

# Draft Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22

Bridgend County Borough Council

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Siro



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Council carries out its treasury management activities in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (2017) (the 'Code')*. These require the Council to set out the policies and objectives of its treasury management activities and to manage its treasury risks in accordance with the Code.

CIPFA has adopted the following as its definition of treasury management activities:

*'The management of the organisation'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.'*

The definition of 'Investments' above includes:

- Treasury Management investments (held for the prudent management of financial affairs), and
- Non-Treasury Investments, undertaken as part of a Capital Strategy either in the course of provision of services; or made for commercial reasons purely to make a financial gain. These are managed outside of normal treasury management activity

In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issued revised *Guidance on Local Authority Investments* in November 2019 that requires the Authority to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year. This Strategy fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance. In accordance with the WG Guidance Council would be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) should the assumptions on which it is based change significantly. This might be for example a large unexpected change in interest rates, in the Council's Capital Programme, or in the level of its investment balance, or a material loss in the fair value of a non-financial investment identified as part of the year end accounts preparation and audit process, or a change in Accounting Standards.

Local authorities are required to separately approve a Capital Strategy for capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Council's Capital Strategy includes the Prudential Indicators along with details regarding the Council's non-treasury investments. The CIPFA Code requires the Council to set a number of Treasury Management Indicators, which are forward looking parameters and enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to treasury management risks, which are integral to the TMS. The Capital Strategy and TMS should be read in conjunction with each other as borrowing and investments are directly impacted upon by capital plans.

The Council has an integrated TMS where borrowing and investments are managed in accordance with best professional practice, which is assessed either from internal expertise or consultation with our external advisers. The Council borrows money either to meet short term cash flow needs or to fund capital schemes approved within the

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capital programme. Therefore any actual loans taken are not generally associated with particular items of expenditure or assets. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the potential loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Council's TMS. Should these change significantly, a revised TMS will be presented to Council for approval. A half year review of treasury management performance will also be presented to Council for approval as will an annual report for the financial year.

The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer, who will act in accordance with the organisation's strategy, Treasury Management Practices (TMP) and CIPFA's *Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management*. Quarterly reports will be presented to Cabinet. The Council nominates the Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies and regular reports will be presented to the committee for their consideration.

## **2.0 ECONOMIC CONTEXT**

**Economic background:** The impact on the UK from coronavirus, lockdown measures, the rollout of vaccines, as well as the new trading arrangements with the European Union (EU), will remain major influences on the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2021-22.

The Bank of England (BoE) maintained the Bank Rate at 0.10% in December 2020 following a unanimous vote by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), however no mention was made of the potential future use of negative interest rates. In the November Monetary Policy Report (MPR) forecasts, the BOE expects the UK economy to shrink by 2% in quarter 4 of 2020 before growing by 7.25% in 2021, lower than the previous forecast of 9%. The BoE also forecasts the economy will now take until quarter 1 of 2022 to reach its pre-pandemic level, rather than the end of 2021 as previously forecast. By the time of the December MPC announcement, a COVID-19 vaccine was approved for use, which the Bank noted would reduce some of the downside risks to the economic outlook outlined in the November MPR.

**Credit outlook:** After spiking in late March, as coronavirus became a global pandemic, credit default swap (CDS) prices for the larger UK banks have steadily fallen back to almost pre-pandemic levels. Although uncertainly around COVID-19 related loan defaults led to banks provisioning billions for potential losses in the first half of 2020, drastically reducing profits, reported impairments for quarter 3 were much reduced in some institutions. However, general bank profitability in 2020 is likely to be significantly lower than in previous years.

The credit ratings for many UK institutions were downgraded on the back of downgrades to the sovereign rating. Credit conditions more generally though, in banks and building societies, have tended to be relatively benign, despite the impact of the pandemic. Looking forward, the potential for bank losses to be greater than expected, when government and central bank support starts to be removed, remains a risk, suggesting a cautious approach to bank deposits in 2021-22 remains advisable.

**Interest rate forecast:** : The Council's treasury management adviser, Arlingclose, is forecasting that BoE Bank Rate will remain at 0.10% until at least the first quarter of 2024. The risks to this forecast are judged to be to the downside as the BoE and UK government continue to react to the coronavirus pandemic and the new EU trading arrangements. However, further interest rate cuts to zero, or possibly negative, cannot yet be ruled out but this is not part of the Arlingclose central forecast.

Gilt yields are expected to remain very low in the medium-term while short-term yields are likely to remain below or at zero until such time as the BoE expressly rules out the chance of negative interest rates or growth/inflation prospects improve. The central case is for 10-year and 20-year gilts to rise to around 0.60% and 0.90% respectively over the time horizon. The risks around the gilt yield forecasts are judged to be broadly balanced between upside and downside risks, but there will almost certainly be short-term volatility due to economic and political uncertainty and events.

### 3.0 EXTERNAL DEBT AND INVESTMENT POSITION

As at 31 December 2020, the Council held £96.87 million of borrowing and £60.10 million of investments. The external debt and investment position is shown in Table 1 below and more detail is provided in sections 4.0 Borrowing Strategy and 5.0 Investment Strategy.

**Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position as at 31 December 2020**

|                                           | Principal<br>as at<br>31/12/2020<br>£m | Average<br>Rate<br>31/12/2020<br>% |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>External Long Term Borrowing:</b>      |                                        |                                    |
| Public Works Loan Board                   | 77.62                                  | 4.70                               |
| Lender's Option Borrower's Option         | 19.25                                  | 4.65                               |
| <b>Total External Borrowing</b>           | <b>96.87</b>                           | <b>4.69</b>                        |
| <b>Other Long Term Liabilities (LTL):</b> |                                        |                                    |
| Private Finance Initiative (PFI)*         | 15.75                                  |                                    |
| Other LTL                                 | 0.99                                   |                                    |
| <b>Total Other Long Term Liabilities</b>  | <b>16.74</b>                           |                                    |
| <b>Total Gross External Debt</b>          | <b>113.61</b>                          |                                    |
| <b>Treasury Investments:</b>              |                                        |                                    |
| Debt Management Office                    | 4.45                                   | 0.00                               |
| Local Authorities                         | 31.50                                  | 0.22                               |
| Banks                                     | 6.15                                   | 0.02                               |
| Building Societies                        | 0.00                                   | 0.00                               |
| Money Market Fund**                       | 18.00                                  | 0.03                               |
| <b>Total Treasury Investments</b>         | <b>60.10</b>                           | <b>0.13</b>                        |
| <b>Net Debt</b>                           | <b>53.51</b>                           |                                    |

\* (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 13 years remaining term

\*\*the funds provide instant access



The current profile of repayment of the Council's long term debt is set out in the chart below. This assumes that all loans will run to their final maturity. However the Council holds £19.25 million of Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans that may be rescheduled ahead of their maturity of 22 January 2054.

