

Title of Report:	Treasury Management Review 2023 - 2024
Committee Report Submitted To:	Finance Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 April 2024
For Decision or For Information	For information
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council has agreed policies and procedures and decision making is consistent with them.
Lead Officer	Chief Finance Officer

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.1 Background

Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.

1.2 Detail

Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. In addition, the Department for Communities (DfC) issued *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 report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the *Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011* to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the DfC Guidance.

1.3 Review

The purpose of this report is to provide a review of what has taken place in terms of Treasury Management within the Council during the 2023/24 financial year following on from the mid-year review presented to Council in October 2023.

1.4 Borrowing

Council borrowing is used to fund various capital projects as approved by Council and as a result of this activity Council has an extensive portfolio of current loans. The table below shows a breakdown of these loans at the end of each of the last 4 quarters:

	Q1 – Jun 2023	Q2 – Sep 2023	Q3 – Dec 2023	Q4 – Mar 2024
Government loans	£46.5m	£44.1m	£44.1m	£41.97m
LOBO Loans	£2.0m	£2.0m	£2.0m	£2.0m
Other Commercial loans	£6.0m	£6.0m	£6.0m	£6.0m
Total Loans	£54.5m	£52.1m	£52.1m	£49.97m

Council continues to hold significant cash reserves therefore no new loans were borrowed during the year, Council instead utilising those reserves in the short term to finance capital expenditure thus avoiding incurring interest on loans. With interest rates now rising officers have assessed whether or not a change of strategy would be prudent to potentially draw down some of the longer terms loans, the advice is

currently still to utilize cash reserves and only borrow if necessary for the short term to avoid locking in potentially higher interest over the life of a longer-term loan.

1.5 Investments

Council has carried significant cash reserves into 2023/24 and with interest rates rising there are now some decent returns to be gained with investment or lending. The table below details the cash held by Council at the end of each of the last 4 quarters up to the end of March 2024

	Q1 – June 2023	Q2 – Sept 2023	Q3 – Dec 2023	Q4 – Mar 2024
Cash Reserve	£5.4m	£5.3m	£2.1m	£3.9m

The next table details actual investments made by Council maturing during the current year and the returns associated with those investments, the figures above do not include these investments where the maturity date straddles a quarter end.

Investment	Date	Maturity	Amount	Yield
Denbeighshire County Council	18 Jan 2023	18 Apr 2023	£5,000,000	£44,136.99
Rushmoor Borough Council	17 Jan 2023	17 Jul 2023	£2,000,000	£37,191.78
Central Bedfordshire Council	9 Mar 2023	11 Apr 2023	£5,000,000	£18,669.86
Central Bedfordshire Council	21 Mar 2023	21 Apr 2023	£2,000,000	£7,015.34
Rushmoor Borough Council	28 Apr 2023	15 May 2023	£5,000,000	£9,617.81
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	20 Jun 2023	20 Dec 2023	£5,000,000	£126,595.89
Wrexham County Borough Council	21 Jun 2023	21 Aug 2023	£5,000,000	£39,691.78
Central Bedfordshire Council	24 Aug 2023	24 Oct 2023	£2,500,000	£21,976.71
Central Bedfordshire Council	24 Oct 2023	24 Apr 2024	£2,500,000	£68,311.64
Treasury Bill	20 Oct 2023	20 Nov 2023	£1,992,068.84	£7,931.16
Leeds City Council	20 Nov 2023	19 Jan 2024	£3,000,000	£26,383.56
Stoke on Trent City Council	24 Nov 2023	23 Feb 2024	£3,000,000	£40,389.04
Treasury Bill	6 Dec 2023	18 Dec 2023	£2,994,889.82	£5,110.18

Investment	Date	Maturity	Amount	Yield
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	20 Dec 2023	20 Jun 2024	£5,000,000	£129,102.74
Treasury Bill	17 Jan 2024	29 Jan 2024	£2,994,909.47	£5,090.53
Cheshire East Council	28 Feb 2024	29 Apr 2024	£2,000,000	£19,720.55
Wrexham County Borough Council	15 Mar 2024	15 Apr 2024	£2,000,000	£10,616.44
North Norfolk District Council	20 Mar 2024	28 Mar 2024	£2,000,000	£2,849.32
Deposit Account	1 Apr 2023	31 Mar 2024	Variable	£33,611.63

1.6 Treasury Management Strategy

In line with Council's Treasury Management Strategy and with continuing good returns Council will seek to consistently make investments like those detailed in 1.5 above during the 2024/25 financial year providing an income stream to Council and assist to offset a little of the financial pressures currently being faced. The 2023/24 budget had included an estimated income from investments amounting to £227,000, for 2024/25 this figure is increased to £461,000. The 2023-24 total from the table above is £426,261.58 however this does not take into account any investments maturing after 31 March 2024, which will add a further £227,751.37.