

CABINET MEETING: 10 NOVEMBER 2016

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2016-17

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**PORTFOLIO: CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE (COUNCILLOR
GRAHAM HINCHEY)**

Annexes A&B to Appendix 1 to this report are not for publication as they contain exempt information of the description in Paragraphs 14 and 21 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason for this Report

1. To inform members of the Council's treasury management activities since 1 April 2016 and the position as at 30 September 2016.

Background

2. The Council's treasury management activities are governed by legislation and a Code of Practice developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) updated in 2011.

Issues

3. In the budget report of February 2010, Council adopted CIPFA's Treasury Management Code by formal acceptance of the Four Clauses of Treasury Management and Treasury Management Policy Statement as Council policy.
4. In accordance with these policies, this report provides members with a mid year update of Treasury Management activities as at 30 September 2016. Council requires the scrutiny of the accounting, audit and commercial issues of its Treasury Management Strategy and Practices to be undertaken by the Council's Audit Committee.
5. The mid-year monitoring report and supporting Annexes are attached as Appendix 1 and is to be referred to Council on the 24 November 2016 after consideration by the Cabinet.

Reasons for Recommendations

6. Council policy requires the Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2016-17 update to be submitted to Council.

Legal Implications

7. No direct legal implications arise from this report.

Financial Implications

8. The Council's treasury management activities are undertaken in accordance with the policies adopted by Council and under professional codes of conduct established by CIPFA, the Welsh Government and the Corporate Director Resources as part of Treasury Management Practices. This report is part of a suite of reports that members receive on the Council's treasury management activities during the course of a year. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, the risks involved with treasury management are continuously reviewed in conjunction with the Council's treasury management advisors.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is recommended to agree that Council be recommended to note the Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2016-17 (Appendix 1)

CHRISTINE SALTER
Corporate Director
4 November 2016

The following Appendix is attached:-

Appendix 1: Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2016-17
Confidential Annexe A – Investments at 30 September 2016
Confidential Annexe B – Investment Charts at 30 September 2016
Annexe C – Maturity Analysis of borrowing as at 30 September 2016
Annexe D – Glossary of Treasury Management terms

Appendix 1

Annexes A&B to this Appendix are not for publication as they contain exempt information of the description in Paragraphs 14 and 21 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2016-17

The City of Cardiff Council



Introduction

- 1.1 Treasury management activities are the management of an organisation's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.
- 1.2 The Council carries out its treasury management activities in accordance with a code developed for public services in 2011 by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as well as Council approved policies and clauses adopted by Council in February 2010.
- 1.3 In accordance with these policies, this report provides members with a mid year update of Treasury Management activities as at 30 September 2016 and covers:-
 - the economic background to treasury activities
 - investments
 - borrowing
 - debt rescheduling
 - compliance with treasury limits and prudential indicators
 - strategy update for remainder of year.
- 1.4 Annexe D includes a glossary which defines key terms used in this report. During 2016/17, Audit Committee has received periodic updates on the position and performance of Treasury Management and the issues included in the report below. In addition Council received in September 2016 the Annual Report on the Outturn for Treasury Management for 2015/16.

Economic Background

- 2.1 The referendum vote for Brexit in June resulted in an initial shock fall in economic indicators. Though it is generally accepted that the economy will now avoid flat lining, weak growth in the EU, China and emerging markets is also likely to result in weak UK growth. In response, the Bank of England reduced bank rate from 0.50% to 0.25% in August 2016. Exchange rate volatility is expected to increase inflation in the short term with a forecast of 2.4% in 2018.
- 2.2 The following table gives the Council's treasury management advisors, latest forecast of bank rate and Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing rates: The view is that there could be further reductions in the short term, without any increases until June 2018. However, this position will be kept under review as potential inflationary pressures increase.

	Sep-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19
Bank Rate	0.25%	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%
5yr PWLB rate	1.01%	1.00%	1.10%	1.20%
10yr PWLB rate	1.52%	1.50%	1.60%	1.70%
25yr PWLB rate	2.27%	2.30%	2.40%	2.50%
50yr PWLB rate	2.10%	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%

- 2.3 It can be seen from the table that the cost of borrowing is significantly in excess of the rates that are available from investments. PWLB borrowing rates are based on Gilt yields which have seen a significant reduction due to economic uncertainty and a bond buying programme increasing demand for safe have assets. Whilst geo-political events can have short term impacts on rates, the overall long term forecast is for PWLB rates to rise slowly.