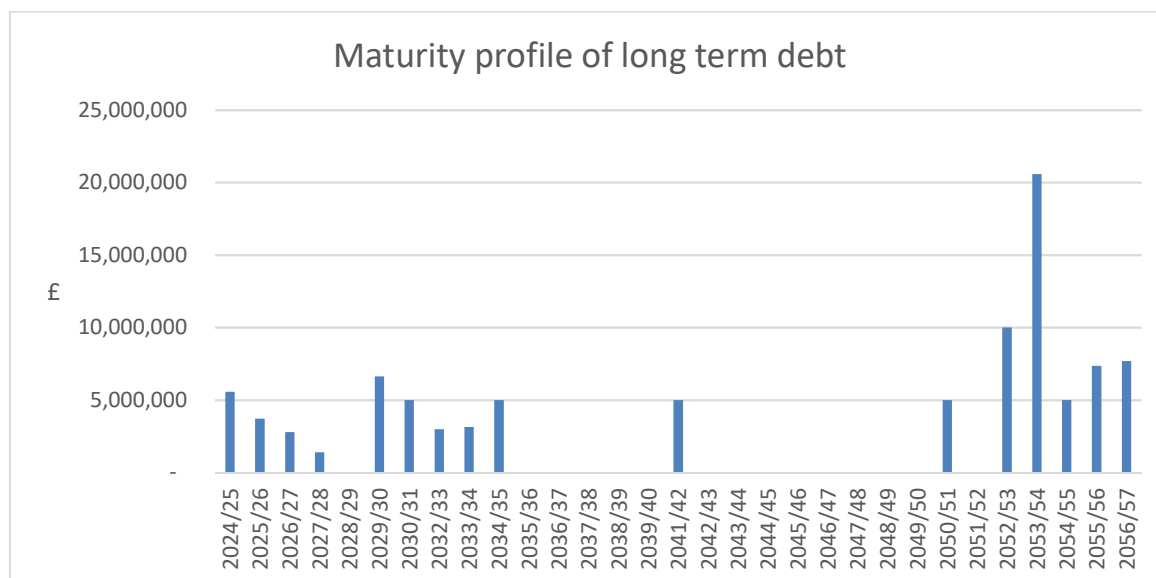


Table 2 below shows forecast changes in borrowing and investments and has been produced using estimates of capital spend and forecasts on useable reserves for the current financial year and the next three years. The Table shows that the Loans Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which is the Council's need to borrow to fund capital expenditure, is anticipated to increase from current levels moving forward, which is due to additional prudential borrowing needed to support the Capital Programme.

**Table 2: Balance sheet summary and forecast**

|                                                     | 31 March 20<br>Actual<br>£m | 31 March 21<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 22<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 23<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 24<br>Estimate<br>£m |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>                | 171.78                      | 174.08                        | 178.51                        | 175.81                        | 173.05                        |
| Less: Other Debt Liabilities                        | (17.37)                     | (17.79)                       | (16.83)                       | (15.80)                       | (14.69)                       |
| <b>Loans Capital Financing Requirement</b>          | <b>154.41</b>               | <b>156.29</b>                 | <b>161.68</b>                 | <b>160.01</b>                 | <b>158.36</b>                 |
| Less: External Borrowing                            | (96.87)                     | (96.87)                       | (96.87)                       | (123.56)                      | (126.95)                      |
| <b>Borrowing Requirement</b>                        | <b>57.54</b>                | <b>59.42</b>                  | <b>64.81</b>                  | <b>36.45</b>                  | <b>31.40</b>                  |
| Less: Internal Borrowing - Usable Reserves          | (83.49)                     | (79.07)                       | (48.12)                       | (43.06)                       | (41.71)                       |
| Minimum Investments                                 | 25.10                       | 10.00                         | 10.00                         | 10.00                         | 10.00                         |
| <b>Shortfall/(Surplus) borrowing requirement **</b> | <b>(.85)</b>                | <b>(9.65)</b>                 | <b>26.69</b>                  | <b>3.39</b>                   | <b>(.31)</b>                  |

\*The accounting practice followed by the Council requires financial instruments in the accounts (debt and investments) to be measured in a method compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) so these figures will differ from other figures in the TMS which are based on the actual amounts borrowed and invested

\*\* Any surplus borrowing requirement will be invested in line with the investment strategy

Where a Council finances capital expenditure by borrowing it must put aside revenue resources to repay that debt in later years, known as 'Minimum Revenue Provision' or

MRP. The *Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008* requires the Council to produce and approve an Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement before the start of the financial year that details the methodology for the charge as detailed in the Council's Capital Strategy. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing. This strategy is prudent as investment returns are low and counterparty risk is relatively high. The Council is forecasting an increased CFR due to the level of prudential borrowing in the capital programme. A change to the accounting for leases under International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 was anticipated to be effective from 1 April 2021 which would have required the Council to 'bring on' to the balance sheet 'Right of Use' assets and an associated lease liability, for any assets it leases or is presumed to lease through service contract arrangements. The impact of this would be to increase the CFR and therefore MRP. The implementation of the new standard has, however, now been delayed to 1 April 2022.

**Liability benchmark:** To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This forecasts the minimum amount of debt the Council could hold if its internal resources are used in lieu of external borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as Table 2 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept at a minimum level of £10 million at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk. CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Council's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 3 below shows that the Council anticipates that the liability benchmark will be marginally lower than actual borrowing as at 31 March 2021 as a result of higher levels of reserves. For the following two years, as reserves are reduced, our borrowing would likely be lower than the benchmark. More detail is provided in the Capital Strategy.

