

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR UPDATE 2024/25

Cabinet – 14 November 2024

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer – Finance & Trading

Status: For Decision

Also considered by:

- Finance & Investment Advisory Committee – 24 October 2024

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report gives details of treasury activity in the first half of the current financial year, recent developments in the financial markets and fulfils the reporting requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

This report supports the Key Aim of: efficient management of the Council's resources.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Kevin Maskell

Contact Officer: Jessica Booth, Ext. 7436

Recommendation to Finance & Investment Advisory Committee:

That Cabinet be asked to note the Treasury Management Mid-Year Update for 2024/25.

Recommendation to Cabinet:

It be RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Mid-Year Update for 2024/25 be noted.

Reason for recommendation: As required by both the the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and the CIPFA Code, a mid-year report of treasury management activity is to be presented to Members.

Introduction and Background

Capital Strategy

- 1 In December 2021, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. These require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following:
 - a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
 - an overview of how the associated risk is managed; and
 - the implications for future financial stability.

Treasury Management

- 2 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested with approved counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.
- 3 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending requirements. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 4 Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, 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.”

Introduction

- 5 This report has been written in accordance with the requirement of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury management (revised 2021). The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:
 - Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
 - Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
 - Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement – including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum

Revenue Provision Policy – for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report, covering activities during the previous year.

- Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
 - Delegation by the Council of the role of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is the Finance & Investment Advisory Committee.
- 6 This mid-year management report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and covers the following:
- An economic update for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year;
 - A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
 - The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
 - A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2024/25
 - A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2024/25
 - A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken in 2024/25
 - A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2024/25

Economic Update

- 7 The third quarter of 2024 (July to September) saw;
- GDP growth stagnating in July following downwardly revised Q2 figures (0.5% quarter on quarter (q/q))
 - A further easing in wage growth as the headline 3 month year on year (3myy) rate (including bonuses) fell from 4.6% in June to 4.0% in July;
 - CPI inflation hitting its target in June before edging above it to 52.2% in July and August;
 - Core Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) inflation increasing from 3.3% in July to 3.6% in August;
 - The Bank of England initiating its easing cycle by lowering interest rates from 5.25% to 5.0% in August and holding them steady in its September meeting;
 - 10-year gilt yields falling to 4.0% in September.
- 8 The economy's stagnations in June and July points more to a mild slowdown in GDP growth than a sudden drop back into a recession. Moreover, the drop in September's composite activity Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), from 53.8 in August to 52.9, was still consistent with GDP growth of 0.3%-0.4% for the

summer months. This is in line with the Bank of England's view, and it was encouraging that an improvement in manufacturing output growth could be detected, whilst the services PMI balance suggests non-retail services output grew by 0.5% q/q in Q3. Additionally, the services PMI future activity balance showed an uptick in September, although readings after the Chancellor's announcements at the Budget on 30 October will be more meaningful.

