies the Council will use
- g. How the Council will deal with changes in ratings, rating watches and rating outlooks
- h. Limits for individual counterparties and group limits
- i. Country limits
- j. Levels of cash balances
- k. Interest rate outlook
- l. Use of a cash fund manager
- m. Policy on the use of external service providers

6.9. **THE ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT**

6.10. This statement will set out how the Council will make revenue provision for repayment of its borrowing will be submitted at the same time as the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

6.11. **POLICY ON PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS**

6.12. The Council approves before the beginning of each financial year a number of treasury limits which are set through Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

6.13. The responsible officer is responsible for incorporating these limits into the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and for ensuring compliance with the limits. Should it prove necessary to amend these limits, the responsible officer shall submit the changes for approval to the full Council.

6.14. **QUARTERLY and MID YEAR REVIEW**

6.15. The Council will review its treasury management activities and strategy on a quarterly six-monthly basis. The mid-year review will consider the following:

- a. activities undertaken
- b. variations (if any) from agreed policies/practices
- c. interim performance report
- d. regular monitoring
- e. monitoring of treasury management indicators for local authorities.

6.16. **ANNUAL REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY**

An annual report will be presented to the Audit Committee and then to the full Council at the earliest practicable meeting after the end of the financial year, but in any case by the end of September. This report will include the following:

- a. transactions executed and their revenue (current) effects
- b. report on risk implications of decisions taken and transactions executed
- c. compliance report on agreed policies and practices, and on statutory/regulatory requirements
- d. performance report
- e. report on compliance with CIPFA Code recommendations
- f. monitoring of treasury management indicators

The quarterly review will monitor the treasury management as part of the authority's general revenue and capital monitoring.

**6.17. PUBLICATION OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- 6.18. The Treasury Management Strategy, mid-year review and outturn reports will all be published on the internet as part of Committee Agendas and Reports.



## **7. TMP7 – Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements**

### **7.1. STATUTORY/REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

7.2. The accounts are drawn up in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain that is recognised by statute as representing proper accounting practices. The Council has also adopted in full the principles set out in CIPFA's 'Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice' (the 'CIPFA Code'), together with those of its specific recommendations that are relevant to this Council's treasury management activities.

### **7.3. BUDGETS / ACCOUNTS / PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

7.4. The Chief Finance Officer will prepare a medium-term financial plan and the Prudential Indicators for treasury management within the Treasury Management Strategy will reflect the budget for the forthcoming year and provisional estimates for the following years. This will bring together all the costs involved in running the function, together with associated income. The Chief Finance Officer will exercise effective controls over this budget and monitoring of performance against Prudential Indicators, and will report upon and recommend any changes required in accordance with TMP6.

### **7.5. LIST OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

- Reconciliation of loans outstanding in the financial ledger to Treasury Management records
- Maturity analysis of loans outstanding
- Certificates for new long-term loans taken out in the year
- Reconciliation of loan interest, discounts received, and premiums paid to financial ledger by loan type
- Calculation of loans fund interest and debt management expenses
- Details of interest rates applied to internal investments
- Calculation of interest on working balances
- Interest accrual calculation
- Analysis of any deferred charges
- Calculation of loans fund creditors and debtors
- Annual Treasury Report
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators
- Review of observance of limits set by Prudential Indicators
- Calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision
- External fund manager(s) valuations including investment income schedules and movement in capital values.

### **7.6. Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report**

7.7. Quarterly Budget Monitoring reports are produced for Cabinet. The report is intended to highlight any variances between budgets and spend in order that the Council can assess its financial position. Details of the revenue impacts of treasury management activities are included within this report.

- 7.8. From 2023/24 quarterly treasury management reports will be presented to Audit Committee.

## **8. TMP8 – Cash and cash flow management**

### **8.1. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREPARING/SUBMITTING CASH FLOW STATEMENTS**

8.2. Cash flow projections are prepared annually but are reviewed daily. The annual cash flow projections are prepared from the previous years' cash flow records, adjusted for known changes in levels of income and expenditure and also changes in payments and receipts dates. These details are supplemented on an ongoing basis by information received of new or revised amounts to be paid or received as and when they are known.