**Table 3: Liability benchmark**

|                                            | 31 March 20<br>Actual<br>£m | 31 March 21<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 22<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 23<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 24<br>Estimate<br>£m |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Loans Capital Financing Requirement</b> | 154.41                      | 156.29                        | 161.68                        | 160.01                        | 158.36                        |
| Less: Usable Reserves                      | (83.49)                     | (79.07)                       | (48.12)                       | (43.06)                       | (41.71)                       |
| Plus: actual/minimum investments           | 25.10                       | 10.00                         | 10.00                         | 10.00                         | 10.00                         |
| <b>Liability Benchmark</b>                 | <b>96.02</b>                | <b>87.22</b>                  | <b>123.56</b>                 | <b>126.95</b>                 | <b>126.64</b>                 |

#### **4.0 BORROWING STRATEGY**

The Council currently holds £96.87 million of loans as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The balance sheet forecast in Table 2 above shows that the Council will have a borrowing need over the next two years as detailed in Table 4 below:

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**Table 4: New Borrowing**

|               | 31 March 20<br>Actual<br>£m | 31 March 21<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 22<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 23<br>Estimate<br>£m | 31 March 24<br>Estimate<br>£m |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| New Borrowing | 0.00                        | 0.00                          | 26.69                         | 3.39                          | 0.00                          |

This borrowing need will be monitored on an on-going basis and any new borrowing will be considered alongside any changes in the Capital Programme that may affect the level of borrowing required.

The Section 151 Officer will monitor and update the liability benchmark assumptions on an on-going basis and report any significant changes within the treasury management monitoring reports to Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee and Council as appropriate. This could be as a result of changes in the level of useable reserves at year end, slippage within the Capital Programme or changes within the working capital assumptions.

The Council's **primary objective** when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

Therefore the major **objectives** to be followed in 2021-22 are:

- to minimise the revenue costs of debt
- to manage the Council's debt maturity profile i.e. to leave no one future year with a high level of repayments that could cause problems in re-borrowing
- to effect funding in any one year at the cheapest cost commensurate with future risk
- to monitor and review the level of variable interest rate loans in order to take greater advantage of interest rate movement
- to reschedule debt if appropriate, in order to take advantage of potential savings as interest rates change
- to optimise the use of all capital resources including borrowing, both supported and unsupported, usable capital receipts, revenue contributions to capital and grants and contributions

Given the significant cuts to public expenditure in recent years and in particular to local government funding, the Council's **borrowing strategy** continues to address the key issue of affordability, without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. The uncertainty over future interest rates increases the risks associated with treasury activity. As a result the Council will take a cautious approach to its treasury strategy. With short term interest rates currently much lower than long term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short term to either use internal resources or borrow short term instead.

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The Section 151 Officer will take the most appropriate form of borrowing depending on the prevailing interest rates at the time. However, with long term rates forecast to rise modestly in future years, any such short term savings will need to be balanced against the potential longer term costs. The Council's treasury management advisers will assist the Council with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. The last time the Council took long term borrowing was £5 million from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) in March 2012. As detailed above, it is anticipated that there will be a requirement for new long term borrowing in 2021-22 and 2022-23. It is anticipated that this would be from PWLB and for estimate purposes it has been assumed that this will be over 30 years.

HM Treasury issued revised lending terms for PWLB borrowing by local authorities in November 2020. As a condition of accessing the PWLB, local authorities will be asked to confirm that there is no intention to buy investment assets primarily for yield in the current, **or next two** financial years. Local authorities' Section 151 Officers or equivalent will be required to confirm that capital expenditure plans are current and that the plans are within acceptable use of the PWLB. Whilst this in itself does not preclude the Council from investing in commercial activities, investing in assets for yield would preclude the Council from accessing PWLB borrowing. Given the investment and borrowing requirement to support the Capital Programme, the Council is unlikely to consider any investments in commercial assets primarily for yield.

Alternatively, the Council may arrange forward starting loans during 2021-22 where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period. In addition, the Council may borrow short term (normally for up to one month) to cover unexpected cash flow shortages.

**Sources of borrowing:** The approved sources of long term and short term borrowing are:

- PWLB and any successor body
- any institution approved for investments (see Investment Strategy below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- any other UK public sector body
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except the Council's Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors
- special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues

**Other sources of debt finance:** In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing
- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB, but will consider long-term loans from other sources such as Welsh Government and local authority loans and bank loans, which may be available at more



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favourable rates. The PWLB lending rates increased by 1% in October 2019, but this rate rise was reversed from 26 November 2020 following the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on 25 November 2020. Alternatively the Council may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

**LOBOs:** The £19.25 million shown in Table 1 above, relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054, however these may be re-scheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending upon the prevailing market rates, the lender exercising their option to increase rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points and therefore the Council being given the option to accept the increase or to repay the loan without incurring a penalty. There are two trigger points in 2021-22 and although the Council understands that the lender is unlikely to exercise this option in the current low interest rate environment, an element of refinancing risk remains and the Council would take the option to repay these loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so in the future.

**Short term and variable rate loans:** These loans expose the Council to the risk of short term interest rate rises should interest rates change.

**Debt rescheduling:** The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Council may take advantage of this and replace some higher rate loans with new loans at lower interest rates, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall saving or reduction in risk.

**Treasury Management Indicators:**

The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators;

- Maturity Structure of Borrowing (Table 5)
- Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year (Table 8)
- Interest Rate exposures (Table 10)

**Maturity structure of borrowing indicator:** This indicator is set for the forthcoming financial year to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk with respect to the maturity of the Council's external borrowing and has been set to allow for the possible restructuring of long term debt where this is expected to lead to an overall saving or reduction in risk. It is the amount of projected borrowing maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

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**Table 5: Treasury Management Indicator Maturity Structure of Borrowing 2021-22**

| <b>Refinancing rate risk indicator<br/>Maturity structure of borrowing 2021-22</b> | <b>Upper limit</b> | <b>lower limit</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Under 12 months                                                                    | 50%                | 0%                 |
| 12 months and within 24 months                                                     | 25%                | 0%                 |
| 24 months and within 5 years                                                       | 25%                | 0%                 |
| 5 years and within 10 years                                                        | 40%                | 0%                 |
| 10 years and within 20 years                                                       | 50%                | 0%                 |
| 20 years and above                                                                 | 60%                | 25%                |

## **5.0 INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The preparation each year of an Investment Strategy is central to the Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on Local Authority Investments. It encourages the formulation of policies for the prudent investment of the surplus funds that authorities hold on behalf of their communities. In addition, the need for the Strategy to be approved by full Council ensures that these policies are subject to the scrutiny of elected Members: this is particularly important as since 2004 central government no longer closely regulates local government investment.