- 9 The 1.0% month on month (m/m) jump in retail sales in August was stronger than the consensus forecast for a 0.4% m/m increase. The rise was reasonably broad based, with six of the seven main sub sectors recording monthly increases, though the biggest gains came from clothing stores and supermarkets, which the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported was driven by the warmer-than-usual weather and end of season sales. As a result, some of that strength is probably temporary.
- 10 The government's plans to raise public spending by around £16bn a year (0.6% GDP) have caused concerns that a big rise in taxes will be announced in the Budget, which could weaken GDP growth in the medium-term. However, if taxes are raised in line with spending (ie by £16bn) that would mean the overall stance of fiscal policy would be similar to the previous government's plan to reduce the budget deficit. Additionally, rises in public spending tend to boost GDP more than increases in taxes reduce it. Our colleagues at Capital Economics suggest GDP growth will hit 1.2% in 2024 before reaching 1.5% for both 2025 and 2026.
- 11 The further easing in wage growth will be welcomed by the Bank of England as a sign that labour market conditions are continuing to cool. The 3myy growth rate of average earnings fell from 4.6% in June to 4.0% in July. On a three-month annualised basis, average earnings growth eased from 3.0% to 1.8%, its lowest rate since December 2023. Excluding bonuses, the 3myy rate fell from 5.4% to 5.1%.
- 12 Other labour market indicators also point to a further loosening in the labour market. The 59,000 fall in the alternative PAYE measure of the number of employees in August marked the fourth fall in the past five months. And the 77,000 decline in the three months to August was the biggest drop since November 2020. Moreover, the number of workforce jobs fell by 28,000 in Q2. The downward trend in job vacancies continued too. The number of job vacancies fell from 872,000 in the three months to July to 857,000 in the three months to August. This leaves it at 3% below its peak in May 2022, and just 5% above its pre-pandemic level. Nonetheless, the Bank of England is still more concerned about the inflationary influence of the labour market rather than the risk of a major slowdown in labour market activity.
- 13 CPI inflation stayed at 2.2% in August, but services inflation rose from a two-year low of 5.2% in July to 5.6%, significantly above its long-run average of 3.5%. Food and fuel price inflation exerted some downward pressure on CPI inflation, but these were offset by the upward effects from rising furniture/household equipment inflation, recreation/culture inflation and a surprisingly large rise in airfares inflation from -10.4% to +11.9% in August. As

a result, core inflation crept back up from 3.3% to 3.6%. CPI inflation is also expected to rise in the coming months, potentially reaching 2.9% in November, before declining to around 2.0% by mid-2025.

- 14 The Bank initiated its loosening cycle in August with a 25bps cut, lowering rates from 5.25% to 5.0%. In its September meeting, the Bank, resembling the ECB more than the Fed, opted to hold rates steady at 5.0%, signalling a preference for a more gradual approach to rate cuts. Notably, one Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member voted for a consecutive 25bps cut, while four members swung back to voting to leave rates unchanged. That meant the slim 5-4 vote in favour of a cut in August shifted to a solid 8-1 vote in favour of no change.
- 15 Looking ahead, CPI inflation will likely rise in the coming months before it falls back to its target of 2.0% in mid-2025. The increasing uncertainties of the Middle East may also exert an upward pressure on inflation, with oil prices rising in the aftermath of Iran's missile attack on Israel on 1 October. China's recent outpouring of new fiscal support measures in the latter stages of September also added to the upshift in broader commodity prices, which, in turn, may impact on global inflation levels and thus monetary policy decisions. Despite these recent developments, our central forecast is still for rates to fall to 4.5% by the end of 2024 with further cuts likely throughout 2025. This is in line with market expectations, however, although a November rate cut still looks likely, December may be more problematic for the Bank if CPI inflation spikes towards 3.0%, rather than the 3.25-3.50% currently priced in by financial markets.
- 16 Our forecast is next due to be updated around mid-November following the 30 October Budget, 5 November US presidential election, the 7 November MPC meeting and the release of the Bank of England Quarterly Monetary Policy Report.
- 17 Looking at gilt movements in the first half of 2024/25 you will note the 10-year gilt yield declined from 4.32% in May to 4.02% in August as the Bank's August rate cut signalled the start of its loosening cycle. Following the decision to hold the Bank Rate at 5.0% in September, the market response was muted, with the 10-year yield rising by only 5bps after the announcement. This likely reflected the fact that money markets had priced in a 25% chance of a rate cut prior to the meeting. The yield had already increased by about 10bps in the days leading up to the meeting, driven in part by the Fed's "hawkish cut" on 18 September. There is a possibility that gilt yields will rise near-term as UK policymakers remain cautious due to persistent inflation concerns, before declining in the longer term as rates fall to 3.0%.
- 18 The FTSE 100 reached a peak of 8,380 in the third quarter of 2024, but its performance is firmly in the shade of the US S&P500, which has breached the 5,700 threshold on several occasions recently. Its progress, however, may pause for the time being whilst investors wait to see who is elected as the next US President, and how events in the Middle East and Ukraine unfold. The catalyst for any further rally (or not) is likely to be the degree of investors faith in Artificial Intelligence.