8.3. The framework for cash flow projection is set up on a spreadsheet a year in advance, projected forward for the whole of the following year. The model contains all sources of income and expenditure as they appear on the bank statements, grant schedules and creditor payments for previous periods. An estimate for movement on school balances and capital expenditure is also included. A summarised cash flow is produced forecasting cash balances for future years.

### **8.4. BANK STATEMENTS PROCEDURES**

8.5. The Council receives daily bank statements and a daily download of data from its bank. All amounts on the statement are checked to source data from Payroll, Creditors etc.

8.6. The Control Team undertakes a formal bank reconciliation on a weekly basis for the Housing Benefit Account and fortnightly for the General Account and Creditors Account.

### **8.7. PAYMENT SCHEDULING AND AGREED TERMS OF TRADE WITH CREDITORS**

8.8. Our policy is to pay creditors within 30 days of the invoice date and this effectively schedules the payments. Certificated payments to sub-contractors must be paid immediately where possible.

### **8.9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING DEBTORS / CREDITORS LEVELS**

8.10. The Head of Debt and Payments is responsible for monitoring the levels of debtors and creditors. Details are passed to the treasury team on a daily basis to assist in updating the cash flow models.

### **8.11. PROCEDURES FOR BANKING OF FUNDS**

8.12. All money received by an officer on behalf of the Council will without unreasonable delay be passed to the cashiers' team to deposit in the Council's banking accounts.

### **8.13. PRACTICES CONCERNING PREPAYMENTS TO OBTAIN BENEFITS**

8.14. The Council has no formal arrangement in place. Where such opportunities arise, the prepayment would be sought and authorised by the Finance Operations Manager.

## 9. **TMP9 – Money laundering**

### 9.1. **PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002**

9.2. Money laundering has the objective of concealing the origin of money generated through criminal activity. Legislation has given a higher profile to the need to report suspicions of money laundering. The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 established the main offences relating to money laundering. In summary, these are:

- concealing, disguising, converting, transferring or removing criminal property from England and Wales, from Scotland or from Northern Ireland
- being concerned in an arrangement which a person knows or suspects facilitates the acquisition, retention, use or control of criminal property
- acquiring, using or possessing criminal property.

9.3. These apply to all persons in the UK in a personal and professional capacity. Any person involved in any known or suspected money-laundering activity in the UK risks a criminal conviction. Other offences under the POCA include:

- failure to disclose money-laundering offences
- tipping off a suspect, either directly or indirectly
- doing something that might prejudice an investigation – for example, falsifying a document.

### 9.4. **The Terrorism Act 2000**

9.5. This act made it an offence of money laundering to become concerned in an arrangement relating to the retention or control of property likely to be used for the purposes of terrorism, or resulting from acts of terrorism. All individuals and businesses in the UK have an obligation to report knowledge, reasonable grounds for belief or suspicion about the proceeds from, or finance likely to be used for, terrorism or its laundering, where it relates to information that comes to them in the course of their business or employment.

### 9.6. **The Money Laundering Regulations 2012,2015 and 2017**

9.7. Organisations pursuing relevant business (especially those in the financial services industry regulated by the FCA) are required to do the following: -

- identify and assess the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing
- have policies, controls and procedures to mitigate and manage effectively the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing identified through the risk assessments
- appoint a nominated officer
- implement internal reporting procedures
- train relevant staff in the subject
- obtain, verify and maintain evidence and records of the identity of new clients and transactions undertaken