Investment

- 3.1 The management of the Council's cash flows may involve temporary lending of surplus funds to low risk counterparties or temporary borrowing pending receipt of income.
- 3.2 The Council's investment priorities remain the security and then liquidity of its investments. The Council also aims to achieve the optimum return on its investments appropriate to these priorities.
- 3.3 The Council invests with financial institutions in accordance with criteria approved in the Treasury Strategy. The categories, names, periods and size limits on this list can be extended, varied or restricted at any time by the Corporate Director Resources under delegated powers. Based primarily on Fitch credit criteria and a number of other factors which the Council takes into account, lending to these institutions is subject to time and size limits and credit worthiness continues to be carefully monitored.
- 3.4 Given that bank rates are historically low, and the damping effect on interest rates that the Government's Funding for Lending Scheme rates of investment return also remain low.
- 3.5 At the 30 September 2016, investments stood at £88.9 million. These temporary funds fluctuate daily and arise for a number of reasons, including the timing differences between the receipt of grant and other income and the utilisation of these funds on salaries and other operating costs. It includes the level of reserves, provisions, and other balances. It is also affected by the timing of borrowing and capital expenditure transactions. **Annexe A** shows with whom these investments were held as at 30 September 2016. These are all deemed recoverable.

3.6 A selection of performance indicators and benchmarking charts, is included in **Annexe B** as follows:-

- **Counterparty exposure** displays actual investment against the maximum permitted directly with an organisation. This demonstrates that we are not exceeding any exposure limits.
- **Remaining maturity profile of investments.** This shows the duration of investments is spread and taking advantage of slightly higher rates for longer term investment up to one year where reasonable to do so.
- **Investments by institution.** This expresses the investments held with different institutions as a percentage of the total and shows diversification is sought where possible.
- **Geographic spread of investments** as determined by the country of origin of relevant organisations. All countries are rated AA and above as per our approved criteria and are licensed to take UK deposits. Investments are in Sterling only.
- **Investments by Financial Sector.** The majority of investments continue to be with banks.

3.7 Whilst a difficult figure to forecast due to the uncertainty of the markets, cash flows and the number of variables that impact on the figure, the forecast level of interest receivable from treasury investments for 2016/17 is £490,000 as included in our current projections for capital financing in the Month 6 Budget Monitoring Report for the Council. The return achieved since the start of the year is 0.68% compared to the benchmark 7 day London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) of 0.28% and 3 month LIBID 0.38%.

3.8 The Council currently uses the Debt Management and Deposit Facility (DMADF) as a last resort if no alternative investment opportunities are available. The maximum rates available from the facility are 0.15%.

Borrowing

4.1 Long term borrowing is undertaken to finance the Council's Capital Programme and the main sources of borrowing currently are the PWLB and the Money Markets. The Council does not separate General Fund and Housing Revenue Account borrowing as all borrowing is the liability of the Council.

4.2 Where capital expenditure has been incurred without a resource to pay for it immediately e.g. via capital receipts, grants or other contributions, this will increase what is termed the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) or its need to undertake borrowing. The Council is required to make an annual prudent provision for the repayment of historic capital expenditure from its revenue budget. This reduces the CFR. Calculation of the CFR is summarised in the following table.

	Opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)
+	Capital expenditure incurred in year
-	Grants, contributions, reserves and receipts received to pay for capital expenditure
-	Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision & Voluntary Repayment
=	Closing Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

4.3 The level of CFR is dependant on a range of factors including progress in implementing the Capital Programme during the year so estimates can change.

4.4 At 30 September 2016, the Council had £674.1 million of external borrowing predominantly made up of fixed interest rate borrowing from the PWLB payable on maturity.

31-Mar-16			30-Sep-16	
£m	Rate (%)		£m	Rate (%)
612.8		Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	620.8	
52.0		Market	52.0	
0.5		Welsh Government	0.5	
0.8		Other	0.8	
666.1	4.84	Total External Debt	674.1	4.81

New borrowing undertaken during the year to date

4.5 Two new loans have been undertaken from the PWLB totalling £10 Million at an average rate of 2.53% and an average maturity of forty three years.