Interest Rate Forecasts

- 19 The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1 November 2012.
- 20 The latest forecast released on 28 May sets out a view that short, medium and long-dated interest rates will fall back over the next year or two, although there are upside risks in respect of the stickiness of inflation and a continuing tight labour market, as well as the size of gilt issuance.

| Link Group Interest Rate View | | 28.05.24 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Dec-24 | Mar-25 | Jun-25 | Sep-25 | Dec-25 | Mar-26 | Jun-26 | Sep-26 | Dec-26 | Mar-27 |
| BANK RATE | 4.50 | 4.00 | 3.50 | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| 3 month ave earnings | 4.50 | 4.00 | 3.50 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| 6 month ave earnings | 4.40 | 3.90 | 3.50 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.10 | 3.10 | 3.20 |
| 12 month ave earnings | 4.30 | 3.80 | 3.50 | 3.40 | 3.40 | 3.40 | 3.40 | 3.20 | 3.30 | 3.40 |
| 5 yr PWLB | 4.50 | 4.30 | 4.10 | 4.00 | 3.90 | 3.90 | 3.90 | 3.90 | 3.90 | 3.80 |
| 10 yr PWLB | 4.60 | 4.40 | 4.30 | 4.10 | 4.10 | 4.10 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.90 |
| 25 yr PWLB | 5.00 | 4.80 | 4.70 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.40 | 4.40 | 4.40 | 4.30 | 4.30 |
| 50 yr PWLB | 4.80 | 4.60 | 4.50 | 4.30 | 4.30 | 4.20 | 4.20 | 4.20 | 4.10 | 4.10 |

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Update

- 21 The Treasury Management Strategy (TMSS) for 2024/25 was approved by Council on 20 February 2024. There are no policy changes to the TMSS thus the details in the report update the position in light of the updated economic position.

The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

- 22 This part of the report is structured to update;
- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
 - How these plans are being financed;
 - The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
 - Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

23 This table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed at the Budget.

| Capital expenditure by Chief Officer area | 2024/25 Original Budget £m | Current Position £m | 2024/25 Revised Budget Forecast £m |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| People and Places | 31.580 | 5.875 | 17.703 |
| Finance and Trading | 1.785 | 0.363 | 3.515 |
| Total | 33.365 | 6.238 | 18.218 |

The increase in Finance and Trading is due to carry forwards relating to the Operational Development Programme.

Changes to the Financing of the Capital Programme

24 The table below draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans (above), highlighting the original supported and unsupported elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing need may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

| Capital Expenditure | 2024/25 Original Estimate £m | 2024/25 Revised Estimate £m |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total capital expenditure | 33.365 | 18.218 |
| Financed by: | | |
| Capital receipts | 1.180 | 1.180 |
| Capital grants | 1.128 | 1.128 |
| Capital reserves | 0.597 | 0.671 |
| Mixed funding | 0.500 | 0.500 |
| Total Financing | 3.405 | 4.077 |
| Borrowing requirement | 29.960 | 14.141 |

Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), External Debt and the Operational Boundary

25 The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period, which is termed the Operational Boundary.

| | 2024/25 Original Estimate £m | 2024/25 Revised Estimate £m |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| CFR | 84.891 | 69.744 |
| | | |
| Net movement in CFR | 32.701 | 17.554 |
| | | |
| Operational Boundary | | |
| Borrowing | 45.000 | 45.000 |
| Total debt (year end position) | 45.000 | 45.000 |
| | | |

26 A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is **the Authorised Limit** which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

| | 2024/25 Original Estimate £m | Current Position £m | 2024/25 Revised Estimate £m |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Authorised Limit | | | |
| Borrowing | 50.000 | 11.914 | 50.000 |
| Total debt | 50.000 | 11.914 | 50.000 |
| CFR* (year end position) | 84.891 | | 69.744 |

Borrowing

27 The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2024/25 is £69.744m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing), or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions. The tables above show the Council has borrowings of