**9.8. Local authorities**

- 9.9. Public service organisations and their staff are subject to the full provisions of the Terrorism Act 2000 and may commit most of the principal offences under the POCA, but are not legally obliged to apply the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2012, 2015 and 2017. However, as responsible public bodies, they should employ policies and procedures which reflect the essence of the UK's anti-terrorist financing, and anti-money laundering, regimes. Accordingly this Council will do the following:
- a. evaluate the prospect of laundered monies being handled by them
  - b. determine the appropriate safeguards to be put in place
  - c. require every person engaged in treasury management to make themselves aware of their personal and legal responsibilities for money laundering awareness
  - d. make all its staff aware of their responsibilities under POCA
  - e. appoint a member of staff to whom they can report any suspicions. This person is the Monitoring Officer.
  - f. in order to ensure compliance is appropriately managed, this Council will require senior management to give appropriate oversight, analysis and assessment of the risks of clients and work/product types, systems for monitoring compliance with procedures and methods of communicating procedures and other information to personnel.
  - g. The officer responsible for the creation and monitoring the implementation of a corporate anti money laundering policy and procedures is the Monitoring Officer and it shall be a requirement that all services and departments implement this corporate policy and procedures.

**9.10. Procedures for Establishing Identity / Authenticity of Lenders**

- 9.11. It is not a requirement under POCA for local authorities to require identification from every person or organisation it deals with. However, in respect of treasury management transactions, there is a need for due diligence and this will be effected by following the procedures below.
- 9.12. Before accepting loans from individuals, the Council will confirm the identity of the lender.

**9.13. Methodologies for Identifying Deposit Takers**

- 9.14. In the course of its Treasury activities, the Council will only lend money to or invest with those counterparties that are on its approved lending list. These will be local authorities, the PWLB, Bank of England and authorised deposit takers under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The FCSA register can be accessed through their website on [www.fcsa.gov.uk](http://www.fcsa.gov.uk)).
- 9.15. All transactions will be carried out by BACS or CHAPS for making deposits or repaying loans.

## **10. TMP10 – Training and qualifications**

- 10.1. The Council recognises that relevant individuals will need appropriate levels of training in treasury management due to its increasing complexity. There are two categories of relevant individuals:
- a. Treasury management staff employed by the Council
  - b. Members charged with governance of the treasury management function
- 10.2. All treasury management staff should receive appropriate training relevant to the requirements of their duties at the appropriate time. The Council operates a Professional Development Review system which identifies the training requirements of individual members of staff engaged on treasury related activities.
- 10.3. Additionally, training may also be provided on the job and it will be the responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer to ensure that all staff under his / her authority receive the level of training appropriate to their duties. This will also apply to those staff who from time-to-time cover for absences from the treasury management team.
- 10.4. **DETAILS OF APPROVED TRAINING COURSES**
- 10.5. Treasury management staff and members will go on courses provided by our treasury management consultants, CIPFA, money brokers etc.
- 10.6. **RECORDS OF TRAINING RECEIVED BY TREASURY STAFF**
- 10.7. The Chief Finance Officer will maintain records on all staff and the training they receive.
- 10.8. **APPROVED QUALIFICATIONS FOR TREASURY STAFF**
- Preferably CIPFA or alternatively CCAB
  - AAT
  - NVQ in Accounting
  - Relevant Degree
  - AMCT Diploma in Treasury (Joint ACT/CIPFA)
- 10.9. **QUALIFICATIONS OF TREASURY STAFF**
- Chief Operating Officer - ACCA
  - Chief Finance Officer – CMIIA/QIAL, MCMI, part-qualified CIPFA.
  - Head of Corporate Accounts – AAT and part qualified CIPFA
  - Finance Business Partner – CIPFA
  - Control Team Principal Officer – NVQ3 in Accounting
- 10.10. **RECORD OF SECONDMENT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT**
- 10.11. Records will be kept of senior management who are seconded into the treasury management section in order to gain first-hand experience of treasury management operations.
- 10.12. **STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (SOPP)**
- 10.13. The Chief Operating-Officer is a member of a CCAB body and there is a professional need for the Chief Finance Officer to be seen to be committed to professional responsibilities

through both personal compliance and by ensuring that relevant staff are appropriately trained.

10.14. Other staff involved in treasury management activities who are members of CIPFA must also comply with the CIPFA Codes.