The Council holds surplus funds representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves and, as shown in Table 1 in Section 3 above, the balance at 31 December 2020 was £60.10 million. Investments are estimated to drop to between £20 and £30 million by 31 March 2021. As in previous years this is partly due to increased expenditure expected to be incurred in respect of the capital programme and the reduction in income collected from council tax in February and March 2021, as the majority of residents continue to pay council tax over 10 months rather than 12. There is also likely to be potential further reductions due to Covid-19 and lower collection rates. The estimated figure for investments above doesn't make any provision for any additional funding received from WG e.g. Business grants or hardship funds as a result of any further Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Based on its cash flow forecasts, the Council anticipates its investment balances in 2021-22 to range between £10 million to £60 million with an average investment rate of between 0.1% to 1.00% depending on the Bank Rate and investment types, which will be reviewed at half year and reported to Council. The actual balance varies because of the cash flow during the year in respect of when income is received (such as specific grant income, housing benefits subsidy and Revenue Support Grant) and payments are made (such as salaries and wages, major capital expenditure and loan repayments).

The Council holds investment properties with a view to securing a financial return, such as rental income. Given recent changes to the rules for accessing PWLB borrowing, the Council is unlikely to consider any further investment opportunities. As at 31 December 2020, the Council owned £4.635 million of investment properties with an expected return of £0.461 million for 2020-21. This includes rental discounts as a result of Covid-19. Income excluding discounts would normally be £0.478 million and this is what we would anticipate for 2021-22, representing a rate of return of 10.3%. The lessees are responsible for maintenance of the assets.

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Both the CIPFA Code and the Welsh Government Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments while seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's main objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Council will aim to achieve a total return that is equal to or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested.

The major **objectives** are:

- to maintain capital **security**
- to maintain portfolio **liquidity** so funds are available when expenditure is needed
- to achieve the **yield** on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity

**Negative interest rates:** The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk that the Bank of England will set its Bank Rate at, or below, zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term, investment options. Since investments cannot pay negative income, negative rates will be applied by reducing the value of investments. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.

**Strategy:** The Council's investments have historically been placed in mainly short term bank and building society unsecured deposits and local and central government. However, investments may be made with any public or private sector organisations that meet the credit criteria detailed below. Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Council will consider further diversifying into more secure and/or higher yielding asset classes during 2021-22, as appropriate, in consultation with the Council's treasury management advisers. The majority of the Council's surplus cash is currently invested in Money Market Funds (MMF) and with other local authorities but the Council will continue to look at investment options in line with the limits detailed below.

With short term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, due consideration will also be given to using surplus funds to make early repayments of long term borrowing if appropriate options become available as referred to in section 4.0 Borrowing Strategy.

**Business Models:** Under the new IFRS 9 (Financial Instruments), the accounting for certain investments depends on the Council's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its internally managed treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

**Approved counterparties:** The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types shown in Table 6 below, subject to the cash limits and the time

limits shown. **These cash/time limits are per counterparty and relate to principal only and exclude any accrued interest.**

**Table 6: Approved investment counterparties and limits**

**These limits must be read in conjunction with the notes immediately below the Table. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank must not exceed the cash limit for secured investments:**

| Sector                                        | Time limit | Counterparty limit | Sector limit |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|
| The UK Government                             | 50 years   | Unlimited          | n/a          |
| Local authorities & other government entities | 25 years   | £12,000,000        | Unlimited    |
| Secured investments *                         | 25 years   | £6,000,000         | Unlimited    |
| Banks (unsecured) *                           | 13 months  | £3,000,000         | Unlimited    |
| Building societies (unsecured) *              | 13 months  | £3,000,000         | £6,000,000   |
| Registered providers (unsecured) *            | 5 years    | £5,000,000         | £5,000,000   |
| Money market funds *                          | n/a        | £6,000,000         | Unlimited    |
| Strategic pooled funds                        | n/a        | £6,000,000         | £6,000,000   |
| Real estate investment trusts                 | n/a        | £3,000,000         | £6,000,000   |
| Other investments *                           | 5 years    | £3,000,000         | £6,000,000   |

**\*Minimum Credit rating:** Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than (A-). Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account. **Schedule A** shows the equivalence Table for credit ratings for three of the main rating agencies Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's and explains the different investment grades.

For entities without published credit ratings, investments may be made where external advice indicates the entity to be of similar credit quality.

**Banks and building societies unsecured:** Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. Where additional amounts received into our accounts with our own bankers are

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received too late in the day to make an investment the same day, the limit in Table 6 will not apply as this does not count as an investment.

**Banks and building societies secured:** Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the highest of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits.

**Government:** Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Central Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

**Corporates:** Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made following an external credit assessment and consultation with the Council's treasury management advisers.

**Registered providers:** Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by, or secured on the assets of registered providers of social housing and registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Welsh Government and as providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

**Pooled funds:** Shares or units in diversified investment vehicles consisting of any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Short-term Money Market Funds, that offer same-day liquidity and very low or no volatility, will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts, while pooled funds whose value changes with market prices and/or have a notice period can be used for longer investment periods. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Authority will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

Bond, equity and property funds offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Council to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. As these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

**Operational bank accounts:** The Council may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater



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than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept to a minimum. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity.

**Risk assessment and credit ratings:** Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify the Council of changes as they occur.

Long-term ratings are expressed on a scale from AAA (the highest quality) through to D (indicating default). Ratings of BBB- and above are described as investment grade, while ratings of BB+ and below are described as speculative grade. The Council's credit rating criteria are set to ensure that it is very unlikely the Council will hold speculative grade investments, despite the possibility of repeated downgrades.

Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

**Other information on the security of investments:** The Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Council's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations as happened in 2008 and 2020, it is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Council's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government via the Debt Management Office or invested in government treasury bills for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned, but will protect the principal sum invested.

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**Specified investments:** The *Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments* defines specified investments as those:

- denominated in pound sterling
- due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement
- not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- invested with one of:
  - the UK Government
  - a UK local authority
  - a town or community council or
  - body or investment scheme of “high credit quality”

The Council defines “**high credit quality**” organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds “high credit quality” is defined as those having a credit rating of A- or higher.