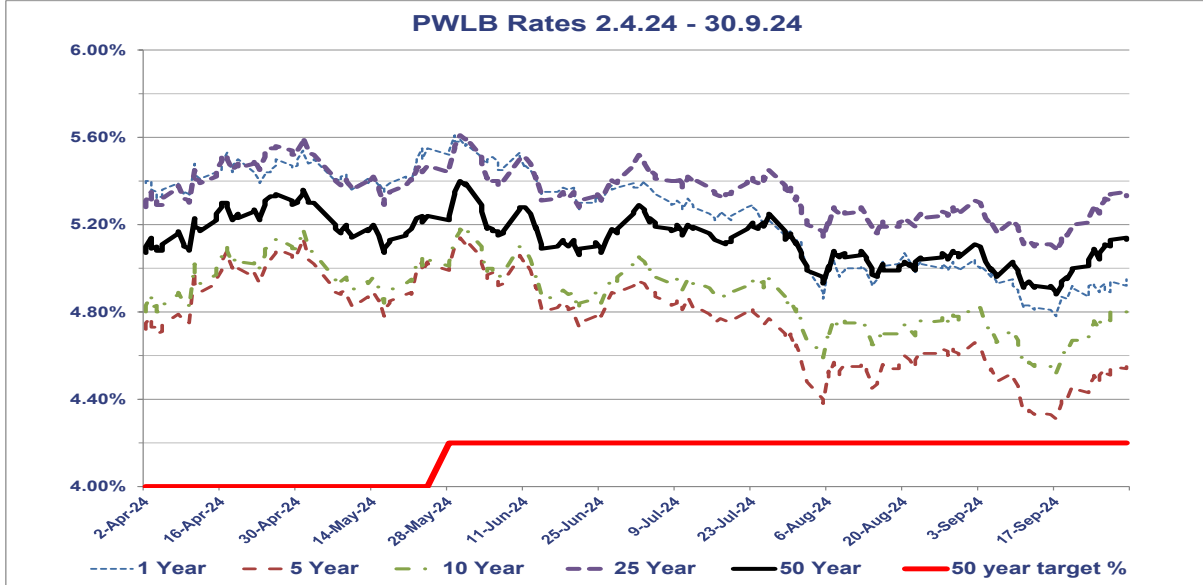
£11.914m and has utilised cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost-effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring if further upside risk to gilt yields prevails.

- 28 Despite the overall financial position and the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes (the CFR), no new external borrowing has been undertaken. The capital programme is being kept under regular review due to the effects of inflationary pressures, shortages of materials and labour. Our borrowing strategy will, therefore, also be regularly reviewed and then revised, if necessary, to achieve optimum value and risk exposure in the long-term.
- 29 It is anticipated that further borrowing will be undertaken during this financial year subject to the progression of the Capital Programme.

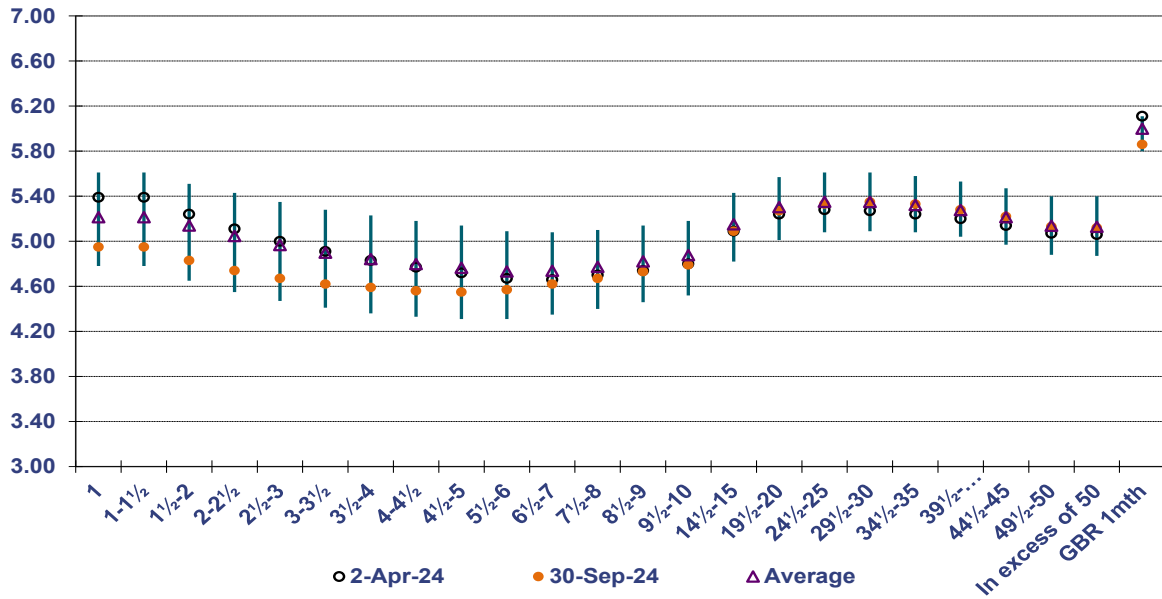
PWLB maturity certainty rates (gilts plus 80bps) year to date to 30th September 2024