10.15. **Member training records**

10.16. Records will be kept of all training in treasury management provided to members.

10.17. **Members charged with governance**

10.18. Members charged with governance also have a personal responsibility to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and training for their role.

## **11. TMP11 – Use of external service providers**

### **11.1. DETAILS OF CONTRACTS WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS, INCLUDING BANKERS, BROKERS, CONSULTANTS, ADVISERS**

11.2. This Council will employ the services of other organisations to assist it in the field of treasury management. In particular, it will use external consultants to provide specialist advice in this ever more complex area. However, it will ensure that it fully understands what services are being provided and that they meet the needs of this organisation, especially in terms of being objective and free from conflicts of interest.

11.3. It will also ensure that the skills of the in-house treasury management team are maintained to a high enough level whereby they can provide appropriate challenge to external advice and can avoid undue reliance on such advice.

11.4. Treasury management staff and their senior management will therefore be required to allocate appropriate levels of time to using the following sources of information so that they are able to develop suitable levels of understanding to carry out their duties, especially in challenge and avoiding undue reliance.

- The quality financial press
- Market data
- Information on government support for banks
- The credit ratings of that government support

### **11.5. Banking services**

- a. Name of supplier of service is the Natwest Bank. The branch address is:  
Chatham Branch  
148 High Street  
Chatham  
Kent ME4 4DJ
- b. Contract commenced 01/10/05
- c. Cost of service is variable depending on schedule of tariffs and volumes
- d. Payments due monthly and quarterly

### **11.6. Money-broking services**

11.7. The Council will use money brokers for temporary borrowing and investment and long-term borrowing. The performance of brokers is reviewed by the Chief Finance Officer every year to see if any should be taken off the approved list and replaced by another choice and will make appropriate recommendations to change the approved brokers list to the Chief Operating Officer.

Name of broker:  
Tradition UK Ltd  
Sterling International Brokers Ltd  
Tullett Prebon (UK) Ltd  
Martin Brokers (UK) Ltd  
ICAP plc  
King & Shaxson  
Imperial Treasury Services



**11.8. Consultants'/advisers' services****11.9. Treasury Consultancy Services**

11.10. The Council will seek to take expert advice on interest rate forecasts, annual treasury management strategy, timing for borrowing and lending, debt rescheduling, use of various borrowing and investment instruments, how to select credit worthy counterparties to put on its approved lending list etc.

11.11. The Chief Finance Officer, Head of Corporate Accounts and the Finance Business Partner – Technical Accounts will review the performance of consultants every year to check whether performance has met expectations.

- a. Name of supplier of service is MUFG (Link) Asset Services. Their address is 6th Floor, 25 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7NQ7
- b. Regulatory status: investment adviser authorised by the FCA
- c. Contract commenced 1 March 2017 for 2 years. The contract has been extended to 28 February 2023 with an option to extend for a further year.

11.12. Other Consultancy services may be employed on short-term contracts as and when required.

**11.13. Credit rating agency**

11.14. The Council receives a credit rating service through its treasury management consultants, the costs of which are included in the consultant's annual fee.

**11.15. PROCEDURES AND FREQUENCY FOR TENDERING SERVICES**

11.16. See TMP2

## **12. TMP12 – Corporate governance**

### **12.1. LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

12.2. The Council is committed to the principle of openness and transparency in its treasury management function and in all of its functions.

12.3. It has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury management and implemented key recommendations on developing Treasury Management Practices, formulating a Treasury Management Policy Statement and implementing the other principles of the Code.

12.4. The following documents are available for public inspection:

- Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Prudential Indicators and Annual Investment Strategy

- Treasury Management Practices

- Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement

- Annual Treasury Review Report

- First Quarter Review

- Treasury Management Mid- Year Review Report

- Third Quarter Review

- Annual accounts and financial instruments disclosure notes

- Annual budget

- Capital Strategy

- Minutes of Council / Cabinet / committee meetings

- Schedule of all external funds managed by the Council on behalf of others and the basis of attributing interest earned and costs of these investments.