Maturing Loans in year to date

4.6 Annexe C shows the maturity profile of the Council's borrowing as at 30 September 2016. PWLB loans of £2 million have been repaid in the first half of this year, with a further £3.6 million of PWLB loans and £1 million of Market loans due to be repaid by 31 March 2017. Unless the Council's Lender Option Borrower Option loans (LOBO's) are required to be repaid early, very little debt matures within the next 10 years.

4.7 (LOBO) products are loans to the Council where the lender can request a change in the rate of interest payable by the Council on pre-determined dates. The Council at this point has the option to repay the loan.

4.8 The Council has 6 such loans totalling £51 million and apart from the option to increase rates, these loans are comparable to PWLB and have no other complications such as variation in interest rates or complex terms.

4.9 Interest rates on the Council's loans range between 3.81% and 4.35% which are not unreasonable and are below the Council's average rate of interest payable. Details of the loans are shown in the table below.

£m	Potential Repayment Date	Option Frequency	Full Term Maturity
6	21/11/2016	6 months	21/11/2041
6	21/11/2016	6 months	21/11/2041
6	21/11/2016	6 months	23/05/2067
6	01/03/2017	6 months	23/05/2067
5	15/01/2018	5 years	17/01/2078
22	21/11/2020	5 years	23/11/2065

4.10 LOBO's to the value of £24 million are subject to the lender potentially requesting a change in the rate of interest payable every six months, which could trigger early repayment. This is deemed unlikely and any risk is a manageable refinancing risk as LOBO's form a relatively low proportion of the Council's overall borrowing at 7.6%.

Borrowing Strategy

4.11 The borrowing strategy outlined in the February 2016 budget report indicated that:-

Whilst investment rates remain lower than long term borrowing rates internal borrowing will be used to minimise short-term costs where possible. The forecast level of internal borrowing at 31 March 2016 in relation to the CFR is deemed manageable. However, based on the current forecasts of future capital expenditure plans and high level analysis of the sustainability of internal borrowing from the Council's balance sheet position for future years, external borrowing will be required to be undertaken in the medium term.

4.12 As is shown in above, long term borrowing rates are significantly higher than investment rates which mean that the cost of undertaking new borrowing would have a negative impact on the revenue budget. External borrowing may be deferred in order to minimise short term costs by using temporary cash balances to pay for capital expenditure rather than placing in an investment. This is termed 'internal borrowing'. However deferring borrowing is only a short term measure and could expose the Council to higher borrowing rates and costs in the future. The Council has taken an approach of undertaking external borrowing for an element of any borrowing requirement to mitigate any such risk.

4.13 If no further borrowing is undertaken, the value of external loans at 31 March 2017 will be £669.5 million. At the same point, the Council's need to

borrow for capital expenditure purposes, its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), is currently forecast to be circa £724 million (General Fund £446 million and HRA £278 million). Without any further borrowing this financial year internal borrowing could be £55 million, which is deemed manageable.

- 4.14 It is currently assumed that no further external borrowing will take place during the remainder of this financial year. This has been factored into the Month 6 revenue budget monitoring position with the estimated total interest payable on borrowing for 2016/17 being £32.4 million.

Debt Rescheduling

- 5.1 No debt rescheduling or early repayment of debt has been undertaken to date. The main obstacle remains the level of premium (penalty) that would be chargeable on early repayment by the PWLB. The premium payable on the balance of PWLB loans at 30 September 2016 which are eligible for early repayment (£403 million) is £348 million. This premium is payable primarily because:-

- Interest rates on loans of equivalent maturities compared to those held are currently lower
- A penalty rate or lower early repayment rate was introduced by HM Treasury in November 2007, which increased the cost of premiums and reduced flexibility of Local Authorities to make savings. This remains an obstacle in the ability of local authorities to manage debt more effectively.

- 5.2 Whilst the cost of Premiums can be spread over future years, options for restructuring that have been considered result in an adverse Net Present Value (NPV). Whilst there may have been short terms savings, these were outweighed by potentially longer term costs and not deemed cost effective.

- 5.3 Opportunities for restructuring will continue to be considered in conjunction with our Treasury advisors and reported to Audit Committee periodically as part of standard Treasury Management updates which Cabinet and Council receive.

Compliance with treasury limits and prudential indicators

- 6.1 During the financial year to date, the Council has operated within the treasury limits and prudential indicators set out in the annual Treasury Management Strategy in February 2016.
- 6.2 Following Housing Finance Reform the Council complies with an indebtedness cap in the Housing Revenue Account of £316.5 million. This will need to be monitored closely as part of the Treasury Strategy and HRA Business Planning process.