- 30 Gilt yields and PWLB certainty rates were less volatile than at this time last year. Overall, the 10, 25 and 50-year part of the curve endured a little volatility but finished September very much as it started in April.
- 31 Where there was some movement downwards, this came in the shorter part of the curve as markets positioned themselves for Bank Rate cuts in the second half of 2024 and into 2025, although the continued stickiness of inflation and the prevailing tight labour market is a concern for those looking for more sizeable falls ahead.
- 32 At the beginning of April, the 5-year certainty rate was the cheaper part of the curve at 4.72% whilst the 25-year rate was relatively expensive at 5.28%. May saw yields at their highest across the whole curve.
- 33 Conversely, 17th September saw the low point for the whole curve, with the 5-year certainty rate falling to 4.31% before rebounding to 4.55% by the end of the month. Similarly, the 50-year certainty rate fell to 4.88% but finished the month at 5.13%, slightly higher than the start of April.
- 34 At this juncture, we still forecast rates to fall back over the next two to three years as inflation dampens, although there is upside risk to our Bank Rate forecast at present. The CPI measure of inflation is expected to fall below 2% in the second half of 2025, however, and we forecast 50-year rates to stand at 4.20% by the end of September 2026. The major caveats are that there is considerable gilt issuance to be digested by the market over the next couple of years, and geo-political uncertainties – which are generally negative for inflation prospects – abound in Eastern Europe and the Middle East in particular.

PWLB RATES 02.04.24 - 30.09.24



PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 2.4.24 to 30.9.24



HIGH/LOW/AVERAGE PWLB RATES FOR 02.04.24 - 30.09.24

| | 1 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year | 25 Year | 50 Year |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 02/04/2024 | 5.39% | 4.72% | 4.80% | 5.28% | 5.07% |
| 30/09/2024 | 4.95% | 4.55% | 4.79% | 5.33% | 5.13% |
| Low | 4.78% | 4.31% | 4.52% | 5.08% | 4.88% |
| Low date | 17/09/2024 | 17/09/2024 | 17/09/2024 | 17/09/2024 | 17/09/2024 |
| High | 5.61% | 5.14% | 5.18% | 5.61% | 5.40% |
| High date | 29/05/2024 | 01/05/2024 | 01/05/2024 | 01/05/2024 | 01/05/2024 |
| Average | 5.21% | 4.76% | 4.88% | 5.35% | 5.14% |
| Spread | 0.83% | 0.83% | 0.66% | 0.53% | 0.52% |

35 The current PWLB rates are set as margins over gilt yields as follows: -.

- **PWLB Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- **PWLB Certainty Rate (GF)** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- **PWLB Local Infrastructure Rate** is gilt plus 60 basis points (G+60bps)
- **PWLB Certainty Rate (HRA)** is gilt plus 40bps (G+40bps)

36 The **UK Infrastructure Bank** will lend to local authorities that meet its scheme criteria at a rate currently set at gilt plus 40bps (G+40bps).

