

Title of meeting:	Governance and Audit and Standards Committee Cabinet City Council
Date of meeting:	Governance and Audit and Standards Committee 22 November 2023 Cabinet 28 November 2023 City Council 12 December 2023
Subject:	Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2023/24
Report by:	Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	Yes

1. Executive Summary

This report outlines the Council's performance against the treasury management indicators approved by the City Council on 14 March 2023.

The Council's Treasury Management activities have remained within the Treasury Management Policy 2023/24 in the period up to 30 September 2023

No borrowing has been undertaken in the first half of 2023/24 or is currently planned for the remainder of this year.

There have been no changes to the Council's risk appetite in its treatment of surplus cash. Investment returns continue to perform better than in previous years and the latest forecast from the Bank of England sets out a view that interest rates are likely to remain at their existing rate for some time, as the Bank of England seeks to control inflation. During the period investment returns have increased as existing investments have matured and have been replaced with new investments with higher returns.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to inform members and the wider community of the Council's Treasury Management position, i.e. its borrowing and cash investments at 30 September 2023 and of the risks attached to that position.

Whilst the Council has a portfolio of investment properties and some equity shares which were acquired through the capital programme, these do not in themselves form

part of the treasury management function.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the following be noted:

- 3.1 That the Council's Treasury Management activities have remained within the Treasury Management Policy 2023/24 in the period up to 30 September 2023.
- 3.2 That the actual Treasury Management indicators at 30 September 2023 set out in Appendix A be noted.

4. Background

The Council's treasury management operations encompass the following:

- Cash flow forecasting (both daily balances and longer-term forecasting)
- Investing surplus funds in approved cash investments
- Borrowing to finance short term cash deficits and capital payments
- Management of debt (including rescheduling and ensuring an even maturity profile)

The key risks associated with the Council's treasury management operations are:

- Credit risk - that the Council is not repaid, with due interest in full, on the day repayment is due
- Liquidity risk - that cash will not be available when it is needed, or that the ineffective management of liquidity creates additional, unbudgeted costs
- Interest rate risk - that the Council fails to get good value for its cash dealings (both when borrowing and investing) and the risk that interest costs incurred are in excess of those for which the Council has budgeted
- Maturity (or refinancing risk) - this relates to the Council's borrowing or capital financing activities, and is the risk that the Council is unable to repay or replace its maturing funding arrangements on appropriate terms
- Procedures (or systems) risk - that a treasury process, human or otherwise, will fail and planned actions are not carried out through fraud or error

The treasury management budget accounts for a significant proportion of the Council's overall budget.

The Council's Treasury Management Policy aims to manage risk whilst optimising costs and returns. The Council monitors and measures its treasury management position against the indicators described in this report. Treasury management monitoring reports are brought to the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee for scrutiny.

The Governance and Audit and Standards Committee noted the recommendations to Council contained within the Treasury Management Policy 2023/24 on 8 March 2023. The City Council approved the Treasury Management Policy 2023/24 on 14 March 2023.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

To highlight any variance from the approved Treasury Management Policy and to note any subsequent actions.

To provide assurance that the Council's treasury management activities are effectively managed.

6. Integrated impact assessment

An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not directly impact on service or policy delivery. Any changes made arising from this report would be subject to investigation in their own right.

7. Legal Implications

The Section 151 Officer is required by the Local Government Act 1972 and by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to ensure that the Council's budgeting, financial management, and accounting practices meet the relevant statutory and professional requirements. Members must have regard to and be aware of the wider duties placed on the Council by various statutes governing the conduct of its financial affairs.

8. Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) comments

All financial considerations are contained within the body of the report and the attached appendices.

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Signed by Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Appendices:

Appendix A: Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2023/24

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<u>Title of document</u>	Location
1 Treasury Management Records	Financial Services