**Non-specified investments:** Any investment that does not fall into the criteria detailed above under the Specified investments definition. The Council does not intend to make any investments denominated in foreign currencies nor any defined as capital expenditure. Non-specified investments will therefore be limited to:

- long-term investments, i.e. those that are due to mature 12 months or longer from the date of arrangement
- investments with bodies and schemes not meeting the definition on high credit quality

The *Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments* requires the Council’s Investment Strategy to set an overall limit for non-specified investments which is currently set at £20 million. Table 7 below shows the non-specified categories and the relevant limits and although the total of the individual limits exceed £20 million, at any one point in time a **maximum of £20 million** could be invested in these non-specified investments.

**Table 7: Non-specified investment limits**

|                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Category Cash limit</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total long-term investments                                                                                                                                        | £15m                       |
| Total investments without credit ratings or rated below the Council’s definition of “high credit quality” (A-) (except the UK Government and UK local authorities) | £10m                       |
| Total investments (except pooled funds)with institutions domiciled in foreign countries with a sovereign rating below AA+                                          | £3m                        |
| Total Non-Specified Investments Outstanding                                                                                                                        | £20m                       |

**Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year:** All investments longer than 365 days (non-specified) will be made with a cautious approach to cash flow

requirements and advice from the Council's treasury management advisers will be sought as necessary.

Where the Council invests, or plans to invest, for periods longer than a year, an upper limit is set for each forward financial year period for the maturing of such investments. The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of long term investments. The limits on the long term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be as shown in Table 8 below.

**Table 8: Treasury Management Indicator Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year**

| Price risk indicator                                  | 2021-22<br>£m | 2022-23<br>£m | 2023-24<br>£m |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Limit on principal invested beyond financial year end | 15            | 10            | 8             |

**Investment Limits:** In addition to the above limits, the combined values of specified and non-specified investments with any one organisation are subject to the approved investment limits detailed in Table 9 below.

**Table 9: Investments limits**

|                                                                     | Category Cash limit |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Any single organisation, except the UK Central and Local Government | £6m                 |
| UK Central Government                                               | unlimited           |
| UK Local Authorities (per Authority)                                | £12m                |
| Any group of organisations under the same ownership                 | £6m per group       |
| Any group of pooled funds under the same management                 | £6m per manager     |
| Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account           | £10m per broker     |
| Foreign countries                                                   | £6m per country     |
| Registered providers and registered social landlords                | £5m in total        |
| Unsecured investments with Building Societies                       | £6m in total        |
| Money market funds (MMF)                                            | Unlimited           |

A group of banks under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank must not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

**Liquidity Management:** The Council forecasts on a prudent basis the maximum period for which funds may be committed therefore minimising the risk of the Council being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. A limit of £15 million (Table 8 above) has been set for 2021-22 for long term investments and

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this has been set with reference to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and cash flow forecast as shown in the principal sums invested for periods longer than a year indicator in Table 7 above. This represents just under 30% of the maximum amount of investments that the Council anticipates to have at any one point in time in 2021-22.

The Council will seek to spread its liquid cash over at least four providers (e.g. bank accounts and money market funds) to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

## **6.0 INTEREST RATE EXPOSURES BORROWING AND INVESTMENTS**

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest charged to revenue within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fixed rate protects the Council from increased interest charges as an equivalent loan would now cost more. The fair value of the borrowing (liability) will fall;
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- investments at fixed rates – the fixed rate prevents the Council from receiving higher investment income from the same principal invested. The fair value of the investment (asset) will fall.

An indicator has been set in Table 10 below to measure the net impact over one year on the revenue account of both a 1% rise and a 1% fall in all interest rates for borrowing net of treasury investments. This is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they would otherwise have been on their maturity dates and that the treasury investment and borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the coming year. Interest rates can move by more than 1% over the course of a year, although such instances are rare.

**Table 10: Treasury Management Indicator Interest Rate Exposures**

The following Table is based on investments as at 31 December 2020.

| <b>Interest rate risk indicator</b>                    | <b>£'000</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates | (273)        |
| One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates | 474          |

The figure for the 1% fall in interest rates indicator is not the same figure as the 1% increase (but reversed) as the borrowing relates to variable LOBO loans where it is assumed that the lender would only exercise their option if there was an increase in interest rates. All other borrowing does not have a rate reset in the next year and is with the PWLB at fixed rates.

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## 7.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators are set to assess the adequacy of the treasury function over the year. These are distinct historic indicators as opposed to the treasury management and prudential indicators which are predominantly forward looking.

One debt performance indicator is where the average portfolio rate of interest is compared to an appropriate average available such as the average PWLB Debt for Welsh and UK local authorities. The rate of return on investments can be monitored against the average rate of return on investments against the Bank Rate and the average rate of return on investments as compared to the average rate of Arlingclose's Welsh local authority clients at each relevant quarter/year-end.

## 8.0 NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activities includes loans, investments in subsidiaries and investments in property. Welsh Government Guidance defines a loan as a written or oral agreement where the Council temporarily transfers cash to a third party, joint venture, subsidiary or associate who agrees a return according to the terms and conditions of receiving the loan, except where the third party is another local authority. The council can demonstrate that its financial exposure to loans is proportionate by setting the limit as set out in Table 11 below.

**Table 11: Loan Limits**

| <b>Loan limit</b>               | <b>£'000</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Limit on loans to third parties | 2,000        |

A schedule of the Council's existing non-treasury investments (currently limited to owned property) is set out in Table 12 below:

**Table 12: Non-treasury investments**

| <b>Non-treasury investments</b>     | <b>Fair Value<br/>£'000</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bridgend Science Park - Units 1 & 2 | 3,200                       |
| Waterton Cross Land                 | 600                         |
| Brynmenyn Industrial Estate Plot 53 | 220                         |
| Village Farm Plots 32,119 & 120     | 415                         |
| Tyrewise Bridgend                   | 200                         |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>4,635</b>                |

The Council considers that the scale of its investment properties is proportionate to the resources of the Council, since such investment represents less than 1% of its total long term assets.



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In accordance with Welsh Government Investment Guidance, these will be classified as non-treasury investments.

## **9.0 IFRS9 – LOCAL AUTHORITY OVERRIDE**

The Welsh Government legislated in the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 for a statutory override for fair value gains and losses on most pooled investment funds not to be taken to revenue until 2023-24. The statutory override took effect from the 2019-20 financial year. This has the effect of allowing any unrealised capital gains or losses arising from qualifying investments to be held on the balance sheet until 31 March 2023: this will enable Councils to initiate an orderly withdrawal of funds if required.