Debt Rescheduling

37 Debt rescheduling opportunities have increased over the course of the past six months and will be considered if giving rise to long-term savings. However, no debt rescheduling has been undertaken to date in the current financial year.

Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

38 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the half year ended 30 September 2024, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25. The Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer – Finance & Trading reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

39 All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

Annual Investment Strategy

40 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2024/25, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 20th February 2024. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it set out the Council's investment priorities as being;

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

41 The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit quality financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information.

Creditworthiness

42 The UK's sovereign rating has proven robust through the first half of 2024/25. The new Labour Government is expected to outline in detail its future fiscal proposals in the Budget scheduled for 30 October 2024.

Investment Party Criteria

43 The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.

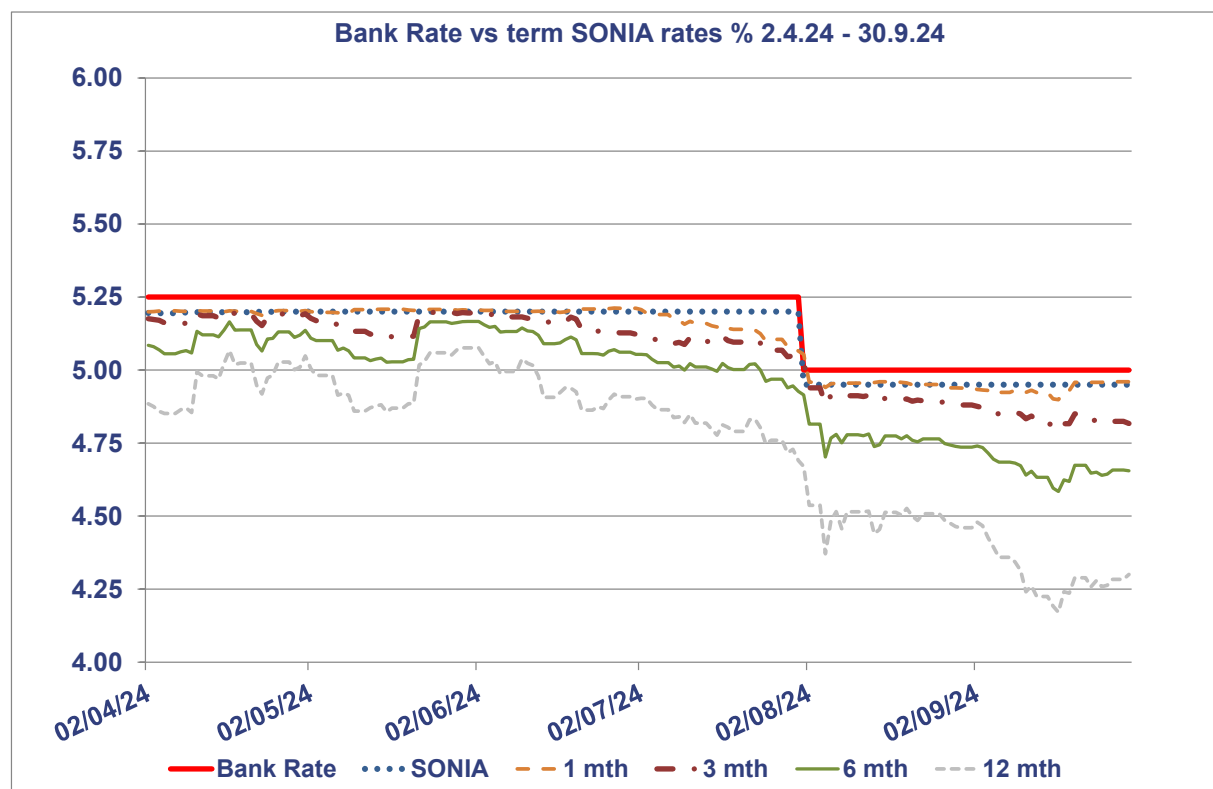
CDS Prices

44 It is noted that sentiment in the current economic climate can easily shift, so it remains important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances.