Strategy update for the remainder of 2016/17

- 7.1 During the remainder of the year, the reduction in Bank of England base rate to 0.25% in August 2016 and impact on interest rates for both investments and borrowing will continue to be reviewed. A strategy of maintaining internal borrowing to maximise short term savings will continue for the next 6 months.
- 7.2 A further update on Treasury Management will be included in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 as part of the Budget Proposals in February 2017.

Annexes

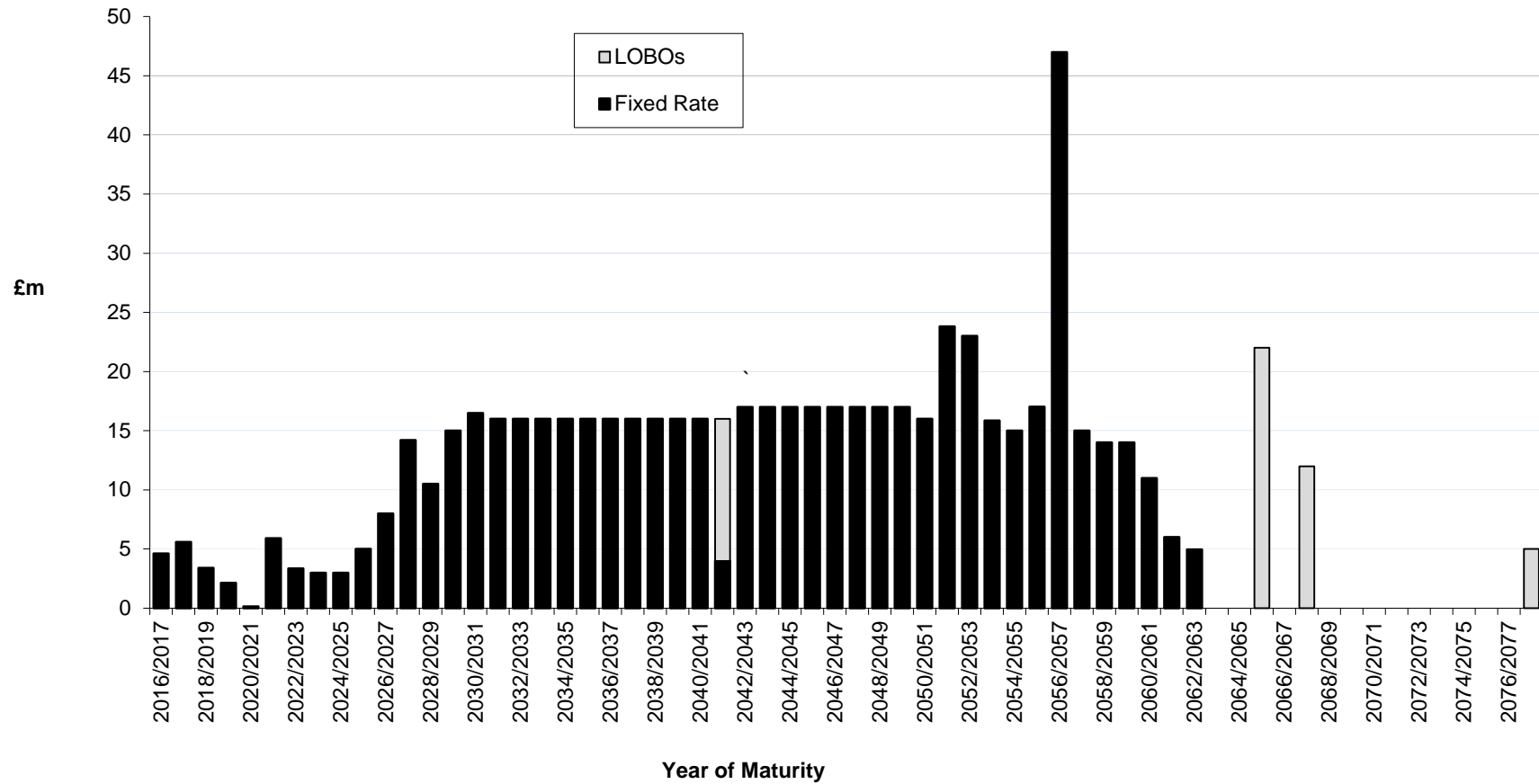
Confidential Annexe A – Investments at 30 September 2016

Confidential Annexe B – Investment Charts at 30 September 2016

Annexe C – Maturity Analysis of Borrowing as at 30 September 2016

Annexe D – Glossary of Treasury Management terms

Maturity Profile of Debt at 30 September 2016



Glossary of Terms - Treasury

Bank Rate

The rate of interest set by the Bank of England as a benchmark rate for British banks.