## **10.0 OTHER ITEMS**

In line with the CIPFA Code and Welsh Government guidance the following also forms part of the Council's TMS.

**Financial Derivatives:** In the absence of any explicit legal power to do so, the Council will not use standalone financial derivatives such as swaps, forwards, futures and options. Derivatives embedded into loans and investments including pooled funds and forward starting transactions may be used and the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

**Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MIFID II):** From January 2018, MIFID II changed the classification of local authority investors. It reclassified local and public authorities as retail investors. The Council has opted up to professional client status with its providers of financial services, including treasury management advisers, banks, building societies and brokers, allowing it access to a greater range of services but without the greater regulatory protection afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Council's treasury management activities, the Section 151 Officer believed this to be the most appropriate status.

**Investment training:** The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed every six months as part of the staff appraisal process and also if the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.

Training is received from the Council's treasury management advisers, CIPFA and other bodies in the form of training courses and seminars. The Council also supports personal development so individuals enhance their own knowledge through reading CIPFA guidance, publications and research on the internet.

**Investment advisers:** Following a recent re-tender exercise in August 2020 Arlingclose Ltd. were re-appointed as the Council's treasury management advisers. They were awarded a four year contract, to provide advice and information relating to its borrowing and investment activities and capital finance issues. The contract will be reviewed annually and either party may at any time terminate this agreement on 3 months prior written notice. The quality of this service is controlled by having regular meetings with the advisers and regularly reviewing the service provided.

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**Investment of money borrowed in advance of need:** CIPFA's Prudential Code sets out that authorities should never borrow for the explicit purpose of making an investment return. Therefore borrowing in advance of need purely to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed is against the principles, however, the Council could potentially borrow in advance of need where this is expected to provide the best long term value for money. Since amounts borrowed will be invested until spent, the Council is aware that it will be exposed to the risk of loss of the borrowed sums, and the risk that investment and borrowing interest rates may change in the intervening period. These risks will be managed as part of the Council's overall management of its treasury risks.

As the Council has an integrated TMS, borrowing is not linked to the financing of specific items of expenditure. The Council's forecast Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31 March 2021 is in excess of the actual debt of the Council as shown in Table 2 above indicating there is no borrowing in advance of need. More detail is provided in the Prudential Indicators in the Council's Capital Strategy.

## Schedule A

**Credit Rating Equivalence Table**

|                          | Description      | Fitch |       | Moody's |                | Standard & Poor's |       |   |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|---------|----------------|-------------------|-------|---|
|                          |                  | Long  | Short | Long    | Short          | Long              | Short |   |
| <b>INVESTMENT GRADE</b>  | Extremely strong | AAA   |       | Aaa     |                | AAA               |       |   |
|                          | Very strong      | AA+   | F1+   | Aa1     | P-1            | AA+               | A-1+  |   |
|                          |                  | AA    |       | Aa2     |                | AA                |       |   |
|                          |                  | AA-   |       | Aa3     |                | AA-               |       |   |
|                          | Strong           | A+    | F1    | A1      | P-2            | A+                | A-1   |   |
|                          |                  | A     |       | A2      |                | A                 |       |   |
|                          |                  | A-    |       | A3      |                | A-                |       |   |
|                          | Adequate         | BBB+  | F2    | Baa1    | P-3            | BBB+              | A-2   |   |
|                          |                  | BBB   |       | Baa2    |                | BBB               |       |   |
|                          |                  | BBB-  |       | Baa3    |                | BBB-              |       |   |
| <b>SPECULATIVE GRADE</b> | Speculative      | BB+   | B     | Ba1     | Not Prime (NP) | BB+               | B     |   |
|                          |                  | BB    |       | Ba2     |                | BB                |       |   |
|                          |                  | BB-   |       | Ba3     |                | BB-               |       |   |
|                          | Very speculative | B+    | B     | B1      |                | B-                | B+    | C |
|                          |                  | B     |       | B2      |                |                   | B     |   |
|                          |                  | B-    |       | B3      |                |                   | B-    |   |
|                          | Vulnerable       | CCC+  | C     | Caa1    |                | C                 | CCC+  | C |
|                          |                  | CCC   |       | Caa2    |                |                   | CCC   |   |
|                          |                  | CCC-  |       | Caa3    |                |                   | CCC-  |   |
|                          |                  | CC    |       | Ca      |                |                   | CC    |   |
|                          | C                |       |       | C       |                |                   |       |   |
| Defaulting               | D                | D     | C     |         | D              | D                 |       |   |