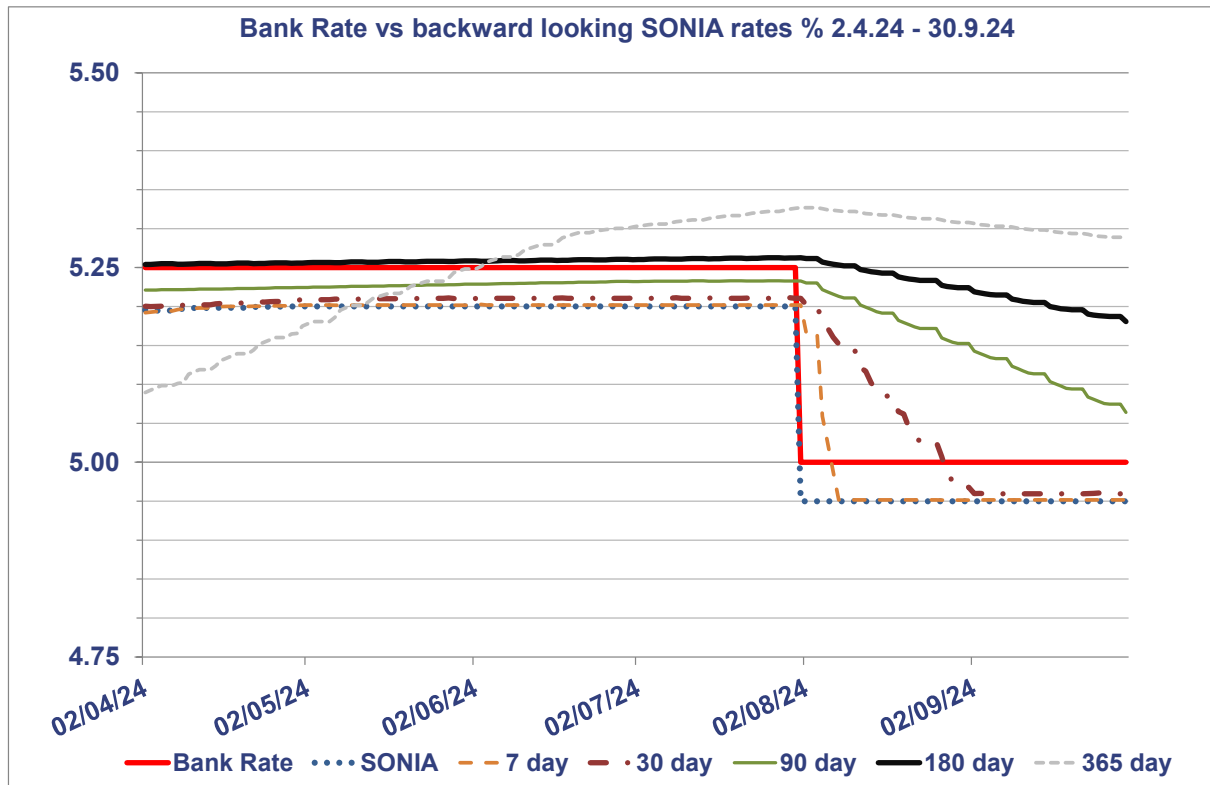
Investment Balances

45 The average level of funds available for investment purposes during the first half of the financial year was £14.091m. These funds were available on a temporary basis, and the level of funds available was mainly dependent on the timing of precept payments, receipt of grants and progress on the capital programme. The Council holds £5m core cash balances for investment purposes (i.e funds available for more than 1 year), which are currently invested in the Multi Asset Income Funds.

