

Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement for 2018/19

It is proposed that the Council's MRP Policy is as follows, with any change in the level, timing and method of provision in year delegated to the Section 151 Officer. The Policy was considered by the Council's Audit Committee at its meeting in November 2017.

The broad aim of the 'prudent provision' is to ensure that debt arising from Capital expenditure is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits to service delivery (useful life) or in the case of borrowing supported by the WG, reasonably in line with the period implicit in the determination of any grant.

- Council Fund historic expenditure prior to 1 April 2004 as well as subsequent supported borrowing approved by the WG is to be provided for at 4.0% on a reducing balance basis in 2018/19. This is consistent with the support provided by WG as part of the Revenue Support Grant for Supported borrowing. This approach will continue unless WG change the approach to providing support as part of the RSG formula or any revision to MRP Guidance either in Wales or in England, albeit regular reviews of the position will continue.
- HRA supported borrowing, which was part of the previous housing subsidy system is to be provided for at 2% on a straight line basis. MRP on the significant £187 million settlement buyout payment is to be on 2% straight line basis as a minimum but with voluntary repayments to create headroom against the HRA debt cap for future development and reduce long term costs of servicing debt.
- Additional borrowing for a general increase in investment either in the Council Fund or HRA to balance the Capital Programme in a year is to be provided for on a straight line basis over the estimated average life of the assets created.
- Any additional expenditure linked to specific schemes e.g. Invest to Save, 21st Century Schools etc. is to be provided for on a straight line basis, or over the estimated useful life of assets being created or a shorter period as determined by the Section 151 Officer or suggested periods determined by WG as is the case with Local Government Borrowing Initiative.
- Revenue Provision in excess of the above requirements can be made subject to affordability and following advice of the Section 151 officer.
- Subject to agreement of the S151 Officer, MRP may be waived on expenditure recoverable within a prudent period of time through capital receipts (e.g. land purchases, loan repayments) or deferred to when the benefits from investment are scheduled to begin or when confirmed external grant payments towards that expenditure are expected.
- The MRP charged against liabilities under finance leases, or contracts that have the characteristics of finance leases, shall be equal to the principal element of the lease repayment, calculated on an annual basis.