## GLOSSARY

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amortised Cost   | Amortised cost is the amount at which some financial assets or liabilities are measured and consists of: initial recognition amount, subsequent recognition of interest income/expense using the effective interest method, repayments and credit losses                             |
| Annuity          | A method of repaying a loan where the cash payment remains constant over the life of the loan, but the proportion of interest reduces and the proportion of principal repayment increases over time. Repayment mortgages and personal loans tend to be repaid by the annuity method. |
| Asset Management | The stewardship of capital assets, including decisions around on-going maintenance and eventual disposal                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Authorised limit | The maximum amount of debt that a local authority may legally hold, set annually in advance by the Council itself. One of the <i>Prudential Indicators</i> .                                                                                                                         |
| BACS             | Bankers' automated payment system. UK bulk payments system allowing transfers between bank accounts with two days' notice, for a small charge.                                                                                                                                       |
| Bail-in          | A method of rescuing a failing <i>financial institution</i> by cancelling some of its <i>deposits</i> and <i>bonds</i> . Investors may suffer a reduction in their investment, but may be given shares in the bank as part compensation.                                             |
| Bail-out         | A method of rescuing a failing <i>financial institution</i> by the injection of public money. This protects investors at the expense of taxpayers.                                                                                                                                   |
| Bank             | Regulated firm that provides financial services to customers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Bank of England  | The <i>central bank</i> of the UK, based in London, sometimes just called 'the bank'.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Bank Rate        | The official interest rate set by the <i>Monetary Policy Committee</i> , and the rate of interest paid by the <i>Bank of England</i> on commercial bank deposits. Colloquially termed the 'base rate'.                                                                               |
| Bond             | A certificate of <i>long-term</i> debt issued by a company, government, or other institution, which is tradable on financial markets                                                                                                                                                 |
| Borrowing        | Usually refers to the stock of outstanding loans owned and <i>bonds</i> issued.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Broker           | Regulated firm that matches either borrowers and lenders (a money broker) or buyers and sellers of <i>securities</i> (a stockbroker) with each other in order to facilitate transactions                                                                                             |
| Brokerage        | Fee charged by a <i>broker</i> , normally paid by the borrower                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Building Society | A mutual organisation that performs similar functions to a <i>retail bank</i> but is owned by its customers                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Capital                             | (1) Long-term, as in <i>capital expenditure</i> and <i>capital receipts</i><br>(2) <i>Principal</i> , as in <i>capital gain</i> and <i>capital value</i><br>(3) <i>Investments in financial institutions that will absorb losses before senior unsecured creditors</i>            |
| Capital Expenditure                 | Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed asset that are expected to provide value for longer than one year, such as property and equipment, plus expenditure defined as capital in legislation such as the purchase of certain investments                |
| Capital Finance                     | Arranging and managing the cash required to finance <i>capital expenditure</i> , and the associated accounting.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) | A local authority's underlying need to hold debt for capital purposes, representing the cumulative capital expenditure that has been incurred but not yet financed. The CFR increases with <i>capital expenditure</i> and decreases with <i>capital finance</i> and <i>MRP</i> .  |
| Capital Receipt                     | Cash obtained from the sale of an item whose purchase would be <i>capital expenditure</i> . The law only allows local authorities to spend capital receipts on certain items, such as new capital expenditure. They are therefore held in a capital receipts reserve until spent. |
| Capital strategy                    | An annual policy document required by the <i>Prudential Code</i> that sets out a local authorities' high-level plans for capital expenditure, debt and investments and its <i>Prudential Indicators</i> for the forthcoming financial year.                                       |
| CIFPA                               | The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy – the professional body for accountants working in the public sector. CIFPA also sets various standards for local government – e.g. Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code                                        |
| Cost of Carry                       | When a loan is borrowed in advance of need, the difference between the interest payable on the loan and the income earned from investing the cash in the interim                                                                                                                  |
| Counterparty                        | The other party to a loan, investment or other contract                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Counterparty limit                  | The maximum amount an investor is willing to lend to a <i>counterparty</i> , in order to manage <i>credit risk</i> .                                                                                                                                                              |
| Credit Default Swap                 | A credit default swap (CDS) is a financial derivative or contract that allows an investor to "swap" or offset his or her credit risk with that of another investor.                                                                                                               |
| Credit rating                       | Formal opinion by a <i>credit rating agency</i> of a <i>counterparty's</i> future ability to meet its financial obligations. As it is only an opinion, there is no guarantee that a highly rated organisation will not default.                                                   |



|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Credit rating agency  | An organisation that publishes <i>credit ratings</i> . The three largest agencies are Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's but there are many smaller ones.                                                                                 |
| Credit risk           | The risk that a <i>counterparty</i> will <i>default</i> on its financial obligations.                                                                                                                                                       |
| Debt                  | (1) A contract where one party owes money to another party, such as a <i>loan</i> , <i>deposit</i> , or <i>bond</i> .<br>(2) In the Prudential Code, the total outstanding borrowing plus other long-term liabilities                       |
| Default               | Failure to meet an obligation under a debt contract, including the repayment of cash, usually as a result of being in financial difficulty                                                                                                  |
| Deposit               | A regulated placing of cash with a <i>financial institution</i> . Deposits are not tradable on financial markets.                                                                                                                           |
| DMO                   | Debt Management Office – an executive agency of HM Treasury that deals with central government's debt and investments.                                                                                                                      |
| Fair value            | <i>IFRS</i> term for the price that would be obtained by selling an investment, or paid to transfer debt, in a market transaction.                                                                                                          |
| FCA                   | Financial Conduct Authority – UK agency responsible for regulating financial markets and the conduct of <i>financial institutions</i> , <i>brokers</i> , <i>custodians</i> , <i>fund managers</i> and <i>treasury management advisors</i> . |
| Financial institution | A <i>bank</i> , <i>building society</i> or <i>credit union</i> . Sometimes the term also includes insurance companies.                                                                                                                      |
| Financial instrument  | <i>IFRS</i> term for investments, borrowing and other cash payable and receivable.                                                                                                                                                          |
| Financing costs       | In the <i>Prudential Code</i> , interest payable on <i>debt</i> less investment income plus <i>premiums</i> less <i>discounts</i> plus <i>MRP</i> .                                                                                         |
| Forward deal          | An arrangement where a loan or deposit is arranged in advance of the cash being transferred, with the advance period being longer than the standard period (if any) for such a transaction.                                                 |
| GDP                   | Gross domestic product – the value of the national aggregate production of goods and services in the economy. Increasing GDP is known as economic growth.                                                                                   |
| General Fund          | A local authority reserve that holds the accumulated surplus or deficit on revenue income and expenditure, except on council housing.                                                                                                       |
| Gilt                  | Bond issued by the UK Government, taking its name from the gilt-edged paper they were originally printed on.                                                                                                                                |
| IFRS                  | International Financial Reporting Standards, the set of accounting rules in use by UK local authorities since 2010.                                                                                                                         |

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Impairment          | A reduction in the value of an investment caused by the counterparty being in financial difficulty.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Inflation risk      | The risk that unexpected changes in inflation rates cause an unplanned loss, for example by costs rising faster than income.                                                                                                                                          |
| Interest            | Compensation for the use of cash paid by borrowers to lenders on debt instruments.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Interest rate risk  | The risk that unexpected changes in interest rates cause an unplanned loss, for example by increased payments on borrowing or lower income on investments.                                                                                                            |
| Internal borrowing  | A local government term for when actual “external” debt is below the capital financing requirement, indicating that difference has been borrowed from internal resources instead; in reality this is not a form of borrowing.                                         |
| Investment property | Land and buildings that are held purely for rental income and/or capital growth. Investment properties are not owner-occupied and provide no direct service benefit.                                                                                                  |
| Investment strategy | A document required by investment guidance that sets out a local authority’s investment plans and parameters for the coming year. Sometimes forms part of the authority’s treasury management strategy.                                                               |
| Lease               | A contract where one party permits another to make use of an asset in return for a series of payments. It is economically similar to buying the asset and borrowing a loan, and therefore leases are often counted as a type of debt.                                 |
| Lessee              | Party to a lease contract that uses an asset owned by the lessor.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Lessor              | Party to a lease contract that own an asset but permits another (the lessee) to use it.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Liability benchmark | Term in CIPFA’s Risk Management Toolkit which refers to the minimum amount of borrowing required to keep investments at a minimum liquidity level. Used to compare against the actual and forecast level of borrowing.                                                |
| LIBOR               | London interbank offer rate - the benchmark interest rate at which banks offer to lend cash to other banks. Published every London working day at 11am for various currencies and terms. Due to be phased out by 2022.                                                |
| Liquidity risk      | The risk that cash will not be available to meet financial obligations, for example when investments cannot be recalled and new loans cannot be borrowed.                                                                                                             |
| Loan                | Contract where the lender provides a sum of money (the principal) to a borrower, who agrees to repay it in the future together with interest. Loans are not normally tradable on financial markets. There are specific definitions in government investment guidance. |