Investment performance year to date as of 30 September 2024



| | Bank Rate | SONIA | 1 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | 12 mth |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| High | 5.25 | 5.20 | 5.21 | 5.20 | 5.17 | 5.08 |
| High Date | 02/04/2024 | 03/05/2024 | 27/06/2024 | 17/04/2024 | 31/05/2024 | 30/05/2024 |
| Low | 5.00 | 4.95 | 4.90 | 4.79 | 4.58 | 4.17 |
| Low Date | 01/08/2024 | 01/08/2024 | 17/09/2024 | 17/09/2024 | 17/09/2024 | 17/09/2024 |
| Average | 5.17 | 5.12 | 5.11 | 5.06 | 4.96 | 4.75 |
| Spread | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.31 | 0.41 | 0.58 | 0.91 |



| | Bank Rate | SONIA | 7 day | 30 day | 90 day | 180 day | 365 day |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| High | 5.25 | 5.20 | 5.20 | 5.21 | 5.23 | 5.26 | 5.33 |
| High Date | 02/04/2024 | 03/05/2024 | 13/05/2024 | 26/06/2024 | 26/07/2024 | 26/07/2024 | 01/08/2024 |
| Low | 5.00 | 4.95 | 4.95 | 4.96 | 5.06 | 5.18 | 5.09 |
| Low Date | 01/08/2024 | 01/08/2024 | 27/08/2024 | 04/09/2024 | 30/09/2024 | 30/09/2024 | 02/04/2024 |
| Average | 5.17 | 5.12 | 5.12 | 5.15 | 5.20 | 5.25 | 5.26 |
| Spread | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.17 | 0.08 | 0.24 |

The tables above cover the first half of 2024/25.

46 The Council's budgeted investment return for 2024/25 is £532,000, and performance for the year to date is £164,000 above budget.

47 The Council held £13.769m of investments as at 30 September 2024 (£5.937m at 31 March 2024) and the investment portfolio yield for the first six months of the year is 5.317% against 7 Day and 3 Month SONIA benchmarks of 5.20% and 5.23% respectively. A full list of investments held as at 30 September 2024 appears in Appendix A.

Fund Investments

48 In May 2022 the Council invested £5m into Multi-Asset Income Funds (MAIFs). These are 5 year investments and the amount invested can be subject to changes in valuation of the principal, which may result in a capital loss or capital gain. The current performance is shown in the table below.

| Fund Name | Principal Invested £m | Current Valuation £m | Interest Received to 30 September 2024 £m |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Aegon Asset Management | 2.500 | 2.502 | 0.077 |
| Artemis | 2.500 | 2.643 | 0.066 |
| Total | 5.000 | 5.145 | 0.143 |

Approved limits

49 Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the annual investment strategy were not breached during the period ended 30 September 2024.

Key Implications

Financial

The management of the Council's investment portfolio and cash-flow generated balances plays an important part in the financial planning of the authority. The security of its capital and liquidity of its investments is of paramount importance.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

Under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Section 151 Officer has statutory duties in relation to the financial administration and stewardship of the authority, including securing effective arrangements for treasury management.

This annual mid-year review report fulfils the requirements of The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy's Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021.

Treasury management has two main risks:

- Fluctuations in interest rates can result in a reduction in income from investments; and
- A counterparty to which the Council has lent money fails to repay the loan at the required time.

Consideration of risk is integral in our approach to treasury management. However, this particular report has no specific risk implications as it is not proposing any new actions, but merely reporting performance over the last six months.

Equality

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications (compulsory heading – do not delete)

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the District, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Conclusions

The overall return on the Council's investments up to the end of September 2024 is £164,000 above budget and the over-recovery is forecast to increase further by the end of the financial year. The percentage yield on the portfolio is 5.32%.

The economic situation both globally and within the Eurozone remains volatile, and this will have consequences for the UK economy. Treasury management in the current and recent financial years has been conducted against this background and with a cautious investment approach.

Appendices

Appendix A – Investment Portfolio at 30 September 2024

Appendix B – Investment returns vs RPI/CPI

Appendix C – Approved Countries for Investment

Appendix D – The Liability Benchmark

Background Papers

[Treasury Management Strategy for 2024-25 - Council 20 February 2024](#)

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance & Trading