Borrowing

Loans taken out by the authority to pay for capital expenditure or for the prudent management of the Council's financial affairs, which are repayable with interest.

Counterparty

One of the parties involved in a financial transaction.

Credit Criteria

The parameters used as a starting point in considering with whom the council may place investments, aimed at ensuring the security of the sums invested.

Credit Rating

A credit rating assesses the credit worthiness of an individual, corporation, or even a country. Credit ratings are calculated from financial history and current assets and liabilities. Typically, a credit rating tells a lender or investor the probability of the subject being able to pay back a loan. Ratings usually consist of a long term, short term, viability and support indicators. The Fitch credit rating of F1 used by the Council is designated as "Highest Credit quality" and indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF)

The Debt Management Office provides this service as part of its cash management operations and of a wider series of measures designed to improve local and central government's investment framework and cash management. The key objective of the DMADF is to provide users with a flexible and secure facility to supplement their existing range of investment options while saving interest costs for central government.

Debt Restructuring

Debt restructuring is a process that allows an organisation to reduce, renegotiate and undertake replacement debt.

Diversification of Investments

The process of creating a portfolio of different types of financial instruments with regard to type, price, risk issuer, maturity, etc. in order to reduce the overall risk of the portfolio as a whole.

Duration (Maturity)

The length of time between the issue of a security and the date on which it becomes payable.

External Borrowing

Money borrowed from outside of the Council.

Fitch Credit Ratings

A commercial organisation providing an opinion on the relative ability of an entity to meet financial commitments, such as interest, preferred dividends, repayment of principal, insurance claims or counterparty obligations. The opinion is usually provided in the form of a credit rating.

Fixed Rate

An interest rate that does not change over the life of a loan or other form of credit.

Internal Borrowing

Money borrowed from within the Council, sourced from temporary internal cash balances.

Investments

The purchase of financial assets in order to receive income and/or make capital gain at a future time, however with the prime concern being security of the initial sum invested.

Lender Option Borrower Option Loans (LOBOs)

Loans to the Council where the lender can request a change in the rate of interest payable by the Council at pre-defined dates and intervals. The Council at this point has the option to repay the loan.

Liquidity

The ability of the Council to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

Market Loans

Borrowing that is sourced from the market i.e. organisations other than the Public Works Loan Board or a Public Body.

Minimum Revenue Provision

This is the amount which must be charged to the authority's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for repaying external loans and meeting other credit liabilities. The prudent amount is determined in accordance with guidance issued by WG. This has the effect of reducing the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

Money Market Funds

An investment fund which pools the investments of numerous depositors, spreading those investments over a number of different products and counterparties.

Prudential Code for Capital Finance

The system introduced on 1 April 2004 by Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 which allows local authorities to borrow without Government consent,

provided that they can afford to service the debt from their own resources and that any such borrowing is prudent and sustainable. This requires the preparation and approval of various indicators.

Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)

The Public Works Loans Board is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.

Security

Protecting investments from the risk of significant loss, either from a fall in value or from default of a counterparty.

Sovereign Credit Ratings

The credit rating of a country. It indicates the risk level of the investing environment of a country, taking into account political risk and other factors.

Specified Investments

A term defined in WG investment regulations, referring to any investments for less than one year, in sterling, and where the principal sum to be repaid at maturity is the same as the principal sum invested. An investment not meeting the above criteria would be termed a Non-specified investment

Sterling

The monetary unit of the United Kingdom (the British pound).

Term Deposits

A term deposit is a money deposit at a banking institution that cannot be withdrawn for a certain "term" or period of time.

UK Government Gilts

Fixed-interest debt securities issued or secured by the British Government. Gilts are always denominated in sterling though the Government occasionally also issues instruments in other currencies in the Eurobond market or elsewhere.

Variable Rate

An interest rate that changes periodically in line with market rates.

Yield

The annual rate of return paid out on an investment in securities, expressed as a percentage of the current market price of the relevant securities.