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Loans CFR                       | The capital financing requirement less the amount met by other long-term liabilities; i.e. the amount to be met by borrowing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| LOBO                            | Lender's option borrower's option – a long-term loan where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate on pre-determined dates. The borrower then has the option to either accept the new rate or repay the loan without penalty. LOBOs increase the borrower's interest rate risk and the loan should therefore attract a lower rate of interest initially. |
| Long-term                       | Usually means longer than one year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Market risk                     | The risk that movements in market variables will have an unexpected impact. Usually split into interest rate risk, price risk and foreign exchange risk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Maturity                        | (1) The date when an investment or borrowing is scheduled to be repaid.<br>(2) A type of loan where the principal is only repaid on the maturity date.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| MiFID II                        | The second Markets in Financial Instruments Directive - a legislative framework instituted by the European Union to regulate financial markets in the bloc and improve protections for investors.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Monetary policy                 | Measures taken by central banks to boost or slow the economy, usually via changes in interest rates. Monetary easing refers to cuts in interest rates, making it cheaper for households and businesses to borrow and hence spend more, boosting the economy, while monetary tightening refers to the opposite. See also fiscal policy and quantitative easing.                         |
| Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) | Committee of the Bank of England responsible for implementing monetary policy in the UK by changing Bank Rate and quantitative easing with the aim of keeping CPI inflation at around 2%.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Money market fund (MMF)         | A collective investment scheme which invests in a range of short-term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity. Usually refers to CNAV and LVNAV funds with a WAM under 60 days which offer instant access, but the European Union definition extends to include cash plus funds.                                                                                       |
| Money markets                   | The markets for short-term finance, including deposits and T-bills. See also capital markets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| MRP                              | Minimum revenue provision - an annual amount that local authorities are required to set aside and charge to revenue for the repayment of debt associated with capital expenditure. Local authorities are required by law to have regard to government guidance on MRP.                                                                  |
| Net borrowing                    | Borrowing minus treasury investments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Net revenue stream               | In the Prudential Code, income from general government grants, Council Tax and rates.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Non-specified investments        | Government term for investments not meeting the definition of a specified investment or a loan upon which limits must be set. Since 2018, the term does not apply to treasury investments in England. Not applicable in Scotland.                                                                                                       |
| Other long-term liabilities      | Prudential Code term for credit arrangements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Operational boundary             | A prudential indicator showing the most likely, prudent, estimated level of external debt, but not the worst-case scenario. Regular breaches of the operational boundary should prompt management action.                                                                                                                               |
| Operational risk                 | The risk that fraud, error or system failure leads to an unexpected loss.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Pension Fund                     | Ringfenced account for the income, expenditure and investments of the local government pension scheme. Pension fund investments are not considered to be part of treasury management.                                                                                                                                                   |
| Private Finance Initiative (PFI) | A government scheme where a private company designs, builds, finances and operates assets on behalf of the public sector, in exchange for a series of payments, typically over 30 years. Counts as a credit arrangement and debt.                                                                                                       |
| Property fund                    | A collective investment scheme that mainly invests in property. Due to the costs of buying and selling property, including stamp duty land tax, there is usually a significant fee charged on initial investment, or a significant difference between the bid and offer price.                                                          |
| Prudential borrowing             | Another term for unsupported borrowing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Prudential Code                  | Developed by CIPFA and introduced in April 2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice. Local authorities are required by law to have regard to the Prudential Code. |

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| Prudential indicators                | Indicators required by the Prudential Code and determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable. |
| PWLB                                 | Public Works Loans Board - a statutory body operating within the DMO that lends money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies and collects the repayments.                                                           |
| Refinancing risk                     | The risk that maturing loans cannot, be refinanced, or only at higher than expected interest rates leading to an unplanned loss. Managed by maintaining a smooth maturity profile.                                                                         |
| Supported borrowing                  | Borrowing for which the repayment costs are supported by government grant.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| T-bill                               | Treasury bill - a bill issued by a government.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| TMS                                  | (1) Treasury management strategy.<br>(2) Treasury management system.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Treasury bill                        | See T-bill.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Treasury investments                 | Investments made for treasury management purposes, as opposed to commercial investments and service investments.                                                                                                                                           |
| Treasury management                  | The management of an organisation's cash flows, investment and borrowing, with a particular focus on the identification, control and management of risk. Specifically excludes the management of pension fund investments.                                 |
| Treasury management advisor          | Regulated firm providing advice on treasury management, capital finance and related issues.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Treasury Management Code (TM Code)   | CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes, to which local authorities are required by law to have regard.                                                                                  |
| Treasury management indicators       | Indicators required by the Treasury Management Code to assist in the management of credit risk, interest rate risk, refinancing risk and price risk.                                                                                                       |
| Treasury management policy statement | Document required by the Treasury Management Code setting out a local authority's definition of and objectives for treasury management.                                                                                                                    |
| Treasury management practices (TMPs) | Document required by the Treasury Management Code setting out a local authority's detailed processes and procedures for treasury management.                                                                                                               |
| Treasury management strategy         | Annual report required by the Treasury Management Code covering the local authority's treasury management plans for the forthcoming year.                                                                                                                  |



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| Unsupported borrowing | Borrowing where the cost is self-financed by the local authority. Sometimes called prudential borrowing since it was not permitted until the introduction of the Prudential Code in 2004. See also supported borrowing. |
| Working capital       | The cash surplus or deficit arising from the timing differences between income/expenditure in accounting terms and receipts/payments in cash terms.                                                                     |